

Revd Helen Drever

Candidate for General Synod - House of Clergy

“ I care deeply about parish ministry, looking after our clergy's wellbeing, and serving Jesus by building an inclusive Church, where everybody is welcomed as one of God's children. I would welcome your first preference vote. ”



Nominated by Revd Tobie Osmond - Priest in charge, Holy Trinity & Durleigh St Hugh, Bridgwater
Seconded by Revd Preb. Liz Dudley - Vicar of the Benefice of Christ Church & St. Marys, Frome

What is important to me?

Parish Ministry

These are challenging times for the Church of England as we make important choices about our future. In many places, and especially in rural areas, patterns of ministry are simply not sustainable either financially or personally for those in ministry, nor for the faithful, hardworking lay people who support us. Yet I believe parish ministry must remain at the heart of our church and our nation. We do need to reimagine parish ministry for the future, but we must not lose it. As your General Synod representative I will do my very best to protect this jewel in the Church of England crown.

Clergy Wellbeing

The wellbeing of clergy must be a priority for General Synod if we are to sustain flourishing parishes into the future. Many of us face heavy workloads, isolation and the risk of burnout due to a lack of adequate support. If elected I will champion practical structural reforms including realistic expectations for ministry, improved mental health resources and good pastoral care. Caring for our clergy and church leaders is not optional; it is essential for the spiritual health and mission of the whole church.

Inclusivity

I am standing for General Synod because I believe the Church of England must reflect the diverse, inclusive love of God. Too often, people feel unseen or unwelcome in our structures. I make no apology for saying I am fiercely committed to full equality at every level of our church. Whether regarding disability, neurodiversity, mental health, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, sex, or economic background—every single person is made in the image of God and deserves an equal voice and place in leadership. I am a member of Women and the Church (WATCH) and a supporter of The 93% Club, a UK social mobility charity working to combat class inequality. As a member of General Synod, I promise to listen well, speak up for the marginalised, and help build a church where everyone can flourish.

Environment

The vote against the 30by30 motion at the July 2026 General Synod is a deep disappointment to me. I have seen first hand the tremendous growth in biodiversity on land that has been rewilded. I'd hoped that we were going to offer a model of courageous leadership. In my work with schools I know how concerned young people are about the environment and I cannot help but feel we have let them down. We can do better and look to the good example set by The Crown Estate. However I welcome the publication of the House of Bishops' teaching document Hope For All Creation and the inclusion of the Feast of Creation in the liturgical year. As a member of General Synod I would commit to making environmental issues a priority. All things exist by the gift and grace of God alone, as members of the community of creation we are called to care for all our brothers and sisters, and the entire more than human world.

Approach to General Synod

As we look to the future of the Church of England, it is easy to become consumed by the complex structures, debates, and legislative challenges that face the General Synod. These governance tasks are important and necessary, but they are not the source of our common life which is Jesus Christ our Lord.

As your representative I promise to listen with humility to those across the different traditions of our Church, to advocate for the local church and its proper funding, to prioritise clergy wellbeing, to champion God's good creation and to keep the all embracing love of Jesus Christ at the centre of all our debates and governance.

I would be honoured to receive your first-preference vote to represent our diocese and to work toward a Church that is deeply rooted in prayer, spiritually alive, and courageously focused on mission as we step forward into the future. If you're unable to give me your first preference vote, I would deeply appreciate your next highest preference vote.

If you would welcome a discussion about anything in my election address, or the issues facing the Church of England, please don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Revd Helen Drever
07949 181745
VicarAlhamVale@gmail.com

Get to know Helen

“ For the past six years, I have served as the Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice near Shepton Mallet, living out the many challenges, joys and blessings of rural multi-parish ministry day by day. However, like so many of us, I've had quite a journey...”

I was raised in a small rural Lincolnshire market town, where my state school's Christian ethos and the local parish church deeply shaped my early values and personal faith journey. In **1995**, after working in the South East for a number of years, I relocated to Somerset to work on the management team of a charity overseeing an organic garden and retreat house. During this time, I also volunteered at a local drug and alcohol drop-in centre; while away on a training course I met a group of Christians whose loving dedication to the broken and vulnerable revitalised my faith in Christ.

After moving to Devon in **2003**, I became an active member of the Exeter Cathedral community, serving on several committees and coordinating a Sunday hospitality team. This involvement led to invitations to join pioneering ministries, including Bishop Mark Rylands' Night Church Project and the core team of Canon Anna Norman-Walker's Holy Ground initiative. The latter's creative exploration of Christian spirituality chimed with my undergraduate background in Fine Art. Inspired by these experiences, I began an MA in Christian Spirituality at Sarum College, while simultaneously entering the discernment process for ordained ministry and supporting a parish outreach program for the local homeless population.

In **2014**, I left my role with Devon County Council's Strategic Intelligence Unit to enter full-time theological training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. A formative part of my training included a placement with the Parish of the Divine Compassion in East London, working alongside Franciscan brothers and sisters in their care for the poor. I subsequently served my curacy within the Crediton Mission Community, a large, multi-parish rural benefice in Exeter Diocese. Guided by a strong calling to return to the Diocese of Bath and Wells, in **2020** I accepted my current role and for the past six years, have served as the Vicar of the Alham Vale Benefice near Shepton Mallet, living out the many challenges, joys, and blessings of rural multi-parish ministry day by day.

Beyond my parochial duties, my interests include organic gardening, the environment, cooking for friends with local produce, fine art, and reading. My faith and ministry remain deeply anchored in Franciscan spirituality; I regularly attend retreats at Hilfield Friary and am currently in the first year of my novitiate with the Third Order of St Francis, with the intention of being professed in **2028**.