



Dr Richard Scothon

St. John's Church, Neville's Cross

Proposer: Lay Reader Mike Chater - St John's Neville's Cross

Seconded: Dr Michael Bullock - Durham Deanery

*"Building bridges for all people
in our Durham Diocese from
the Tees to the Tyne,
from the Dales to the Sea."*

ELECTION TO GENERAL SYNOD

Why I am standing

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am standing for General Synod because I believe that we in the Durham Diocese need a strong voice to represent our faith region of the country. I sense that we in the North East, and in particular the Historic County of Durham, are sidelined in our national conversation and I would be a strong voice to represent how Christ is moving in our lives through parishes, chaplaincies in education, the armed forces and our health and emergency services as well as the amazing outreach that's done through our charity and mission partners in our contrasting urban and rural diocese.

Born into a mixed heritage background: Methodist paternal family from County Durham, and Coptic/Maronite maternal family from Egypt/Lebanon, I grew-up knowing the global nature of faith which unites us through Christ's love for us all. Married for 30 years with two beautiful children I see how we come together as the family of faith beyond our home settings, to reach out into our communities to demonstrate true belonging, collaboration and unity.

I've had a career in leadership in organisations both nationally and at the heart of our communities, never forgetting the people we are to serve at the heart of our calling. Having worked in the NHS as well as sitting as a Magistrate for 20 years, I have seen the extremes of our humanity and bring this experience to how we bring faith from our parishes and help our callings into each part of Durham Diocese.

The County Palatine of Durham and the wider North East was built on Coal, Steel and Shipbuilding as well as the industries that gave pride of place to communities. Building on the legacy of Cuthbert, Bede and Aidan, our parishes have their church faith communities alive and showing Christ in their midst. We need more centrally funded resources to help our calling into each part of Durham Diocese.

I would be grateful for your first or second preference vote and I promise to be the representative who listens to you and puts your joys or challenges at the centre of the Church of England's General Synod.

Please vote for me.

In Christ,

Dr Richard Scothon



About me

- **Father and Husband:** 30 years of marriage to my best friend. Two lovely children newly studying at University.
- **PCC Member:** St John's Neville's Cross with special interest in mission governance, process and the law.
- **Ecology Committee:** St John's de-carbonising plans to help reduce costs and the impact of wasting resources. Am particularly interested in the theology of stewardship.
- **Durham Light Infantry:** Board member focused on the living work of the DLI and its place in Army history for the brave 'Durhams' that we remember each year in our churches and in our cathedral.
- **Magistrate:** 20 years on the Criminal Bench throughout the North East of England, previously the Family Courts and have the role of a Diversity and Community Relations Magistrate, reaching out into our region.
- **Durham Police:** Member of the Audit Committee for the good running of our Police Force and Police and Crime Commissioner.
- **Sports:** Rowing in the region. A way of relaxing whilst keeping up exercise.
- **Freeman of the City of Durham:** Board member maintaining the work of our historic Guilds and Crafts, including apprentices. Many of these are linked through generations to our churches and land.
- **Practical Theology:** Undertaking applied theology at Lindisfarne College to learn more about God's Church.

Why vote for me?

- ✓ **Servant leader.** As Christ is our example, his leadership is the ultimate example for us all, and he has guided me in how I work.
- ✓ **Collaborative Bridge Builder:** Bringing people together from different parts of the Church to listen and act in service of others.
- ✓ **Committed to God's Church:** Nothing matters more than God's life-changing grace, which transforms and strengthens us. We must reach further into our communities so others can know God's power, and the Central Church must recognise and support this work in our parishes and chaplaincies.
- ✓ **I work hard.** Ask anyone who knows me.

My 8 priorities

1. **Durham Diocese as an Anchor Institution:** Having worked in very large companies, I know how communities come together when there's local grassroots representation. Our Parishes are critical to linking us together, and I would petition the Co E to provide more centralised money to help our churches with their day-to-day mission.
2. **Supporting our Clergy:** Our hard-working clergy are being pulled left-right-and-centre. More and more churches are being placed into larger and larger groupings, which means our clergy cannot do the vital mission work they are called to undertake with us all. The Central Church needs to know that this cannot go on forever and a Lay voice needs to speak up for Clergy. I would be that person.
3. **Women's Ministry:** In my lifetime I've seen the fullness of ordained ministry throughout our church, with women in all ordained roles. This needs continual support and enablement beyond flourishing.
4. **Chaplaincy Ministry:** Our Parishes are the place to send us all out into our communities to live and work to Christ's praise and glory. Likewise our Schools, Colleges, Universities, Cadets, Police, Fire Service, NHS, Army, Navy, Airforce and Industrial Chaplains need our support as they do their critical work. I have tangibly supported Chaplains in my career and see how they meet people where they are most needed. More resources need to come their way to continue their work. I'd press for that to be done.
5. **Safeguarding:** Safeguarding is not negotiable: survivors deserve independence, honesty, and follow-through, not warm words. I would reinforce this time and time again.
6. **Justice and Inclusion:** It's important to respect all differing views in matters of blessing and marriage. It is now time for the Church of England to complete the work of Living in Love and Faith in our LGBTIQ+ settings.
7. **Ecumenism and Interfaith:** We are all God's children and we must live in faith and harmony. We are called to peace as Anglicans throughout the world, and by bridging the gap through dialogue we find commonalities in our everyday life. I have enabled this work through the NHS and found interfaith is much about humanity through respect for each other. The Central Church needs to enable us to undertake this work in our own areas. I will ask for resources to do this.
8. **The Parish Share:** Many Churches simply cannot afford to pay the money they are asked to provide, and vital finances take money away from mission work, and PCCs worry about spending anything beyond the very basics. The Central Church needs to free up money to support churches with more clergy, historic building funds, musicians, and facilities for younger and older people. We are at a point where finances could really make a difference to a living church. The kingdom of heaven is here. Someone must speak up.



I would be honoured to have your first or second preference vote.

Thank you for your support and your prayers.