



# ADAM HADLEY

## #1 FOR GENERAL SYNOD

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Votes need to be in by 13 October

### Nominated by



**Proposed by the  
Venerable Nikki Groarke**

*Archdeacon of Dudley  
General Synod Member 2015 – 2026*

**Seconded by the  
The Revd Phil Bradford**

*Area Dean of Worcester*

### To clergy electors

# #1

Thank you for taking the time to read my address as I ask you to consider voting for me and making me your first choice in the forthcoming General Synod elections.

### About me

I'm a working class Black Country boy who God called to the Church of England when I was four years old. So not quite a cradle Christian but I've been around the CofE for about forty years. I've worshipped across different traditions and the Church of England holds a special place in my heart even when I think it gets things wrong. I passionately believe that the CofE can be a force for good in the life of the nation and in our local communities sharing the good news of Jesus Christ for everyone to hear. The church I grew up in closed after many years of falling numbers and so I know the challenges many of our churches face first hand and want to be part of creating a sustainable solution for the future. I believe that being on General Synod will give me this opportunity.

In my previous career I worked in local government corporate governance and am a complete geek when it comes to drafting and editing constitutions, implementing good governance, drafting reports and researching and creating policy – all skills which I could offer to the General Synod. Local government also gave me experience of working in a large and complex organisation and wider partnership landscape – not unlike the church. After being ordained I was also the Independent Person for Standards in Public Life for Dudley MBC for a number of years.

I'm now the Rector and renewal lead of the parish of Kingswinford and Wall Heath having been ordained in 2018. Before then I was licensed as a Reader in Birmingham Diocese in 2009 and I'm still committed to the integrity and building up of lay ministry in our churches.

Alongside parish life I'm also:

- Chaplain to the Kingswinford Royal British Legion
- Padre to Kingswinford Air Training Cadets
- an Associate Diocesan Director of Ordinands
- a member of Bishops Council, Diocesan Synod, and the DAC

each demonstrating my strong commitment to the wider life of the Diocese.

Outside of work I love to travel, I'm a complete foodie and enjoy eating out, walking in the Peak District with my partner and watching gritty TV.



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I would also appreciate it if you could give a high priority vote to Becky Elliott and Claire Lording

### Some key areas for the next Synod and where I stand

#### Artificial Intelligence and robotics

I believe that the Church is falling behind the curve when it comes to talking about AI and robotics. We need to be theologically reflecting more on this key development. We can't do this in 20 years time when the ship has sailed. General Synod should have a pivotal role in discerning the place of AI and robotics in the church and articulating a theology of its place in society and be prepared to have conversations around sentience, life and what makes us human.

#### Children and young people

Having come to faith at four years old, I agree with the Biblical mandate to bring more children and young people to faith and into the life of the church. I now want to see General Synod robustly recognise the wide variety of children and young people in our society and to offer greater support for those who need it – such as looked after children, young carers, refugee and asylum seeker children and homeless children. I also want General Synod to properly recognise and embrace children and young people whose parents are LGBTQI+.

#### Inclusion

I believe that full inclusion in the church is an issue of Christian justice and a living out of the Magnificat. I wholeheartedly sign up to the following statement from 'Together for the Church of England':

'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.'

I fully support the Church of England being able to offer same-sex marriages for both clergy and lay people.

#### Working class vocation

As someone who is working class, I believe that the Church of England still has a long way to go to ensure equality of opportunity when it comes to supporting working class lay and ordained vocations. This includes more working class people having the opportunity to become bishops, deans or archdeacons. If elected I would want to continue to support the excellent work of the previous Synod in this area.

#### Parish support

I am committed to ensuring that clergy and laity are fully supported to lead churches in a complex legal environment. I would want Synod to consider how church governance could be made easier to free people up for mission rather than administration.