



Election address for General Synod - September 2026
House of Laity
Diocese of Durham

- **Church Life**

Since relocating to Ryhope shortly before the COVID outbreak, I have become more actively involved with our church. What began with assisting our vicar to share sermons online, has evolved into a regular online presence for our community,

This has proven to be a useful outreach tool for drawing new people to our church. As the Digital Lead for our parish, I am responsible for social media content, and for the production of our parish magazine. The Ryhope View has developed from being a generic content publication to becoming a living breathing representation of our church, with real life reflections and articles from our congregation. It gives me great joy to encourage both new and long time members to explore their faith and to give them a voice within the parish.

I am one of two newly elected members of our church to the Deanery Synod. I, along side our Lay Minister of the Word, Elaine Shanks, and our vicar, Reverend David Chadwick, represent the diverse people of our parish.

We are fortunate to have such diversity within our church family; our members come from all walks of life. Our church is situated opposite a supported living care home, which brings people with a wide range of abilities to join our congregation.

It is my aim to represent our parish and our needs at General Synod. I believe it is vital that the Church of England remains relevant to the modern world without alienating the more traditional worshippers in our church family. We do need to move forward and bring in change, but it must be done mindfully and with loving grace.



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Issues Important to Me

Better support for ordinands and lay ministers, from low income households and parents.

Discussions on relationship, sexuality and gender.

Making The Church accessible for people with all kinds of abilities and neurodivergence.

Support and training for digital creators who are not church leaders.

To future proof the church and meet young people where they are, just as Jesus did.

To continue progress in making The Church more eco friendly.

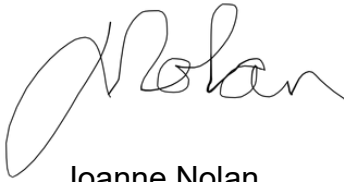
- **Working Life**

I started my working life as a teenager, in an entry level job within the Department of Health and Social Security. Over the years my dedication and hard work brought promotions to eventually be part of the management team in the finance office for the Pension Service. My time now is spent sharing part time care for a family member, volunteering with a local charity and taking an active role in supporting our church.

- **Personal Life**

I am a fifty four year old single mother, with a seventeen year old son. Though separated, myself and his father have worked hard to make sure our son never felt like he was from a broken family. Our family core is united, even though our personal lifestyles are different.

Thank you for taking the time to read this address. As a person who represents the ordinary members of the parish I would greatly appreciate your vote. Please do contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Nolan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Joanne' being more prominent than the last name 'Nolan'.

Joanne Nolan
Digital Lead
St Paul's, Ryhope