

Election address of John Adams

For consideration to be elected to become a member of the General Synod.

I was brought up always attending local church events, and attending the church every Sunday morning, as my parents, and their parents before them.

It was a way of life, teaching me family worship, and helped form my wish to learn about the Christian fellowship, and learn the lessons, and fables being taught to me.

I joined the Boys Brigade, and I joined the choir. Later in life I volunteered to help my fellow citizens, joining the T.A., and the Special Police, and still sing and play instruments to this day.

I owned and ran busy hotels, and caravan sites in England, in my adult life and regrettably became too busy to be a regular church attender. I still needed my Lord, and prayed, but it was a visiting minister staying at my hotel on holiday, that persuaded me to attend church with him. I told him that I had no time to attend church- he said, that's all right, just come to church with me, and have a sleep, if you want! I attended and have always kept attending! I loved the atmosphere, and the singing!

I was a local Councillor for almost twenty years in Bournemouth, and recently was the Mayor of Bournemouth. In that year I attended all the schools, to help explain just what the local authority was, and what the mayor represented. I also arranged a meeting of all the faiths in Bournemouth. It was eye opening, all leaders, were so receptive to get to know each other, and exchange ideas.

The church is so exciting, it reflects the word of God, it allows conversation, and it must conform, and receive, and give people help and direction, like no other.

I was a local magistrate for thirty years, and chaired Dorset magistrates Association. I needed God daily. How could I judge anybody without Jesus' help? My daily prayers to him, were allowing me to seek his advice, seek his understanding.

I chaired Wessex Commissioners of Inland Revenue. Here I especially had to pray to help me come to the proper conclusion. Finances run all of life, but financial problems need to be addressed, and people's paths must be found to live within their means.

The latest Pandemic has and is causing everyone stress and worry. By being there, each town in England, has the perfect opportunity to teach the residents that through prayer, and by finding God, all problems are surmountable, are able to be modified, and there are ministers, and members of the Christian family that will help discuss, and help anyone, in the name of God.

I was very disappointed that the church doors were closed on most days during the lockdowns, but as I learnt from my Christchurch Diocese meeting via Zoom, Church membership is up! Via zoom! Partly a miracle?

It shows that there are always answers, and solutions at a time when our resources were limited!

Today, I believe we should be aware of the tremendous problems that are in young people's lives-

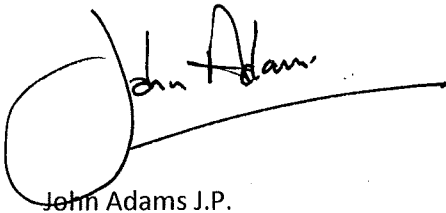
School children are not as protected as they were- they are confronted with a stark frightening world- told at an early age that they must be cautious, wary, and confronted with choices that seem to make them grow up far too early.

The media, the television, and their phones are their main form of social contact.

Like it or not, we must learn to speak through the social media, after all advertising presentations on television is geared to appeal to the teenagers – tomorrows future!

I do hope that I may be chosen to be a member of the General Synod, to give my experience, and knowledge and social skills to assist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name. A long horizontal line extends from the end of the signature to the right.

John Adams J.P.



Election Address - For nomination as a member of the laity to General Synod 2021.

I was licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in November 2020 by the Bishop of Winchester, serving within the benefice of Beaulieu Exbury and East Boldre in the New Forest, Hampshire. I am married to Reuben, we have two grown up children, Peter Dziko and Ruth Khama.

Our family is of a mixed heritage, Malawian Black British African and White British. We relocated from Malawi to the UK in 2001, although having close family members still living in Malawi, we visit as often as we can. Between 2001 and 2008 we lived in Minstead, where I was employed as Warden of the Minstead Hall Trust, a position that involved caring for and welcoming many different community groups and associations, as well as individuals, using the village Hall.

I am a retired UK Civil Servant and retired NHS Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, having taken early retirement on health grounds in 2016.

I have always been involved in the life of the Anglican Church in the UK and in Malawi. I was admitted to the Mothers Union in 1995 and completed LLM training at the School of Mission, Winchester pathway, accredited by Durham University in 2019.

