



Candidate: Rev'd Canon Dr Rachel Mann  
Priest-in-Charge, St Nicholas, Burnage

Proposer: Rev'd Dr Nick Bundock  
Team Rector, St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury

Seconder: The Ven. Cherry Vann  
Archdeacon of Rochdale

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### **Who am I?**

I was ordained in 2005 and have served my whole ministry in Manchester Diocese, firstly as curate at St Matthew's, Stretford, and then at St Nicholas, Burnage. Prior to ordination I worked as an academic, a civil servant and in church-related community work. At the turn of millennium, I lived in Salford and was Church Warden at St Ambrose, Langworthy. Between 2009 and 2017 I was Resident Poet at Manchester Cathedral and I've written four books, including most-recently a book about the Great War and remembrance, 'Fierce Imaginings'. I am honorary Visiting Fellow in English and Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University and hold a PhD on the Bible and Nineteenth Century Literature. I've written book chapters and articles about the future of the parish, Anglican-Islamic relations, and women's ministry, among many other topics.

### **What Can I Offer?**

**A passion for nurturing lay and ordained vocations...**I'm keen to bring my parish and diocesan experience into General Synod at a time of profound change in training and formation. I'm a Vocations Adviser and was involved in the recent Ministry Division national consultation about the selection criteria for ministry. Between 2014 and 2017, I supervised a St Mellitus NW ordinand and have supervised students from All Saints, Westcott House and others exploring their vocation to ministry.

**An enthusiasm for evangelism and mission...**I believe the C of E has a unique remit to speak into the life of the nation about the transforming love of Jesus Christ. As a curate, I helped establish one of the diocese's first fresh expressions 'Fresh', and St Nick's runs 'Exploring Theology' a 'network church' based group that brings spirituality and theology together in fresh and lively ways. I am passionate about working alongside lay and ordained people to discern new ways to serve community and share in God's mission.

**A commitment to mutual flourishing within the Church of England...**One signal of my commitment to this is my involvement, over several years, in 'Joint Chapter' meetings

between Women's Chapter and The Society/Forward in Faith. Equally, while I identify as modern Catholic, I came to faith in an Evangelical-Charismatic setting and remain profoundly grateful for the formation I received there.

**A desire for full inclusion of LGBT+ people in the life of the Church...**The Church of England and General Synod continues to wrestle with matters of sexuality, ahead of the proposed new Teaching Document. Whilst passionate about gracious and respectful disagreement, I hope my experience and personal story will bring richness and nuance to often stale debate and make a small contribution to greater inclusion.

**A prayerful commitment to celebrating all God's people...**The fundamental frame through which I seek to operate is prayerful attention to the abundant, gracious God. I am a spiritual director and have taught on the Diocesan course which forms new spiritual directors. I want to see all God's people flourish and become who God is calling them to be. Drawing on my experience of being disabled, I have particular passion for creating fuller participation for disabled and chronically ill people in the structures and life of the church.

**Ability to work creatively with structures.** I am confident about working in committee and bureaucratic settings, having experience as both a Civil Servant as well as serving on Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and Deanery Synod Steering Committees. However, I do not see them as ends in themselves; I am excited by the creative opportunities being revealed by the Spirit both locally and nationally through the structures we have.

I hope not only that would I bring fresh energy, but offer commitment and focus as one of your clergy representatives. I would seek to bring your voice and concerns into General Synod. Please contact me if you wish to discuss anything I've said here or any other matters using the contact details given in this election address.

I ask you to consider prayerfully and carefully voting for me in this election and giving me, if possible, your first preference vote.

Thank you for reading.

Rachel