

Philip Anderson

for the House of Clergy

Rector of Liverpool (Liverpool North & Walton)

Nominated by Sam Nicholson (Wigan) &

Ellen Loudon (Liverpool Toxteth & Wavertree)

I'm asking for your **First Preference**
Vote to be elected to General Synod

About me

Born in Liverpool, I have ministered
for 21 years across our Diocese.



Relevant Experience

My own experience of being nurtured in a living Christian faith has been shaped by the faithful witness of many different disciples in churches across our Diocese, from the Pierhead to Pemberton, by way of Prescott. We have a distinctive story to tell about what God is doing in our city and diocese, and I am keen to serve as a member of the General Synod to stand up for the best deal for Liverpool.

I have been a Vicar, Rector, University Chaplain, Area Dean, and a Residentiary Canon of our Cathedral; a member of the diocesan Vocations Team, and a national Vocations Advisor, helping to shape policy and practice to support more candidates for ordained ministry from working class and minority communities. From 2014-20 I was part of the Transforming Wigan Project, one of the Church's first national Strategic Development Fund initiatives. From 2021 to 2024 I was a member of the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission which gave me good insights into how the Church works nationally. And still I want to stand for Synod.

Since 2022 I've convened LGBT+ clergy and diocesan staff, calling on the Bishop and Synod, to proclaim God's blessing on committed same-sex couples. As Rector of Liverpool, I convene Merseyside's Faith Leaders, to talk across our deep theological divisions, to be able to work together for the common good.

Priorities for the General Synod

Regaining our Confidence in God

I believe that the Church of England has as an incomparable opportunity to re-engage our fearful culture with the Christian Gospel, intelligently presented, in the rich tradition of Anglican worship, preaching, and everyday holiness. We have experienced significant decline, and need to be honest in naming it as such, without despair.

I will be looking to work with others in Synod to uphold our best heritage, as a particular treasure that belongs to everyone in our nation, has inspired our greatest artists, and in fractious times can bind people together, by the grace of God.

Resourcing the Parish

I will lend my support to those seeking a new settlement around the distribution of our Church's historic assets, held by the Church Commissioners, to alleviate the growing burden of parish share. Liverpool has asked as a Diocese for a fairer endowment from those shared funds, and met significant resistance.

We need to build alliances to prevail. This includes casting a sceptical eye on the Commissioners' Project Spire plans, which have been so badly communicated as to act as a serious handbrake on our stewardship, however well-intentioned.

Serving Everyone

It is wonderful that God has gathered so many diverse saints within the Church of England, but we should not make division our goal. I am an advocate for the parish church, but we have drifted too far towards a postcode lottery around what is offered to God and God's people. The pragmatic path adopted around the remarriage of divorced people offers a template around respecting conscience without falling into the incoherence that

enables bad behaviour hiding behind theological differences, hampering God's mission.

A Safer Church

In 2025, when at Liverpool Cathedral, the Channel 4 News cameras were trained on me, and those leaving Evensong - a Church in crisis over Safeguarding. I support the use of national funds for independent Safeguarding teams for every diocese. These should grow in wisdom about the realities of parish life, with a culture that enables rather than suppressing the Church's creativity and desire to serve. Like many clergy I have concerns about the boundaries of Safeguarding being abused by the vexatious, and welcome the work of the previous Synod reforming Clergy Discipline, in that light.



Clergy Welfare

As a member of General Synod, I would also become a member of the Diocesan Synod, and in both roles would look to work with others to ensure that the recent uplift in the clergy stipend is sustained, after years of erosion by inflation. Liverpool Diocese is widely recognised as having some deep-seated failings around decent clergy housing, and in 2020/21 we lost Fellfeld, the beautiful house in the Lake District given to us and our families as an affordable place to go on holiday. Clergy wellbeing is also about accountability, and I will work with others to steer us back towards conversations that are pastoral, and about prayer, not narrowly managerial.

Please entrust me with your vote,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. G. Anderson'.

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