

Callum Parr

Standing for the House of Laity of General Synod

Nominated by

Ian Boothroyd (General Synod, Newark and Sherwood Deanery)

Joanne Parr (Newstead Deanery)

I am 21, have lived in Sutton-in-Ashfield all my life, and am proud to call Nottinghamshire home. I am standing for General Synod because I feel called to serve God and the Church by bringing a perspective that is too often missing from Church decision-making of being a young person and particularly being neurodivergent having autism and dyslexia.



I want to be a constructive voice on Synod, someone who will listen carefully, ask difficult questions, engage seriously with policy and governance, and work with others to find the best way forward for the whole Church.

I worship at New Cross Community Church, a Church of England and Methodist local ecumenical partnership, where I have served on the ecumenical council for the past two years. Being part of an ecumenical church has taught me that good Christian leadership starts with listening. I have enjoyed learning about church governance and working with people from different traditions and perspectives to help our church grow and serve its community.

Alongside my life in the church, I have built experience in the charity sector, governance and debating:

- I have supported communications at Nottinghamshire County Council, working with councillors, senior officers, and stakeholders. This has given me an understanding of how public organisations work, how decisions are made and how policy is communicated.
- I have recently completed a law degree and have a good understanding of formal rules, procedures, and debate.
- I founded and serve as Chief Executive of a Nottingham-based youth mental health charity. This has given me practical experience of leadership, governance, finance, strategy and working with trustees and other stakeholders.
- As a magistrate, I listen to different perspectives, consider evidence carefully and make fair and balanced decisions. I would bring the same approach to the tough questions facing General Synod.
- I have debated through the UK Youth Parliament and at the Oxford Union. I am comfortable challenging ideas, but good debate is about more than winning an argument, it is about listening, testing ideas and finding common ground.

Although I am young, I am not new to public service, governance, or tough decisions. I know that General Synod has a serious responsibility and the decisions made there affect the life of our churches, our clergy, and our communities for years to come. I would take that responsibility seriously.

I have been engaged with the Church throughout my life, and my faith has become increasingly important to me. I was baptised at 17 and, after university, felt ready to make a deeper commitment to Christ. In May this year, I was confirmed at Southwell Minster. I now serve on my church's ecumenical council and regularly support events aimed at encouraging more people to come into church.

I want to bring that faith, alongside my experience of law, governance, public service, and debate, to General Synod.

Callum Parr General Synod 2026

I feel called to serve on General Synod, as the Church of England faces important decisions about its future direction.

A Church for Everyone

I believe the church should be a place where everyone knows they are made in the image of God and welcome at Christ's table. I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health, or sexuality. We are all made in God's image, we are all invited to the Lord's table. I am fully supportive of women's ministry and equality for LGBT+ Christians, at all levels and in all roles in the church.

As a neurodivergent young person, I know that inclusion is not just about having the right words in a policy. It is about whether people can take part, serve and grow in the life of the Church. General Synod has recently recognised neurodivergent people as a blessing to the Church. I want to see this translated into practical change in our churches.

Mission and Growth

I want to see a church that is serious about spreading the word of God, is rooted in its communities and growing. If we want to grow, we need to be willing to adapt. Too often, young people can feel that church is something they are invited to attend rather than something they are invited to belong to and feel welcomed, listened to and trusted.

Listening to Each Other

I love that the Church of England is a broad church. We have more that unites us than divides us, even though this places strains when we deal with difficult issues. I come from a mixed Church of England and Methodist background and find it interesting how people approach different subjects in church.



Serving Our Communities

The Church is at its best when it is present in the lives of its communities. Whether through food banks, youth work, debt advice, schools, community projects and being there when people need someone to listen, our churches can demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways.

I have attended General Synod sessions in person at York and am fully aware of what General Synod involves. I am well briefed on the current issues – Living in Love and Faith, mental health and welfare, Safeguarding and church communications, and more.

Thank you for reading my electoral statement, I hope you will give me your first preference vote.

If you want to contact me about anything I would be very happy to hear from you.

Callum Parr

Sutton-in-Ashfield, Newstead Deanery.

callum.synod@gmail.com