

Charlotte Lait – General Synod 2026

Proposer: James Mossop

Seconder: Julia Sharpe

To my family in Christ,

Having felt prompted by the spirit and encouraged by some trusted friends and colleagues, I am pleased to offer myself as a candidate for the upcoming quinquennium of General Synod. I live in West Cumbria and am proud to serve the Benefice of Workington as Reader/LLM. I have been married to my husband, Adam, since July 2012 and we have lived in Cumbria since 2018, where we have just bought our first house.



A bit about me:

During my career to date I have worked predominantly with children and young people, firstly as a church-based Children and Families Worker, starting in Preston and then in Northampton, and later as a primary school Teaching Assistant, during which time I worked predominantly with neurodivergent children who needed extra support in the classroom. In my current role as Exams Invigilator, I carefully administer examinations and support the young people in my charge, at a time which is often fraught with stress and worry. Alongside this role, which is seasonal by its nature, I have provided part-time administrative support to Churches Together in Cumbria since August 2025. This provides me with a great opportunity to work with colleagues from other denominations from around the county and to find out all the varied ways in which God is at work in our midst.

I spent formative years as a child singing regularly in a church choir in the then Bradford Diocese, and know first-hand what a fantastic missional opportunity church choirs can provide, as well as the experience and education children and young people can access through the Anglican choral tradition. At 18 I went to university, where I developed a passion for social justice alongside studying for my degree in Religious Studies. Upon leaving university I worked for five years as a Children and Families Worker, and then as I was no longer employed by the church I worshipped in, supported the church by serving on the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Finedon. Following our move to Cumbria from Northamptonshire, I trained as a Reader with Emmanuel Theological College and was licensed to the Benefice of Workington in November 2023. Alongside this, I am also serving as Lay Chair to the newly formed Workington Deanery, and look forward to finding out more about what this role has in store for me.

Issues that are important to me:

Having worked with neurodivergent children in an educational setting for a number of years, I am keen to see the church fully live into its commitment to making church more accessible for neurodivergent people, enabling everyone to participate and contribute fully to the life of the church. I support equality for LGBTQ+ people at all levels and roles within the church. I am also passionate about gender equality in churches, and know very well that whilst significant progress has been made towards gender equality in recent years, there is still work to be done in this regard. I long for a church in which people are cherished equally as children of God, regardless of any attribute or circumstance, and are able to be fully welcomed and participate in church life in an open and honest way. I am proud to support the aims of Together for the Church of England.

To contribute to the governance of the church I love, and to share in the discernment of God's path for it by serving on General Synod would be a privilege and a responsibility which I would not take lightly. I have responded to the prompting I have felt to offer myself for this role prayerfully, and I turn those prayers now to the members of the Deanery Synods across Carlisle Diocese who will be voting in the coming weeks. I hope you will give me your first preference vote, or highest preference after that.

Please don't forget to send in your votes and to have your say in the shape of the next General Synod. The deadline for submitting votes is on 13th October 2026.

Please do feel free to contact me by email if you would like to know anything further.

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Lait

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