I am a PCC and Deanery Synod member (Lyndhurst Deanery), and I was Benefice and Parish Safeguarding Officer (BPSO) between 2015-2020, a period of implementation and action. I am now supporting our new BPSO during a transition period.

I have actively supported Traidcraft Plc for over 30 years, initially as a fair trader and as a speaker in schools and Churches. Whilst living in Malawi I became a volunteer member of the Malawi Red Cross, supporting work to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. I was also co- Director of a popular Malawian secular musical band. Some of our work included using music as a platform that enabled us to share positive messages of hope at a particularly difficult time.

Since relocating (for the second time) to the UK in 2001, I have actively worked with my local member of parliament raising awareness of the need for proficient mental health services as well as advocating for British foreign aid being used more positively and productively.

Having sadly, been witness to many forms of systemic racial injustice over the years. In 2020 following the *Black Lives Matter* protests, I began thinking about offering myself in service to the national Church in a more formal capacity. As an active way of using personal life experience, to demonstrate, how it is possible and necessary to fully include *all* peoples and all faiths (or none) within our Churches and communities. During the last 5 years in pastoral ministry, despite living as an active disabled person, I have worked to reduce social isolation, improve social cohesion and mental wellbeing, as a member of the Church serving in a rural setting.

Jane Barnicoat-Chongwe

Licensed Lay Minister - Benefice of Beaulieu Exbury and East Boldre.

General Synod House of Laity Electoral Address – Alastair Barron

‘But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.’

NRSV, James 1:22

My name is Alastair Barron and I am seeking your support and so your 1st preference vote, in order to be one of the Lay Representatives for our Diocese in the General Synod.

As James makes clear in his letter, having faith is a great thing but being a ‘doer’, an active Christian, is also vital. I believe I am an active Christian with the necessary experience, abilities and character to represent you, and our Diocese more broadly, effectively at General Synod.



I moved to Hampshire over 20 years ago having lived and worked all over the world in both military and corporate careers and I have been active in the church for most of that time. I am married to Caroline and I have 3 sons who live and work in London. I am privileged to live in the beautiful Hampshire countryside and enjoy our rural community life. Indi, our chocolate lab, and I walk many miles !

I have tried over those 20 or so years, to understand and contribute to the many layers of activity within the Church of England. I believe it is very important to be one of the people who really make our Diocese work, to be a parishioner, to be a congregant in a local church, at the coalface as it were – to know their challenges and so to be part of the good times but also to help manage through the pressures.

Initially a church warden of our village church, St Stephens, some years ago, I was elected to be the Lay Chair of Andover Deanery before joining the Bishop’s Council and chairing the Mission and Pastoral Committee. I am now just coming to the end of my second term as Churchwarden. I am currently a member of Diocesan Synod and of the Bishop’s Council. I try to use my professional experience in the City as a risk manager in the financial sector to some effect and so help oversee the Diocese’s finances as a member of the Finance Monitoring Group and the Investment Advisory Group.

As we work to grow God’s kingdom here in Hampshire, our role as a Church bringing a knowledge of God’s love into the lives of our young people is critical. I sit on the Diocesan Board of Education and so play a part in their role supporting and enabling the Church of England schools across the Diocese.

I have taken advantage of the programme of courses run by the Diocesan School of Mission and completed one of the early Bishop’s Commission for Mission programmes and only this year completed the Bishop’s Permission to Preach programme. I usually now take 1 or sometimes 2 services a month in our Benefice and so have the great opportunity of helping others’ travels on their faith journeys. Our Benefice has a strong lay ministry team supporting

our Rector and it is wonderful to be part of that. It has also become an important part of developing my own faith and ministry.

As we all seek to grow our belief in God and in Christ, and we find ways to live those beliefs out into the lives of others, it is key to me that we show how relevant our faith is, how relevant our Church is and how relevant the Church of England is.

