

GENERAL SYNOD : HOUSE of CLERGY. 2026.

ANDREW HOWARD

Nominated by Rev. Sarah Maughan and
Canon Christopher Barley.

I am 62 years old and was born in Derby. Before ordination I worked in hotel and catering management, which was a great opportunity to work in a busy commercial environment and to meet lots of different people. During this time I completed a part time degree in theology at the University of Manchester.

I trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, with some postgraduate work at the University of Leeds. I was ordained in 1997.

I enjoy music of all kinds. Music has always been an important part of my journey of faith and spirituality. I have played the keyboard from an early age, and more recently have been learning to play the recorder, with the hope of taking a diploma this year. I am also passionate about art, reading and cooking and delight in the company of Hugo, a lovely labrador I look after from time to time.

Within the Diocese, I have been the Vicar of Saint Wilfrid's, Cantley since 2013, and Saint Hugh's, New Cantley from 2024. I have been a co-Area Dean of Doncaster and a member of the Diocesan Synod. I also have the privilege of being a national advisor for the Bishop's Advisory Panel. I am proud to be able to contribute as much as I can to the life and witness of our Diocese. I came to Sheffield from the Diocese of York and served as a member of the General Synod for five years during that time. I have contributed to debates relating to the inner city (I lived in Moss Side, Manchester, during the riots), end of life care, and chaplaincy (I was the chaplain at the University of Teesside for eight years), and neuro-diversity, to name but a few.

I would look forward to contributing to current debates in Synod.

I hold to an orthodox understanding of marriage, but I believe we must at all times be gracious and respect the views of those we might disagree with whilst holding firmly to our own integrity. Above all we need to listen carefully to one another.

I have deep concerns about the review of the sacrament of confession. The importance of this sacrament cannot be stressed enough, as it provides a means for believers to receive forgiveness and to be reconciled with God and the Church. It is a healing sacrament which I feel is under attack by the current discussions.

I am most keen that the Church of England continues to attach as much importance as possible to the issues of safeguarding at all levels. This is vital. I am deeply committed to this and hope that the Church of England gets the new arrangements right.

As a traditional catholic in the Church of England, I have always believed in the pastoral ministry of the priest to all people, and I am concerned that in some places this traditional approach is under threat, and I support the work of the 'Save the Parish' project

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have:

(01302) 285316

07740932758

fatherahoward@gmail.com

Thank you.