The Rt Revd Arun Arora

Election Address for House of Bishops Elections 2026

- I have served as a member of the House of Bishops for the past year having previously been elected following a casual vacancy. During that time I have contributed to a number of discussion at the House on issues of finance and funding, racial justice, safeguarding, trust and accountability amongst other discussions. As a member of General Synod in addition to answering questions on behalf of the House I was also most recently involved in contributing to the debate on Promoting National Unity as a member of the national steering group.

- As regional convenor/chair for Bishops in the North East and Yorkshire I have sought to support colleagues through engagement with the national church on issues such as national funding, safeguarding, numbers of candidates in training and the work of mission agencies such as Youthscape and LYCIG.

- I continue to serve as the co-lead bishop on Racial Justice and also as co-deputy chair of the Racial Justice Board working alongside the Bishop of Croydon in seeking to discern a right response for the issues of racial justice both within the church and within our country.

- I also serve as a member of SMMIB (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board), and as a member of the Archbishops' Advisory Group on for Appointments and Vocations.

- As a former member of the Episcopal Wellbeing Group I have sought to continue the work of seeking better representation and engagement for bishops whether through union membership or individual support in matters relating to disciplinary and wider HR concerns which impact bishops.

General Synod Election Address

Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster

I am standing for General Synod because I love the Church of England. I am thankful for our service in parishes, schools and chaplaincies across the nation. I long to see us grow in faith, courage and love, underpinned by wise governance.

I have served as a Northern Suffragan on General Synod in the last quinquennium, and been called to speak on the environment, finances, LLF & prayer. I have contributed to the House of Bishops on a wide variety of topics, including clergy terms and conditions, young people, church planting, finance. I am the Bishop for Science in the Northern Province.

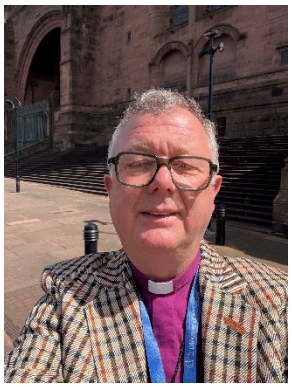
I have a wide range of interests in church and national life, including the significance of the working sphere (following my career in scientific research & a multi-national company), mission & evangelism, media, children & young people, vocations & theological education, prison chaplaincy, inter-faith relationships and spiritual direction.

Three passions which I would bring to Synod:

- Prayer: at the last Synod of the quinquennium, together with +David Walker, I organised a Half night of Prayer for synod which was well attended from across traditions. I would bring a passion to foreground our dependence on the immanence of God's wisdom and intervention both at GS and at the House & College of Bishops where, together with a group of six bishops, I have responded to the appetite for multiple seasons of 40 days of prayer & fasting
- Governance: I bring a commitment to working towards increased transparency, accountability & synodality. I chair our Diocesan Synod business group where we have enabled a more gracious culture with a wider diversity of voices. I have served as chair of New Wine, where I commissioned our own Scolding independent review following the revelations about Mike Pilavachi, and held oversight of complex safeguarding
- Vocations & leadership: I am a sponsoring bishop our Diocese and served in senior leadership in a TEI. I am keen to actively increase our reach in vocations and training especially from our more deprived areas, and to mobilise a prayerful and strategic response to the serious impact of our dwindling vocations

I am also an Assistant Bishop in the Church in Wales and have been involved with their navigation of same-sex blessings and marriage. This year I have co-authored a book on the saints (*Held in God's Gaze,* SPCK) with one of our LGBTQI+ parish priests who holds very different views from me on the divisive issues of Synod.

I long to see a courageous faith-filled, mission-focussed Synod which offers wise prayerful governance to enable the Church of England to truly be a Christian presence in every community and to transform our nation under Christ.



The Rt Revd Simon Joseph Robinson, Bishop of Warrington in the Diocese of Liverpool
Election Statement for General Synod 2026

What do I bring to General Synod?