That is why I want to become a member of General Synod and why I seek your support in this election. I would like to have the opportunity to contribute to, and hopefully influence, how our Church is led and managed and so to make it relevant – politically relevant, socially relevant and theologically relevant in today's challenging society. We must aim to achieve these things in the UK and as a leader of the Anglican Communion across the world, certainly based in past practice but also embracing change and progress. Our aim must be to show God's love to those who already believe but perhaps more importantly, to communicate God's love to those who have not yet met Him or His son, Jesus Christ and so have not yet invited them into their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this address - I hope for your support and your vote. If elected, I look forward to representing you, and our Diocese, at the General Synod.

Yours in faith

Alastair Barron

Election address for Mrs. Susan Blomley to support her application as Diocesan Representative on General Synod.

My name is Susan Blomley, I have been a strong Anglican all my life, my father was a parish priest and my grounding in Anglicanism was firmly in place before I married my husband David in 1969. Having moved into this area in 1988 I worked as a teacher in Priestlands School in Lymington but when I retired from teaching David and I went to live in the South West of France for 18 years. While in France I was on the Deanery Synod for 6 years and I found I had a calling (probably too long ignored!) and so underwent distance training with St John's Nottingham and was licensed as a Reader in 2012 (now known as LLM). I worked throughout the Chaplaincy leading services, presiding at funerals and assisting the Bishop at confirmations and ordinations.

In 2015 my husband and I returned to the UK to the parish of Hythe, where we had lived before our time in France. I became a member of the Deanery Synod in that year and in 2018 became Diocesan Synod Representative. I think it's important that we understand how the church is governed, so that we can do our best work in enabling the work to reach the people in the parish. To that end I have been re-elected to the Diocesan Synod this year.

As a Licensed Lay Minister with permission to officiate, I have been fully occupied within the parish, leading a range of services and acting as Deacon at Holy Communion. I have also continued to preside over funerals both in church and at the crematorium. It is a ministry for which I feel a particular calling. Since September 2020 we have been in vacancy and I have been helping visiting clergy and taking services; but with the advertisement in the Church Times, and the date for interviews in the diary, I am putting myself forward as representative for General Synod, which seems, to me to be a natural progression in understanding and enabling the work of the Church.

Dr Simon Clift

Let me introduce myself



I am a Communicant member of Shirley Parish Church within the Southampton Deanery where I served as Church Warden initially for 6 years (2008 – 2014) and more recently for a further 2 years (2019 – 2021).

I am 58 years old and married to Esther who is a Consultant Practitioner in Frailty working in the New Forest and an Anna Chaplain in Southampton.

We have 3 grown-up children, two of whom are married, and we are about to become grandparents for the first time in the new year.

I qualified as a doctor from Guy's Hospital in 1986.

Currently I am Senior Consultant Occupational Health Physician providing specialist OH services to over 20 Dioceses in the Church of England as well as the Methodist and URC churches.

Rooted in history and relevant for today

In 2015 I was delighted to be elected as one of your lay representatives for the Diocese of Winchester convinced that if the Church of England remained confident in its historic and biblical faith, and flexible in its mission it would continue to fulfil its calling to proclaim the Gospel afresh in each new generation.

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” Psalm 78:4 NIV

Six years on the challenges facing the Church of England are even greater but so too are the opportunities for proclaiming the Good News and so I am standing for re-election determined to build on what we have started. As I do so I am conscious of the need for fresh wisdom, courage, imagination and above all reliance on God and His good & gracious purposes.

What contribution have I made as one of your representatives on General Synod?

- As a specialist in Occupational Medicine, I have drawn on my professional expertise to promote the health & wellbeing of ordained clergy and other personnel within the Church contributing to the debate on the subject and serving on two General Synod working groups. I was a member of the working group from 2017 – 2020 which produced The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing and made an Act of Synod in February 2020. I have subsequently been asked to serve on the follow-on Clergy Care & Wellbeing Facilitation Group, bringing my specific Occupational Health perspective who in the course of my work meet clergy whose health & wellbeing is under significant strain.
- Over the last 5 years I have actively engaged in the life of the Synod, participating in the main debates, taking part in fringe meetings & serving on working groups while seeking at all times to stand firm on an orthodox understanding of Christianity as revealed in Holy Scriptures, set out in the catholic creeds and to which the historic Anglican formularies bear witness.
- I have also sought to promote partnership with Christian brothers & sisters within the worldwide Anglican Communion through taking opportunities to engage with official visitors to the Synod from other Anglican Provinces and speaking from the floor of the Synod calling us to listen to other voices within the Communion as we set about our own business agenda. Early on during the last

Quinquennium I also had the privilege of representing the Diocese of Winchester at the Church of the Province of Myanmar's 3rd Anglican Family Gathering held in Yangon from 31st December 2015 – 4th January 2016.

