

Revd Simon Ward

Team Rector of Great Yarmouth, standing for election to the House of Clergy

Proposed by Revd Sally Theakston · Seconded by Revd Darren Thornton



A voice for parish ministry, for inclusion, and for the clergy who serve this diocese day by day.

ABOUT ME

I was born in Great Yarmouth and have served in the Team Ministry here since 2017. Ordained in Guildford in 2000, I spent six years in rural Suffolk before moving to this diocese in 2009, where I have served as Bishop's Chaplain, Priest-in-Charge of Earlham, Rural Dean and Acting Archdeacon. I am married with two grown-up sons, and love running, cycling and watching rugby.

WHY I AM STANDING

I love being a priest and serving this diocese, the place where my own faith was nurtured. My journey from deeply rural parishes to the strikingly urban has given me a real understanding of our diocese's diversity and its challenges, and a deep respect for the committed, faithful, imaginative clergy who serve it. I feel a daily privilege in serving here.

I have never stood for General Synod before, but this feels like the right time. The next five years will bring critical decisions: the independence of safeguarding, the pastoral implementation of Prayers of Love and Faith, the climate crisis, financial sustainability and the future of the parish system. I would represent the clergy of this diocese with care, diligence and understanding.

WHAT I CAN OFFER

Passion	Decades of daily parish ministry, and still loving it	Wisdom	Lessons learned over 26 years of ordained ministry
Breadth	A journey from evangelical roots to a liberal catholic home	Understanding	Ministry is tough; clergy wellbeing matters
Collaboration	A collegial way of working that welcomes breadth of view	Relationships	Strong connections with clergy right across the diocese

“Simon will bring to General Synod a great depth and breadth of ministerial experience. He knows and loves this diocese and is familiar with the challenges faced especially by those in parochial ministry. His inclusive and collaborative approach will ensure he represents clergy effectively and contributes wisely to the work of General Synod.”

REVD SALLY THEAKSTON

Parish ministry

Is the bedrock of the Church of England, where beautiful acts of love and service routinely happen by the grace of God. I believe the parish system is one of our greatest gifts to this nation. I will fight to keep that promise resourced and alive.

Inclusion

I long for a Church where every person, regardless of background, ability, sexuality, ethnicity, neurodiversity or circumstance, can say without hesitation, “there is a place for me here”. I support women’s ministry in all its forms and affirm same-sex relationships. A gospel that truly welcomes all cannot be represented by a Church that quietly excludes some.

Care for creation

Rooted in a good theology of what God has entrusted to us, the Church must remain steadfast in defence of commitment to tackling climate change. The ambition of Net Zero by 2030 is a Church prepared to lead by example.

Responding to poverty

Having served in two of the most economically challenged parishes in our diocese, I know first-hand the poverty experienced by others. Families choosing between heating and eating cannot be treated as someone else’s problem. I have seen the difference made by foodbanks, community cafés and outreach. Responding to poverty is central to the life of the Church.

Sacramental life

We are a Church of sacraments. Again and again sacramental ministry carries people through moments words cannot reach: grace made visible and touchable. I am passionate about ensuring this remains central to our common life, not side-lined by busyness or budgets.

IN CONCLUSION

I bring experience grounded in real knowledge of our diocese’s parishes and people. I love what I do, and long to see a Church growing in confidence and passion to share the gospel with all. I would be honoured to represent our diocese at General Synod.

First preference vote, or highest available preference, gratefully received.



CONTACT

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