- Having been born into a very poor working-class, single-parent, teenage-mother background. I have carried these experiences into my working life as a teacher, a headteacher, priest, Dean and now Bishop.
- I am a survivor of domestic violence and abuse in the church. These have been dealt with via safeguarding. I am at peace with these aspects of my life and am confident in using my voice publicly.
- I am an openly gay man who is happily single.
- I have 24 years of teaching/headteaching experience in inner city estates in London and Bristol, all within the top 5% of most deprived localities. This fuels my passions for education, addressing issues of child poverty and addressing educational under-achievement.
- I have 15 years of psychotherapeutic experience, with my own and (some) training equipping me for dealing with the complex issues of humanity.
- I come from a liberal-catholic background with enriching experiences of the evangelical church and charismatic renewal. I am comfortable in a range of traditions.
- I have led a growing Parish that saw good growth through a mixed ecology approach particularly with unchurched families.
- I am committed to engaging with complex questions in regards of diversity, difference and disagreement.
- I am passionate about the unity of the church in both ministry and mission. I want all to know Jesus Christ.
- I am passionate about priesthood.
- I have a proven track record in managing complex organisational dysfunction leading to positive change including significant experience in governance matters across both community groups, education establishments and the church.

What priorities are high on my agenda as a bishop and I would wish to particularly engage with at General Synod?

- That we teach the faith through traditional and reimagined methodologies.
- That we continue to build a safer and braver church through a trauma-informed approach.
- That the voice of survivors like me, affects policy and practice in all aspects of our lives.
- That clergy well-being is high on the agenda as a central theme to the flourishing of the Gospel, manifesting itself in tangible impacts on individuals and communities.

- That we increase the number of young vocations who train residentially and via courses to both ordination, lay leadership and the religious life.
- That we engage fully with issues of social justice affecting all communities in an increasingly fractured and fractious society.
- That we learn from and consider the positive contributions of those who are neurodiverse in the church and the wider community
- That the church continues to invest in schools, colleges and chaplaincies and expands this work to community educational establishments even more.
- That there is a place at the table for all from conservative to catholic whilst also addressing the very real issues of misogyny, racism, homophobia and ableism.
- That we engage with such organisations as Save the Parish in a positive manner with the aim of working together in addressing the needs of local and church communities especially in the Province of York.
- That as God's church we reignite our voice in social cohesion, social capital and social change recognising the prophetic nature of scripture and our privileged presence in most communities. That this is extended internationally and across the globe recognising that we are members of the Anglican communion and the world wide community.

Other factors:

- I am first and foremost a person of prayer. I delight in the traditions of the church whilst also being excited about newer expressions of church
- I am very much focused on Jesus Christ, shaping my own life accordingly and encouraging others to do the same. I take theological education seriously
- I alway walk towards conflict, seeking reconciliation and resolution for the sake of the Gospel as well as the sake of individuals and communities.
- I support the 5 guiding principles. I rejoice in the calling of women as deacons, priests, bishops and now Archbishop.

I never imagined I would be called to the episcopate. I have learned so much about God, the church, society and myself in just 4 months. I want to encourage increased confidence in our calling as bishops who shepherd, pastor and teach those who we are responsible for. I also want to help build increased confidence in the episcopate through genuinely engaging with the key issues the church is facing whilst always keeping my own eyes on Christ. I see General Synod as a place to effect positive change in the church and thus our presence in society, nationally and internationally.

With sincerest thanks for your reading of this statement

+Simon

General Synod Elections 2026: Background Information for Bishop Eleanor Sanderson

I joined the Church of England in September 2022, from the Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia where I served as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Wellington since 2017 and previously in many different ministry roles since the year 2000 (ordained deacon in 2005 and priest in 2006). I was baptised in the Church of England at age 19, coming to faith in Christ at University. I was encouraged to discern ordination fairly soon and served as a youth worker in a rural village context in Derbyshire before leaving England to take up a, previously awarded, scholarship in New Zealand at age 22 in the year 2000. It had been my intention to continue ministry discernment within the context of the Church of England, but God clearly called me to remain within Aotearoa New Zealand. The first expression of that call was to partner with a university chaplain to plant a student congregation in Wellington, which I did in a self-supporting capacity. There were many times over those 22 years where we kept re-discerning if there was a call back to England and to the Church of England, but the call kept being renewed for fresh missional, and often highly sacrificial (as well as joyful!), ministry in the Anglican Province where I was ordained.

On returning to England, serving the communities for which I have principal pastoral and leadership responsibility was always my first priority. After four years, many of those critical leadership realities have now developed. It is also true to say that the family and resource commitment required to participate in the synodical life in the Church of England is disproportionally prohibitive compared to other provinces within our Communion that I have known. This is therefore the first time that I have felt God's prompt to ask me to seriously pray and discern standing for election to General Synod in England.