What can you expect from me if I am elected to represent the Diocese for a further 5 years?

1. The General Synod can be a bewildering and confusing place at first and it takes time to understand how things function and how to make your voice known on important issues. Therefore, drawing on the experience gained during the last Quinquennium, I can immediately engage in a whole raft of crucial issues facing the newly elected Synod such as the important work needed to further strengthen the Church of England's Safeguarding policy and practices as well as facing up to the financial challenges facing the church with declining attendance in many dioceses as we emerge from COVID restrictions.
2. I will continue to promote the wellbeing of all those in leadership roles within the Church through participation in the Clergy Care & Wellbeing Facilitation Group and by engaging in debate on key issues which have particular impact on clergy wellbeing such as the much-needed revision of the current Clergy Disciplinary Measure (CDM) which in its current format leaves some clergy isolated and unsupported with a profound sense of feeling guilty until proved innocent.
3. Over the last 6 years through participation in two Shared Conversations at a Diocesan and General Synod level and as part of a pilot Living in Love & Faith (LLF) small group within my own church I have had opportunity to reflect on my own understanding of what the Scriptures teach us on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage while listening to others with a whole range of different lived experiences. When General Synod is called upon to consider a way forward at the conclusion of the LLF process, I remain committed to engaging in this process drawing on my own orthodox understanding of the Christian faith as we seek the way forward recognising that there continues to be profound disagreement on this.
4. Drawing on my first-hand experience of the Anglican Church outside the UK as a medical missionary in Tanzania between 1996 - 2002 and more recently from parish links with Uganda & our diocesan companion links with the Province of Myanmar, I will continue to ensure that the voices of our Christian sisters and brothers in other parts of the Anglican Communion are heard within our Synod discussions and deliberations as we prepare for the 15th Lambeth Conference rescheduled for July 2022, whether during debates on Climate Change, our response to the COVID pandemic or our own LLF process.

If you would like any clarification on what I have said or would like to know my personal views on any particular issues, please do contact me recognising that I will be serving as a lay representative of the Winchester Diocese.



Dr Simon Clift

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About me:

I live in Winchester, and worship at Christ Church Winchester and the Cathedral. I am Lay Chair of Winchester Diocesan Synod and have been a member of General Synod. Most of the week, I work with leaders in the NHS and NGOs as a facilitator and coach. Previously, I was a founder Director of Thrive Worldwide - my background is NHS management and Public Health. I am married to Ian, and we have 4 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

Why I am standing for re-election

Thank you very much for electing me to General Synod in 2015 - I have really enjoyed the past 6 years. I am standing for re-election to use my experience and to continue the work I have started which includes:

- **Setting God's People Free Advisory Group - Lay leadership:** I was a co-author of the Setting God's People Free report about Lay leadership and am now a member of the Advisory Group, responsible for reviewing the implementation of the report's recommendations. I believe this continues to be a key priority for the church and I would like to see more 'everyday faith' thinking in our different Synod work streams and church life. I have been involved in a working group for the new CofE strategy, becoming 'A Church of Missionary Disciples', and want to make sure that the views and experience of lay people are embedded in this new strategy.
- **Evangelism Task Group:** I was a member of this task group, which initiated the season of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Establishing this season of prayer has been important to inspire many to pray for their Christian life and witness. The task group has finished, but I want to ensure this work is not lost.
- **Implementation and Dialogue Group:** This group reported to General Synod in July, reviewing how the 5 Guiding Principles and mutual flourishing are being implemented (agreed at the time of GS passing the legislation for Women Bishops). There are parallels between this work and the work of Living in Love and Faith, as we look at what mutual flourishing means, loving and respecting those with different views, learning and listening from each other as one body of Christ.
- **The Cathedral's Measure:** It was a privilege to work closely with Winchester Cathedral Chapter, to suggest amendments to ensure the Cathedral's measure worked for our Cathedral community and other Cathedrals. It gave me the opportunity to understand in more detail how GS legislation is written and amended.
- **The Evangelical Forum:** I was a co-founder of this new Synod fringe group for open and inclusive evangelicals. We aim to provide a hospitable, safe space for conversation, reflection and fellowship. The Forum gives an opportunity to discuss and pray for Synod business with others, and I would love to continue leading this group.

