



Cameron Butland

During the next session of the General Synod the Reform and Renewal programme will be central to the agenda. In Cumbria we have a contribution to make to this national programme. Our strategy for Growing Disciples on the basis of having an ecumenical presence in every community is something that other dioceses are interested in copying. In May 2013 I spoke to a national gathering of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers telling the story of Cumbria. My colleagues from around the country spoke of their interest and envy of our diocese being able to work across traditional boundaries for God's mission. Our determination to be a church, which is intentionally reaching out, is a positive example in the national church's debate.

Of course we have issues that the national church can help us to address. The Resourcing Ministerial Education report provides encouragement to our development of vocations. However there are significant questions around funding. As a diocese we need to join together with other rural non-urban areas to ensure that funding is available for our more local training. The issue of the age of those in training is also a key issue for us in Cumbria. We need to make our voice heard in order that we have the flexibility to fulfil the vision of local church leadership.

Having been a parish priest for thirty-one years I understand the demands on clergy. In seeking to represent clergy from this diocese I believe I am well known to many through my ministry at Rydal Hall. I would hope that I would be found approachable to give voice to the concerns of clergy and to speak clearly on your behalf. I wish my fellow candidates well and trust that we will elect to the General Synod clergy who can speak on our behalf and embrace the opportunities presented. We are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim his love in the living of our lives. Our hope for the General Synod is that it might be rooted in this faith expressing more simply and clearly the Christian gospel.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Butland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

6th September 2015