

**Candidates for Election by the Suffragan Bishops of the Province of York:**

Rt Revd Jillian Louise Calland Duff, Bishop of Lancaster	Page 2
Rt Revd Jonathan Robert Gibbs, Bishop of Huddersfield	Page 3
Rt Revd Helen-Ann Macleod Hartley, Bishop of Ripon	Page 5
Rt Revd Beverley Anne Mason, Bishop of Warrington	Page 6
Rt Revd Philip John North, Bishop of Burnley	Page 7

## **Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster - General Synod Election Address**

I am hopeful for the Church of England.

Any work of God is always fragile. But my time spent on the ground in our parishes, chaplaincies and schools in Lancashire, deeply encourages me that our Anglican calling to be “a church for all people” meets a thirst and openness in this challenging season. Yes, we may have a nostalgic longing for a Christendom era, but with Jesus the time is always now, the harvest fields are plentiful. I am hopeful for the opportunities presented to General Synod to enable our Church to humbly step up into in this coming season, “not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit”. As the sign on the door of our retreat at the College of Bishops in 2018 put it: “Push with conviction, the door is unlocked”.

If elected to General Synod, I would serve with hope, faith and love. There are five themes I would push with conviction:

- **Taking young people seriously:** I am a mum with teenage boys at home, I loved setting up youth groups in parishes, and serving as a school chaplain in a 3-18 school in Liverpool. The pandemic has left much of our youth work in rubble. And yet surveys constantly point to an incredible openness, and need amongst our teenagers, who so often slip off our radar. At age 12, Jesus was debating with the bishops of his day in the temple; I would like us to take our teenagers seriously and wake up from that instinct in our culture that “children should be seen and not heard”.
- **Leaders of diversity flourishing in every sphere:** One of my heroines is Lady Margaret Beaufort from the House of Lancaster (1441-1509). She was convinced of the difference that courageous leadership could make to a nation in every sphere of society. I am a theological educator, I loved setting up the first full-time ordination college in the North West for 40+ years which has handed over the baton to Emmanuel Theological College this month. I am a spiritual director and delight to see people flourish, to find their voices and colours, especially those who are marginalised and looked down on. My inspiration is Jesus’s startling words: “Look at that woman”, as he called her out of the shadows where religious people had looked down on her. He did this with men too: I notice that Peter, the unschooled fisherman, was the rock on which Jesus built his church
- **Opening more doors with New Local Congregations:** I am deeply committed to the parish system and the Church of England’s definition of church (*39 Articles, XIX*). If we are to be a “Christian presence in every community”, we need to meet at a variety of times to enable people to find a welcome from different backgrounds and cultures, to hear the gospel in their own language. All my parish ministry has been in deprived urban areas. Jesus drew on Isaiah 61 for his manifesto: I am convinced that it is the “poor...broken-hearted ...prisoners... and captives” who will “rebuild, restore and renew” the ruins in our nation. The time is now to follow his mandate with conviction.
- **Under-pinning Finance with Faith:** I was a PCC treasurer aged 23, and I loved my job as a scientist then manager in a multi-national company. I am strongly influenced by Roman Catholic social teaching and admire our past “saints & administrators” of the church. I delight in organisations led transparently, where authority is held clearly and accountably (“if it’s not safe, it’s not church” to quote the Church in Wales), where decisions are made on evidence not anecdote, and we approach our finances with an attitude of faith, honesty and generosity.
- **Delighting in Mutual Flourishing:** I delight and find sustenance in a wide range of spiritualities. Our ancient spiritual inheritance brings a deep and broad river where many can drink from. I am committed to the *Five Guiding Principles* and as a bishop in Lancashire I have experienced a richness of the work of the Spirit amongst traditional catholic and conservative brothers and sisters. There is so much more that unites than divides us; we need everyone to work together to play our part in God’s mission in our nation in this season of unlocking and open doors.