Why vote for me?

- **To continue the work I have started:** I would be very grateful to be re-elected so I can continue to use my experience of the past 6 years and continue with the work I have started. There are some significant agenda items for this quinquennium, including human

sexuality, financial challenges and the new strategy, where continuity will be useful. The issues around lay leadership and everyday faith are still important and I want to make sure those are not forgotten. I will bring my experience, understanding and background from the previous Synod to ensure continuity.

- **My willingness to listen, to build relationships and consensus:** There are areas in our Church life where there are strong differences of opinion which threaten the unity of the church. I am strongly committed to building unity, to listening to and respecting different voices and views and to processes that build consensus. I am committed to the work and process of Living in Love and Faith and have found the shared conversations and the LLF course and material helpful and challenging. Above all I want our church to be a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone, whatever their gender or sexuality, and for us to love each other better.
- **My desire for the flourishing of the whole church.** Although I would describe myself as an open evangelical, I love and respect the breadth of the Anglican Church, and I love the variety of styles of worship and community. I play in the worship band at Christ Church Winchester, but I also love to worship regularly at the Cathedral; I have experience of being a member of both a village Parish church and an inner city Parish church before moving to Winchester. I am strongly committed to both the traditional Parish and to fresh expressions of church: I believe we need both, as suggested by the new strategy, and I will work to make sure we keep a healthy balance.
- **My commitment to the younger church:** I mentor several young church leaders in my Church community and nationally: I believe that encouraging younger leaders is essential to the future of the church. As a mother to 4 young adult children, a son and daughter in law and with 2 grandchildren, I understand that the church needs to be relevant and flourishing for the next generations, and this is something we need to continue to address as so many congregations now have no children or young people.
- **My governance and director experience.** Membership of the General Synod is a significant governance role and I bring to this my experience as an NHS leader, and 15 years business experience, as a Director of Artesian and then Thrive Worldwide. I have been Lay Chair of Winchester Diocesan Synod for 6 years. I have been involved in the difficult situation in Winchester Diocese and am now working with my colleagues to build hope, confidence and new ways of working for the future. I understand how church governance and the Diocesan Board of Finance works. I am Chair of the Board of Trustees for a growing Christian Student organisation 'Just Love', and a member of Council for Wycliffe Hall, a theological College in Oxford. I will use my experience as a director and trustee to ensure good governance for the Church to flourish.
- **My positivity and energy:** I am not afraid to speak up and to challenge when I see that things are not as they could or should be. I have been an active and regular contributor to our GS debates. However, I believe how we say things is as important as what we say and I will continue to do my best to speak and challenge in a positive, gracious and encouraging way.

Thank you for reading this far! I will continue to pray and work for the flourishing of Winchester Diocese and for our life together as a Church. Please vote for me if you believe I can be a positive presence on The General Synod.

Rodolph de Salis



Based: East Woodhay and Kingsclere.

c/o The Maltings, Popes Hill, Kingsclere, RG20 5SJ <labeldesalis@hotmail.com> 07704 687726.

Member of Whitchurch deanery synod for St Lawrence of Echinswell's (with Sydmonton) PCC.

Born: Slough, 1970. Baptised: Holy Trinity (Garrison Church), Windsor, 1971.



Dearly Beloved,

Our Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) says
*'we need inherited Church, we need emerging Church ...
we need both and both need each other.'*

My own position: inherited pre-Tractarian High Church traditionalist; broad umbrella irenicist; Symbiosis. Book of Common Prayer; Anglican-Evangelical; Anglo-Catholic; Common Worship.

