

General Synod Election September 2026 – Hereford Diocese

The Revd Stephen R Griffiths

About me: I am 47 years old and married to Cally. We have three school age children. I am originally from rural south Derbyshire. I enjoy British history, exploring the landscape, growing food, and playing the piano and organ.

Current role: Rector of the Ford Group of Parishes and Assistant Archdeacon of Ludlow. The parishes are on the northern edge of Hereford Diocese, with one in Wales.

Ministry: After a city centre curacy in Derby, I felt called to serve the rural church. This call has included many years in multi-parish benefices. I have served two terms as a Rural Dean. In the county town of Oakham in Rutland I led the civic ministry of All Saints and chaired Churches Together. I was a trustee of Launde Abbey 2019-2024.

My hopes for the Church of England include:

Discipleship and formation: Since ordination I have been involved with clergy and lay formation. I am particularly interested in the 'everyday faith' movement, the living out of our faith Monday-Saturday. This builds on my studies in the biblical wisdom literature. I will be speaking up at General Synod for a renewal of confidence in teaching the faith, and for the training of clergy and authorised ministers to the highest possible standards.

Parish: If we want to build up morale and generosity in the parishes, our people need to know they are valued by the dioceses and the national institutions – including a fair financial deal. I want to help preserve all that is good in community facing parish ministry, including a renewed supply of ordained ministers.

Living in Love and Faith: I believe the Church of England's present marriage canons bear faithful witness to scripture and tradition.

Management culture: We need well led dioceses which respond to the nuances of the local context. I recognise the dangers of 'vision fatigue' which saps morale. I will be arguing for the implementation of the Trust and Trustworthiness report (GS2457) which exposes the Church of England's fragmented culture.

Safeguarding: I support a better theological rationale for our safeguarding practices which can underpin the pastoral mission of the Church of England. I will be speaking up for proportional systems and processes which are less easily weaponised and provide accountability at every stage.

The future: I want the next generation to experience the riches of following Christ in the tradition of the Church of England. And so I want to play my part in building up confidence in what the Church of England stands for – its gospel message, liturgy, welcome and witness.

Please consider voting for those who share these values at this crucial moment for the Church of England.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Revd Stephen Griffiths

Rector of the Ford Group of Parishes and Assistant Archdeacon of Ludlow