

VOTE

Guy Wingate

for General Synod 2026



Nominated by: Margaret (Mags) Vaughan
(Lay Member, Durham Diocesan Synod)

Seconded by: Lucy Falcus
(Lay-Chair, Stockton Deanery Synod)

My prayer is that Almighty God would work through the Church of England to facilitate a wide-spread Christian revival across our country, that all might come to know Jesus and be faithful to Him and his teaching in their lives.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can write or speak to me at:

Email: guy.wingate@myyahoo.com

Tel: 07484223807

Dear Elector,

Thank you for taking the time to read my election address (candidate statement) for election to the House of Laity of General Synod.

As an active committed member of the Church of England in the North-East of England for over 30 years, current PCC Treasurer and recently retired business manager, I hope you will conclude that I have the skills, energy and experience to enable me to serve as one of your Durham Diocese's General Synod representatives.

On the next page I have put a bit more information about me and some key topics for General Synod over the coming years (**mission focus, going for growth, parish well-being, environmental sustainability and safeguarding**). I am committed to faithfully and prayerfully give the time and effort needed to be effective as your representative should I be elected.

This election matters so please do use your vote. I would greatly value being **your first preference choice**. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me (see above).

Yours in Christ,

Guy

Guy Wingate

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About me...

My wife Sarah and I worship at All Saints, Preston-on-Tees in Stockton Deanery where I am the Church Treasurer, and one of the church representatives on Stockton Deanery Synod. We have three grown-up children. Our church life over the years has encompassed membership of both small country and larger urban churches. I came to faith in my youth through an invitation to a church youth group, and greatly value the role of children and youth work in our churches. I served as a volunteer Sunday schoolteacher for many years.

After completing my doctorate at Durham University, I worked at ICI Engineering in Billingham before joining a pharmaceutical company called GlaxoWellcome at Barnard Castle (now GSK) where I held various roles of increasing responsibility until my recent retirement. I am used to wading through large amounts of information to discern key details, an important skill for General Synod.

Some key topics for General Synod...

Mission and missionary focus: Our mission is to share the Word of God across our nation, bringing people to faith in Jesus and the everlasting life He offers. As the Church of England we need to keep our focus and promote a Christian way of life that is distinct and authentic to our calling. Bishop Rick shared some of the challenges he sees ahead at the Durham Diocesan Synod in May and I am excited by the prospect of General Synod supporting a fresh missionary focus across the country.

Going for growth: We need to reach out and grow across all areas and sectors of society. Church attendance should reflect the diversity of the local communities we serve. A focus on children and youth continues to be vital when schools no longer necessarily provide a strong lead on Christian teaching. Actions for growth agreed at General Synod must be fit for purpose locally.

Parish well-being: Parish finances and clergy are stretched more than ever. As a church treasurer I understand this at first hand. The Church of England needs to ensure that resources (money and people) are focussed at a local level, especially for marginalised and poorer communities. Duplicated effort, that is unnecessarily repeated across different dioceses, should be removed.

Environmental sustainability: Our national church initiatives on climate change and moving towards net-zero must take account of local needs and practical constraints to be successful. My experience of implementing sustainability for a large company and at our local church has shown me how important it is for central planning to appreciate and accommodate local priorities.

Safeguarding: We must continue to strengthen safeguarding at all levels of the church organisation. I know from having led corporate ethics in a large company how important it is for training to be practical and effective. We must also ensure incidents and issues, wherever they occur, are promptly investigated and addressed in a timely manner.

My commitment to you...

- To faithfully devote the time and effort needed to fulfil my duties and responsibilities as an active member of General Synod
- To be available to you by phone and email through my term of office to discuss and understand issues so that I may better input to Synod debates
- To visit in person or via zoom the various Deanery Synods in the Durham Diocese to explain the workings of General Synod and seek feedback on topical matters