Plausibly useful experience:

Brussels' European Commission, Foreign Relations Directorate's Information Office. Porter, curator, saleroom-assistant at Bonham's auctioneers, Knightsbridge. Degrees in Art History (UEA, Norwich, BA) and Fine Art Valuation (Southampton Solent, MA). Months observing House of Lords debates and passage of legislation, from the Reporters' Gallery. Presently managing and experimenting with grassland, native trees & lineal woods.

PARISH, paroikeo, (the eighth Archbishop of Canterbury Theodore of Tarsus (c. 602-690) appended the parish structure to the Anglo-Saxon township unit) a rich theological inheritance, resilient and adaptive, flexible and diverse, the embodiment of Anglican social space, worship and pastoral care offered for all. A Refuge for Interlopers.

Bishop Edward Stillingfleet wrote in 1702 of the parish system of making:
'a broken, divided people' to be 'one body within certain bounds'.

Make Anglicanism Great Again (MAGA)

More exuberance, more Alpha, more Omega, more BCP, more BCM, more HTB, more bells, more organs & Rolands, more TLM & SSPX, magnificence and spectacle, more screens, more parsonages & key-limiting-factors, more Corpus Christi processions, more PCCs, more passengers, more love & charity, more Advowsons, more Latin, more Matins, more Evensong, more fabric funds, new glebes and endowments (1976 was a mistake), more subsidiarity, more marriage, less simplification that leads to foundation destruction, less divestment, less fornication, less amalgamation, less abortion, less snake-oil, no more bowdlerization.

“The General Synod of the Church of England was the first assembly and legislature to have been devolved from the Westminster Parliament and has delegated power to pass Acts of Parliament called Measures. This means that it can change anything it chooses, with Parliament’s full authority, and therefore its work can and does affect us all. Those who represent the clergy and laity of our Church must be ready to deal with often complex debates and decisions requiring some understanding of both theology and law. General Synod normally meets twice a year for a total of about nine days, into which is crammed a great range of tasks, many of which are arcane or require specialist knowledge and for Synod members to be involved all year round through its boards and committees. The General Synod which serves during the period 2021-2026 will consider several significant doctrinal and liturgical matters, including regarding the Church’s teaching on human sexuality’.

Thus to:

Encourage the archbishops in their seeing **the parish as the best means of evangelism**.
Ensure that **resources generated by the parishes remain at parish level**, enhancing laity and clergy’s mission (ref the 1976 mistake), enable parishes to be endowed or to endow themselves again.
Enact that law and projects which initiate from the centre all support and **enhance the parochial system** by integrating the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) into the parish.
Oppose the revision to the Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011 (viz GS2222), a top-down travesty, which would make it easier and quicker for the dioceses to close churches (without even asking), make priests redundant and homeless (there are now under 150 stipendiary priests in our diocese).
Effective mission requires the **prioritisation of spending on good theological education**, as a crucial investment (& a **properly loved, funded & secure clergy**, with diverse traditions).
Call for a Church-State commission plan to further **protect and preserve parish buildings**.

Protect, cherish and use all the circa 355 Anglican churches of our bishopric.

Encourage the Church to holdfast, retain, use, value and maintain its rectories, vicarages and associated buildings and to recognize them as important, central, flexible and symbolic assets (and if in an hiatus useful as sources of secular income and capital growth) and as fundamental to its mission; provide support and advice to parishes and communities that seek to retain both their parsonages & parsons; research, study and promote understanding of the inspiring and vital role of the parsonage (where parsonages are disused or sold, the influence of the Church has irreparably declined) in the life of the clergy and the community.

Please consider voting for me, as high up the STV-PR list as possible.

There are many other issues to address and for the Synod to ponder but please contact me (by post, phone, e-mail) so that if elected I might be a better **representative**. Do invite me, if elected, to speak to your PCC or deanery synod and I would try to support you in any way I could.

SURSUM CORDA



Alwyn Ladell

Candidate for General Synod

Born: Southampton, 10th August, 1963.
Baptised: St Mark's Pennington, 30th November, 1963.
Confirmed: Tewkesbury Abbey, 20th March, 1975.

