

THE REVD

Sarah Maughan

for General Synod



PROPOSED BY

Revd Canon Lucy Sablan

Team Rector, Manor Parish

SECONDED BY

Revd Canon Fr Andrew Howard

Vicar of St Wilfrid, Cantley

Who I am

I grew up in a working-class, ex-mining village in South Yorkshire, and I have a deep devotion and loyalty to my roots. They have shaped who I am, how I see the world, and how I minister. My options at 16 yrs old were the sewing factories or the Coal Board. I chose the Coal Board and worked in the finance department. University simply wasn't an option for my working-class family.

I walked into church when I was 40 years old, after many years away. What followed was something I could never have imagined. My faith exploded into the most incredible encounters with the Holy Spirit, and my life was completely changed. I made a promise to God that I would share that experience with anyone and everyone who would listen.

Ordination was never on my radar. How could someone like me – a comprehensive-schooled woman with few qualifications – ever be considered for ordained ministry? And yet, after much discernment, prayer and encouragement, miraculously, that is exactly what happened. My goodness me, what an amazing journey it has been! I was ordained in 2019, I have been married for 26 years to a wonderful man, and together we have three grown-up sons and a 10-year-old granddaughter.

My current role

Today, I serve in the wonderful village of Thurnscoe, a working-class, ex-mining community in South Yorkshire. It is a community with a growing population, but also one that experiences significant deprivation and inequality. According to the Church Urban Fund, Thurnscoe is in the top 2% of deprived parishes. I love it here!



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I am pleased to commend Sarah. She is an excellent and energetic priest who is passionate about the hope we have in Jesus Christ transforming the lives of individuals, congregations, and wider society. Sarah ministers very fruitfully in an ex-colliery community. She has a proven ability to share the gospel in a way that is welcoming to people of all backgrounds and walks of life. She would helpfully bring all the experiences of ministering in such a parish to Synod and would seek to keep her parishioners in mind, those who attend worship and those who don't, when it came to the business of Synod.

Revd Harry Steele, Director of Mission and Discipleship, Diocese of Coventry

My theology is actually very simple:

We are all God's children. No exceptions.

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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.

What I believe

I cannot bear injustice of any kind. I have a deep desire for every person to know their own worth and to understand that they are loved, valued and matter. Much of my ministry is about bringing people together, building relationships and creating community. At the heart of it all are the words of Jesus: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

I am a natural evangelist. I love nothing more than getting to know people, hearing their stories, walking alongside them and encouraging them in their faith – wherever they are and at whatever stage.

I believe the Church needs to be rooted in the real lives of real people. We need to listen to communities, particularly those whose voices are not always heard. We need to make sure that working-class people know that the Church belongs to them too – not as a project to be fixed, but as equal partners, leaders and disciples in the life of the Church.

This starts in parishes and communities, where parish churches, priests and leaders need support and resources to grow and energise the people of God. We also need to care for God's Creation as the poorest in all societies suffer the most in the climate and nature emergency. I take safeguarding very seriously and ensure robust systems are in place where I minister, recognising that it is essential that we listen to and learn from voices of survivors and victims.

Why am I standing for General Synod?

General Synod is important to me because I want to bring the voice and experience of working-class communities, particularly those in the North of England, into the conversation. I want to help with the divisions in our beloved Church of England. I love and desire to work with those of different theological views and believe we can work well together. I will be nominating my dear friend Fr Andrew Howard. Our theological differences do not impact our friendship, respect and working relationship; our example should and could be mirrored across our churches. This will bring unity, kindness and in turn reflect on those who not yet know Jesus.

I would also bring the voice of the clergy ‘on the ground’ as many now work across a number of parishes, exploring avenues for support e.g. in administration and buildings maintenance to free up more time for mission and vocations of others.

I do not pretend to have all the answers. But I do know the communities I come from. I know what it is like to feel that Church, politics and decision-making can sometimes happen somewhere else, by people who do not understand your life or your community. I would bring to Synod a passion for people, a commitment to justice, a love for the Church, and a determination to make sure that every voice is heard.

Most of all, I would bring my deep belief that every single person is a child of God.



Thank you for reading my statement. I hope you will give me your **first preference vote**, with Revd Jacqui Jones, another inclusive candidate, as your **second preference**.

Revd Sarah

Please get in touch if you'd like to:

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