

Tim Packer

House of Laity, Diocese of Durham

Proposed: Angus Goudie (General Synod)

Seconded: David Gregory-Smith (New Brancepeth)

Contact me: tim.packer@gmail.com



In the Church

- Active member of St Nics Church, Durham since 1998
- Musician, worship leader, technical lead, and lead producer for online services in lockdown
- Durham Diocesan Synod and Durham Deanery Synod Standing Committee
- Leader on Scripture Union *Transformers* and *Livewires* technology holidays for teenagers
- Previously served in churches of a wide range of sizes, settings and churchmanships, including as a chorister and altar server

Outside the Church

- Consultant delivery manager in the Department of Work and Pensions, helping to deliver Personal Independent Payments
- Member and trustee of Bearpark and Esh Colliery Band
- Founder and organiser of Pride Brass North East
- Carer for my disabled partner

Dear Deanery Synod member,

I am standing to represent the Diocese of Durham as a lay representative on General Synod.

I grew up in a Christian family, but came to a personal faith through youth ministry. I remain committed to the church's outreach to young people, who are our future, and have served for over 25 years on Christian holiday camps for teenagers.

I came to County Durham from Merseyside as a student, and my partner and I have made it our home for almost 30 years. For most of this time I have been a member of St Nics Church, Durham, serving as a worship leader, musician and tech lead as well as on the PCC. I also formed and led the team that produced and broadcast online services every week for the church during COVID lockdown.

I have a strong belief in the culture, history and huge potential of our amazing region, and am involved in the local community in numerous ways, including as a member and trustee of a local colliery brass band and a performer in local events including Durham's Fringe Festival, Miners' Gala and World Heritage Day. I also founded and run Pride Brass North East, which provides brass bands for local LGBTQ+ Pride parades.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ and neurodiverse communities and carer for my disabled partner, I am aware of how the church can be a crucial support for members of marginalised communities, but also a very difficult place to exist. I am committed to making our church one in which people from all backgrounds can feel not only welcomed but fully included.

Outside of the church, my career has been largely as a public servant. I currently work on delivery of the PIP benefit, which is a vital lifeline to thousands of disabled people. Previously, I led the software development team at the University of Durham, and worked at St John's College on Christian Apologetics projects, focusing on Faith and Science and youth outreach.

I believe I can bring a valuable perspective to General Synod, as someone involved in youth ministry, in art and heritage, in marginalised communities and as a carer, as well as someone with experience of managing large and complex projects. I have been encouraged by the support of previous members of General Synod who have suggested I can bring a strong voice to represent the Diocese of Durham. I am committed to understanding the needs of all churches across the diocese and representing your views in Synod.

I hope you will consider voting for me, and I look forward to working alongside you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

My Priorities

An Inclusive Church

"I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality."
- the Inclusive Synod statement

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am very aware of the hurt that LGBTQ+ people and other minorities have often experienced in the church, and support moves towards greater inclusion, including increased support for committed same-sex relationships. I am also personally aware of the specific needs of disabled and neurodiverse church attendees, as well as the influence of class and economic power,

We must make our church one that includes all, but especially those in greatest need.



A Church for the Unchurched

"The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members"
- Archbishop William Temple

Our church has long been used to being the cultural default, but we need to recognise that many people, especially in younger generations, now have little knowledge or experience of the Church of England or Christianity as a whole.

We must think about how to be a church whose doors remain open, that serves the community outside its walls, and that is approachable for those who come with a need for God, but with few expectations about what that might look like.

A Church for All Generations

Young people are the future of the church, and its survival depends on welcoming and including new generations, listening to them and encouraging them to shape what the church will become. At the same time, we are blessed by the wisdom and experience of older generations, and many of our churches rely on the truly heroic work of older people.

We are one family, and for our churches to flourish we must include and respect all generations.



A Church with Heritage

The Church of England is the custodian of a large part of Britain's greatest built heritage, as well as a stunning history of art and music. This can be a difficult burden, but also a precious resource.

We must think creatively about how to use these assets and cultural connections to strengthen the church's place in society, fund our mission, and spread the word of God.



A Church for Every Place

The Church of England has a unique role in our nation through its parish system that places it in every community. Cathedrals and larger churches do vital work speaking God's word on a large scale, but parishes remain the heart of our church.

We must give each of our churches the resources, support, and freedom, to be God's hands and voice in their local community.