



The Bishop of Norwich
The Rt Revd Graham James

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

6th May 2017

To All Licensed and PTO Clergy in the Diocese of Norwich

Dear Colleague,

Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York regarding the forthcoming General Election

The Archbishops have issued a pastoral letter published today (Saturday) which is attached to this email. The letter is also available on the diocesan website as well as the Church of England/Lambeth Palace/Bishopthorpe websites too. I wanted to ensure that all clergy on email in the Diocese had notification as soon as possible. Please share with any whom you know to be without email.

It isn't intended that the Archbishops' letter should be read from pulpits, though you may want to make reference to it in church and, where possible, make copies available to parishioners in due course.

Nor is it intended to be any sort of manifesto but outlines the Archbishops' approach to the coming election and raises issues on which we should all reflect.

Primarily it encourages Christians to pray for those standing for office, to get involved in the election and set aside cynicism and apathy. It comes as a reminder that we do not live only for ourselves but as Christians we should seek to promote the common good and have a special concern for the weak, poor and marginalised. It emphasises the need for cohesion, courage and stability as core virtues which are needed in our society at the present time.

The Archbishops also call for religious literacy in our nation, reminding us that religious belief is the well-spring for the virtues and practices that make for good individuals, strong relationships and flourishing communities. They express firm support for marriage, family and the household as the foundations upon which healthy communities are built.

I commend the letter to you for you to use in whatever way you think suitable as the General Election approaches.

My prayers are with you all and with those who are standing for elected office. Please pray for our Archbishops too, especially at this time for the Archbishop of Canterbury who is mid-way through an eleven day visit to the Middle East and in particular the Holy Land.

Yours ever in Christ,

+  Norwich:

