

Donna Robinson for General Synod 2026

Proposer **The Revd Dr Richard Briggs** Seconder **The Revd Canon Dr Alan Barlett**



As a non-stipendiary priest, I would like to put myself forward to serve Durham Diocese on General Synod. I minister with one foot in the parish and one in the workplace.

I came to faith from a very early age. My faith has been a constant source of strength in my life, knowing His Grace has given me a foundation, and His Spirit continues to lead me to be committed in all I do. I believe God calls us to a life of courageous hope, not fear.

If elected I pray that my contribution to Synod will be marked by Christ like humility, listening carefully to different traditions within the Church of England, a church that is inclusive to all.

My role as an Asda Community Champion takes me into some of the most deprived communities in the country, alongside people who often feel unseen by those who make decisions about their lives. I know that world, because I come from it.

My working class roots shape how I listen, how I lead, and whose interests I hold when hard choices are made. If elected, I will bring the voice of the voiceless into Synod's debates and speak for a church that speaks credibly to every community.

I'd really appreciate your support as your first-choice candidate. The next page shares some kind words from people who are supporting my nomination. I also hope to contribute on General Synod through faithfully representing the Diocese of Durham, bringing my local experience into national conversations with integrity and care. Thank you for considering my nomination.

I would be honoured to receive your first preference vote.

Donna

KEY PRINCIPLES

Skills and approach

I bring an open mind, prayerful discernment, and deep respect for differing views. Listening well enables me to contribute thoughtfully to complex decisions and to build strong relationships across the breadth of our church.

Community focused

Our calling is to serve others in food banks, schools, and communities facing hardship, so that we remain outward-looking and rooted in compassion.

My contribution

I will listen attentively, discern prayerfully, and work collaboratively across traditions. I am committed to supporting frontline ministry, honouring all viewpoints, and approaching difficult debates with grace.



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Principal of Lindisfarne College of Theology; Tutor in Old Testament and Biblical Studies and Associate Priest at St Catherine's, New Brancepeth says, '**Donna has a zest for life, genuine love for God and people, and is willing to try anything.** She has overcome a whole range of obstacles in getting through to ordination, and she brings a down-to-earth realism to everything she does, combined with a really positive attitude'.



Seconder The Revd Canon Dr Alan Barlett

Mission Priest St Edmund's Church Bearpark and Visiting Fellow in Anglicanism, St John's College, Durham says, '**Donna is a crucial voice for the Church of England to hear:** a fine priest, rooted in the Catholic Anglican tradition and working class. Her recent interview shown at General Synod had a big impact. She is one of "ours". Please give her your first preference vote'.

Izzy McDonald-Booth, General Synod 2015-2026 and G.S. Panel of Chairs says, 'Donna is deeply true to herself, discovering a real joy in learning and in listening to people from many backgrounds. Her confidence lifts others, grounded in a rich and authentic faith. **She brings a vital working class perspective to General Synod,** with a wholehearted desire to serve the people of Durham Diocese.'

Revd Tom and Mavis Worsley say, 'Donna first visited Christchurch in Felling in 2022, as Asda's Community Champion to present a funding cheque. She saw our community work at firsthand - refreshments, hot food, crafts and food bags and quickly connected with our local families. She also engages with Age UK, Health watch and the Community Wellbeing Mental Health Team, always with a warm smile and ready to help. I hope you will give her your first preference vote.'



If you have any questions, I would be very happy to hear from you.

I am committed to inclusivity and equality for everyone in the church, whatever their identity or circumstances. Thank you.



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Donna Robinson 1