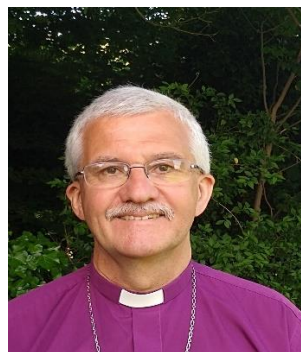
## General Synod 2021

### Election to the Upper House of Convocation

#### Jonathan Gibbs – Bishop of Huddersfield

Proposed by Paul Ferguson

Seconded by Bev Mason



Dear Colleagues

I am writing to ask for your support in the election to the new General Synod, and would like to outline here some of the ways in which I would hope to contribute to the work of Synod over the coming five years.

I have served in the Diocese of Leeds for almost seven years now, having previously been engaged in parochial mission and ministry for twenty-five years in a variety of contexts, in this country and in mainland Europe. Throughout much of my ministry I have been involved in the wider structures of the Church, as Diocesan Clergy Chair in Chester, as a member of General Synod for the Dioceses of Europe and Chester, and more recently in the House of Bishops. I have also maintained links with the Church internationally as Chair of the Meissen Commission.

#### Key Priorities

Since arriving in Huddersfield, I have seen my primary role as being to **encourage local churches** to grow numerically and spiritually and to engage positively in their communities and in the wider world. These are the same kind of priorities that I would seek to pursue as a member of the House of Bishops. Evangelism, discipleship and the development of new and creative forms of mission must be at the heart of the future of the Church, especially as we seek to become a **younger and more diverse church**. At the same time, however, I am deeply committed to the importance of the parish in the life of the Church of England and to supporting clergy and lay people alike to fulfil our historic calling to be a church both of and for all the people of England. I will speak up for place of the parish church and the vocation of the parish clergy every bit as much as for the importance of new forms of church life and mission – as part of **developing a genuinely mixed ecology** in which parish churches have a vital role in play.

The new Synod will also have to address difficult issues in the area of **sexuality and gender**. I believe strongly in the value of diversity and its power to enrich the life of both church and society, and I will seek to ensure as far as possible that all voices are heard and all people welcomed and included as we continue to work through the complex issues around Living in Love and Faith. I have consistently supported the legislation for the ordination of women as

priests and bishops and I am committed to ensuring that the Five Principles are fully honoured within the life of the Church.

Speaking from a **regional** point of view, I am concerned that the perspectives of the North are not always adequately heard within the central structures of the Church of England and will work with my colleagues to ensure that the Northern Province is clearly represented. In particular, our dioceses are facing challenges over finance and clergy numbers and I will be speaking up on behalf of the North at every opportunity.

More broadly, I hope to play a part in enabling Synod to respond wisely to **major issues** facing both the Church and the wider world. Synod can at times over-estimate its own significance beyond the pages of the Church Times, but at its best it can be a powerful means of focusing the mind of the Church and articulating a prophetic voice, in respect of issues such as the climate emergency, racial justice, the housing crisis or growing inequality in wealth, health and education. I am committed to helping the Church's voice to be heard in the public square through the work of Synod.

At present, of course, a good deal of my time and attention is devoted to my role as **Lead Bishop for Safeguarding**. Building on the work of my predecessors, I have been encouraged by the change that has begun to take place in the Church's safeguarding work, in regard both to addressing past failures and to developing a safer, healthier culture for the future. There is a great deal still to be done, and being able to carry on this work as a member of the House of Bishops and the Synod is important both in itself and as a signal to the wider church. I would be very grateful to be able to carry on this work in the House and in Synod, including also to encourage and enable others to take it forward in the years to come.

As a member of the House, I would also want to make myself available to colleagues who might wish to engage more fully with what is happening at General Synod. Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns which you would like to raise.