As I have prayed over this summer, I have been most compelled by the responsibility for communicating and cultivating alignment within our own church and our global Anglican Communion. I currently serve as one of the 5 core members of the Anglican Communion Commission for Evangelism and Discipleship. This Commission was created in 2022 and brought together the previous Jesus Shaped Life Co-ordinating Group created by the Anglican Consultative Council 19 in 2016 (which I was asked to join as an Oceania representative in 2018), whose role was to support and lead the Decade of Intentional Discipleship in our Communion. In the recent ACC in Belfast of this year, I was asked by the core group to present our global multi-cultural response to the concluding of this Decade of Intentional Discipleship by offering Vision 36 to ACC. Vision 36 represents a wholistic vision for embedded discipleship and church renewal and planting for the coming decade. It is a culmination of work across a range cultural and theological contexts and which has also been expressly developed with the Safe Church network within the Anglican Communion. Vision 36 was adopted and celebrated at ACC. I also currently serve as one of the Champion Bishops for missionary discipleship here in the Church of England. In the Diocese of York, I hold the episcopal leadership for discipleship and evangelism. I have particular episcopal oversight of Mustard Seed, which is a York grown missionary discipleship ministry and community specifically developed in, with and for areas of high deprivation.

I am conscious that I hold a breadth of experience in the different ways that I have seen, and see, Christ 'strengthen, guide, warn and revive' his church (to speak in relation to part of one of the Eucharistic prayers of thanksgiving: ANZPB). My own missional life experience, my current contextual priority and my cross-cultural work across many provinces in our Anglican Communion, means that I often bring different assumptions and perspectives to critical

conversations around church sustainability and renewal. Those conversations appear increasingly critical within the Church of England, and I believe that a global consciousness combined with local grassroots practical experience makes those conversations healthier and richer. I feel a responsibility to the Commission and communities I serve to therefore offer to be part of the way that these conversations occur in the context of our General Synod.

I have also reflected on the prophetic calling and witness of our church in this land. I previously served as the Fellow for Public Theology at the Centre for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary and continue to engage in research and advocacy in areas of public theology. During my shared episcopal leadership in Wellington, NZ, we had a clear intentional focus on reshaping the priorities of our church to better reflect the biblical priority towards the 'last, the lost and the least'. This involved significant culture change and proactive leadership in areas of poverty injustice, refugee integration, climate change, modern-day slavery, reconciliation in a colonial context and addressing the housing crisis in practice as well as advocacy. Many of these same strands of practical leadership have also emerged and continued here in England. In 2024 I began to support Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani in her work as lead bishop for Housing. I now chair the Church Housing Foundation and I chair the Project Oversight Group which supports parishes and diocese across our church to develop local creative responses to community and housing needs through the creative use of church land and buildings. I work to support the Wilberforce Institute, based at the University of Hull, in the ongoing work around modern-day slavery. I have life-long belonging within the Melanesian communities in Fiji, who continue to experience the economic and cultural consequences of historic enslavement. I drew on this deep identity in the recent publication *A Voice in the Wilderness Why should we listen to the Church of England* (SCM Press 2026), a publication which grew out of a symposium on the public legitimacy of the Church of England. I partnered with our Local High Sherrif and Hull HMP to develop a touring artwork supporting the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women and girls. More recently I have supported the families affected by the Legacy Funeral Home case to work towards the regulation of our funeral industry. I am concerned that whatever civic and prophetic voice the Church of England may have, it is used in the service of those with the greatest need, but also simultaneously embedded in our own practical actions.

A significant part of my recent life has been given to the raising up of a new generation of vocations supported to give their best for the Kingdom of God. Prior to coming to England, our family initiated and lived within an intentional missional community for young adults based around the secular university. This became a fruitful catalyst for both vocations and mission, in a predominantly self-supporting capacity. An intentional young adult community, modelled on the learning of this experience, has just begun in one of our local coastal communities. There is a significant disproportional absence of vocations from the high deprivation areas that I predominantly serve in Yorkshire. I therefore recently accepted the invitation to chair the Cranmer Committee and be a member of St John's College at Durham University, which I have done since December 2025. I also serve on the Advisory Council for Religious Communities. I am concerned to bring my varied experiences and contextual concerns into the current and future conversations in our national church.

It grieves me deeply that people do not necessarily experience the synodical life of our church as a spiritually enhancing and life affirming experience. Having served in two iterations of the working groups for LLF, I am committed to supporting collaborative ways of seeking to build up and not devour one another. For me, that is firstly a work of servant hearted prayer. To pray and to love is my first and most important commitment in the context of our synodical life together.