



**The Venerable Peter Robinson
Archdeacon of Lindisfarne**

**4 Acomb Close
Morpeth
Northumberland NE61 2YH**

t: 01670 5036810

e: p.robinson@newcastle.anglican.org

Dear Colleagues,

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION ADDRESS 2015

I am writing to ask you to consider voting for me in the forthcoming General Synod elections. This is the first time I have stood and I would love to have the opportunity to serve the diocese by representing Newcastle clergy in General Synod.

I would hope that my experience as a parish priest and as an Archdeacon gives me a good foundation for making a helpful contribution to the work of General Synod. I know that I would learn a great deal from being involved and I would be committed to sharing that learning with lay and ordained colleagues within our own diocese.

Having been brought up in a low church, evangelical tradition in south west London, and served on a PCC in a 'broad church' parish in Oxford Diocese, I went to train at Cranmer Hall in Durham. I have a background which has enabled me serve in parishes with a range of theological traditions. This means that, if elected, I would work across a wide agenda and would seek advice and support from relationships developed across the whole of Synod.

Frist and foremost, I would be committed to helping General Synod be consistently outward-facing to the world and society, engaging with the key issues of our day and enabling the church at every level of its life to work with communities, voluntary associations and statutory agencies that aim for the flourishing of all. A vision of the people of God, committed to co-operating imaginatively with God's mission in the world and witnessing effectively to the love Christ as a result, would be central to how I approach being a member of Synod.

My passion is for the continual renewal and growth of the Church of England inclusive of all geographical, social and economic contexts. As the *Reform and Renewal* programme unfolds and new financial models commence in 2017, I would want to use my influence to ensure that we continue to serve those areas where it's most challenging to be church. In addition, I would work to ensure that central funding models enable dioceses to work purposefully and creatively in developing authentically Anglican and contextual ways of being church in new communities and networks.

Questions about the church's views and pastoral practice in the area of sexuality are going to be high on the next Synod's agenda. I do not profess an expertise in this area, nor do I know of any easy answers. I would, however, have a deep commitment to engage in the planned conversations, to learn with others and to find ways of developing the church's response to the current challenges. Like many others, I endorse the importance of careful conversation, mutual listening and the emphasis on finding ways for Christians 'to disagree well' as we grow together.

My experience in the diocese of the worlds of theological education and church schools would give me a good platform from which to contribute to discussions on these key missional areas which will need continual realigning to the overall strategic direction of the Church of England. As we welcome the second woman diocesan bishop to Newcastle I would like to contribute to reflection on the practical outworking of the *Five Guiding Principles* as we still have much to do in realising the full contribution of both women and men to the life of the church.

If elected I would work closely with all the diocesan representatives on key issues, and I would want to find the opportunity to listen clergy views about forthcoming General Synod debates. We have learnt much from our colleagues who have helped us understand the national agenda well in the last five years and I would want to build on their efforts.

Finally, I am grateful to Brian Hurst and Rachel Wood respectively for proposing and seconding me. Thank you for reading this far! If you wish to find out more about how I would approach membership of General Synod don't hesitate to drop me an email or ring.

With all good wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Peter Robinson
11th September 2015