Many thanks and best wishes,

*Jonathan*

**The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs**  
**Bishop of Huddersfield**

Address: Stone Royd, 9 Valley Head, Huddersfield, HD2 2DH

Telephone: 01484 900656 Email: [bishop.jonathan@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.jonathan@leeds.anglican.org)

I believe I can bring many insights and experiences to this next season of General Synod which will be tackling key issues that will shape the Church into its future: as a member of the *Next Steps* group I am committed to the *Living in Love and Faith* learning process; as a member of the *Governance Review Group*, and the *Emerging Church Steering Group* I understand the vital importance of this work to ensure the Church of England continues to fulfil its vocation and vision: to be a Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped presence in every community in England. I have clarity of insight, an ability to hold and process complexity ‘in the moment’, a commitment to grace and graciousness both in process and relationally even when ‘the other’ is a somewhat challenging partner in the enterprise, and I have an ability to separate the ‘wood from the trees’. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as an elected suffragan for the Province of York, and would listen carefully to the insights and reflections of my episcopal colleagues in so doing.

My faith in Jesus has been nurtured in different contexts: in the home with my parents; in church schools (Anglican and Roman Catholic) growing up in Sunderland, in theological college and University teaching in Oxford and London; in civic spaces in New Zealand, and more recently North Yorkshire; and in conversations and encounters of the everyday: from farm to urban office, military barracks to radio studio, and rural church in the Dales to Bishop’s Mission Order in Harrogate. I have found St Irenaeus’ statement, ‘to be a Christian is to be a human being fully alive’ a compelling encouragement to my own vocational journey, particularly as a bishop, firstly in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and in the Church of England, where my ordained ministry began.

Ministry is first and foremost about God, participating in God’s mission through being among and with people and communities. Ministry, in its various forms as I have experienced it, lay and ordained, is an overflow of the love and life of God in us. I believe the Church is gifted the opportunity to engage in key issues of our age with imagination, trust and hope: the negative impact by the pandemic on the lives of children and young people; the exposure of inequalities and increase in social deprivation; the continuing climate emergency; and how to forge a collective identity of personhood and nationhood, drawing these and countless other issues into a faith perspective grounded in the good news of Jesus Christ for every person and place. In my ordained ministry I have gained lived experience of the joys and challenges of living out God’s mission in diverse local contexts. I know what it is like to be in a struggling church on a Sunday morning with a dozen aged-parishioners, trying to meet Parish Share and fix a leaking roof with a faith full of joy. I am energised by a Church that strives to be fit and flexible to meet the demands of its vocation, seeks to use its resources wisely, and which shows strategic intention towards growth in all its forms; not least as we emerge from a global crisis that has exposed many inequalities and challenges. I am excited about Christian communities that nurture and communicate a captivating vision of God’s kingdom: a vision grounded in prayer and the Eucharist, and active in service.

*Rt Rev’d Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon. July 2021.*

Dear Colleagues

I am offering myself to represent my sister and brother colleagues and the people of the North, to help steer our recovery of a confident, prayerful, joyful identity as the people called by God to witness to Christ in the world.

I have been in Holy Order for over 20 years and have wide ranging parochial experience across the two provinces from the rural, urban and city, to a northern market town. Prior to becoming Bishop of Warrington (Liverpool) I served as archdeacon of Richmond & Craven (Leeds). I have practical experience of growing churches, planting congregations, pioneering ministry and of encouraging young vocations and developing Christian leaders. I am a member of Leading your Church into Growth (LYCiG), the College of Evangelists and Leading in Evangelism. I serve the national church on the Living in Love and Faith Next Steps Group having served on COG. I'm also a Media Bishop and chaplain to the Diocesan Communications Team. I have been a member of the Implementation Group which has birthed a new, non-residential theological college (Emmanuel) for the North West to provide outstanding ministerial formation and training pathways for lay and ordained ministers. I continue to serve the college as a Trustee and Chair of the Finance Committee.

The world pandemic has been profoundly disorientating, confronting the church with new challenges as well as spotlighting pre-pandemic concerns for governance, vision and strategy, for the shape of mission and ministry, of ethics and doctrine and of social justice, human dignity and well-being. These are really interesting times! We have seen the emergence of a lot of bright ideas and what can sometimes feel like frenetic activity. Alongside this, there is much dispiritedness, despondency and weariness. If we turn to the Bible, we find that after cataclysmic moments in our history, the Divine paradigm would seem to be one of re-gathering, re-forming and re-orienting the people into the holy People of God. There is renewed identity, a renewed vision and renewed confidence. I believe we have learning to take from this as we journey through this next quinquennium of Synod.

Having served in the two Provinces and in the North East and the North West, trained in both catholic and evangelical contexts and fluent within the traditions of the Church, I believe I am well placed to represent laity and clergy. My professional background prior to ordination in the world of business and finance means that I bring experience and insight that might contribute positively to General Synod. I am therefore offering myself as one of your representatives.

**+Beverley Warrington**

## Election Address

The reason I am putting myself forward to stand for Synod is to do what I can to give voice to deprived communities in the structures of the Church of England. When Jesus stood up in the synagogue in Nazareth in Luke Chapter 4 he declared as his purpose, 'I have come to proclaim good news to the poor.' If we are to capture the imaginations of a nation afresh with the Gospel, I am convinced that this movement of renewal can only come from the poorest and most marginalised communities.

For the past five years I have chaired the Church of England's Estates Evangelism Task Group. In 2018 you were kind enough to elect me to Synod and that meant that the following year, in an unanimous vote, the Synod made a commitment to establish a 'loving, serving, worshipping Christian community on every significant estate in the nation.' However that commitment means nothing without action, and as we live with the fallout of pandemic, it would be very easy for the Dioceses of the Church of England almost accidentally to start withdrawing from urban areas.

In the past three years on Synod I have given voice to those churches that serve deprived communities, I have spoken up on a range of social issues, I have campaigned for us to address historic inequality in Diocesan assets and so build greater mutuality in our finances and, most importantly, I have been able to tell stories of the amazing work that is taking place on many of our estates. I would like to continue this work in the new Synod. In particular I would want to ensure that ministry to deprived communities is on the front page of the new Vision and Strategy, that Diocesan transformation plans do not disproportionately impact poorer communities and seek to ensure that SDF and LICF funding streams go to the communities for which they are intended.

I would of course hope to contribute to Synod more broadly. I write this short address whilst preparing for a youth event, and ministry to the young is a massive passion. I would push for much more investment in ministry to children and young people and would bring to Synod experience from ministering in the wonderful family of Church Schools which is such a gift to our ministry in Blackburn Diocese.

I also take a keen interest in the quality of theological formation we offer in the Church of England and bring with me the experience of chairing the Implementation Group which has set up Emmanuel Theological College in the North West. This leaves me with a range of questions about the wisdom and feasibility of the National Ministry Team's latest proposals on Resourcing Ministerial Formation. I can also bring experience of forming for leadership those whose confidence is low or whose backgrounds means that they lack formal educational qualifications.

I would support reforms to Synod to ensure that it is both more cost effective and allows for a far wider and more diverse range of voices. We need a Synod that leads the church in mission rather than one that keeps us locked in maintenance mode, and I feel it is time for some members of the House of Bishops to voice the frustrations that many of us feel.

I stand in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, a movement that has occasionally felt overlooked in recent years, as some of the more frenetic debates on social media testify. At times in the House of Bishops I have been able to explain rather more calmly where Catholics come from

on a range of issues (for example over the place of the Sacraments in the life of the Church) and I feel that it is important that this voice continues to be heard.

Much of the next Synod is likely to be taken up with the conversation on Living in Love and Faith. I am glad that the Church is changing its language around sexuality and appearing less harsh and judgemental in its tone, but I would stick to a traditional line in the debate around marriage. I would also want to place that debate in context in a nation where so many people are worried about where the next meal is coming from and how they will pay back their debts.

However I really do not see myself as a 'party Catholic' on Synod. I am standing because I believe that the call of the Church of England is to transform a nation under Christ, and that to be true to that call, we need to be faithful in service and proclamation to those who live in our poorest communities. If we can proclaim good news to the poor, then everybody will listen. I'd like to serve on Synod to keep on saying just that!

**Philip North**  
*(Bishop of Burnley)*