Served three terms on **Bournemouth Deanery Synod** (including as Secretary of the Ministry & Pastoral Committee), and one term on **Diocesan Synod**. Currently in my 17th year as Churchwarden (with a gap after the first 12) of St Ambrose Church, Bournemouth, and in my 3rd year as reluctant Treasurer.

Ex-chorister Tewkesbury Abbey (choir school).
Former minute secretary for the Winchester Diocesan fellowship of vocation.
Diocesan Representative, alongside the Bishop of Basingstoke, on the Visit of Pope John Paul II.
Former Server at Winchester Cathedral and active Life Member of the GSS and CBS.

My other Life Memberships give a few clues to my general interests and they include: Friends of Winchester Cathedral, Friends of Salisbury Cathedral, Friends of Tewkesbury Abbey, Friends of Glastonbury Abbey, Friends of Christchurch Priory, Friends of Brixworth Church, Friends of Friendless Churches, National Churches Trust, National Trust, English Heritage, Folly Fellowship, Victorian Society, Ancient Monuments Society, Bournemouth and District Civic Society, Friends of the Landmark Trust, Friends of the Bodleian Library, Pugin Society, Ecclesiological Society, Royal Society of St George, Royal Horticultural Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England, National Piers Society, Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, and Dorset County Cricket Club.



***“O where shall wisdom be found?
and where is the place of
understanding?”*** Job 28.12

The **Church of England** is in my genes and is my spiritual home. It is not just part of our national identity but part of our contribution to the world: a jewel in the crown of the universal Christian Church.

Love it or hate it, our **General Synod** plays a crucial role in our living church. It is the crucible from which passionate views, informed understanding and wisdom borne of experience - through the fire of the Holy Spirit and the heat of high-quality (good-humoured) debate - can transform an otherwise fallible human institution into the very Body of Christ.

As in a marriage, the good health of our relationship with God needs constant attention. Likewise, in a rapidly-evolving world, the Church needs to adapt and adjust with care - whilst remaining true to the ancient landmarks of its faith.

***“The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is
understanding.”*** Job 28:28

A week is a long time in politics ...

The pace of change in the world is constantly accelerating. Climate change is demonstrating the perils of losing sight of the bigger picture. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted inequalities, challenged generosity and questioned motives, but has also produced heroic responses and inspired creativity. Digital communication is transforming the way we live with new opportunities but also new threats. We cannot escape engagement with political ideologies, the environment, or other cultures. We find ourselves questioning age-old assumptions, and under pressure to change even our theology.

... but the Church thinks in centuries.

The Church is *in* the world but not *of* the world. If we ignore the world, and bury our heads in the sand, it will pass us by and we become irrelevant. Yet, if we modernise merely to keep pace, we risk “losing the baby with the bathwater” and standing for nothing. So, we must tread the narrow path of integrity, praying for discernment and using all our faculties to allow the Holy Spirit to show us the right way forward. It is a grave responsibility and the decisions we take over the next five years will have repercussions for generations to

come. The easy route of following fashion, popular culture or emotional responses may offer short-term approval but lead to long-term decline. The vocation of Synod is to maintain the rigorous discipline of questioning, considering and formulating responses that are alive to the Holy Spirit and true to the received faith.

Pastoral re-organisation

It was the threat of closure of my church that first led me seek election to Deanery and later Diocesan Synod. At my first Deanery synod meeting we were invited to join sub-committees, so I volunteered for the *Ministry and Pastoral Committee* that had seemed to cause all the controversy. It transpired that the secretary of this committee was seriously ill and so I gladly agreed to take on the role. Over the next few months, we changed both the makeup of the committee and its outlook to the extent that we had to inform the Diocese that we could no longer support the proposed church closure scheme. We then spent two years developing a "clustering" process to encourage churches to work together and break down the barriers of fear inevitably caused by the long-term threat of pastoral reorganisation.

The goal was to prepare churches for seemingly inevitable clergy reductions and enable them to arrive at solutions locally, which could command support (rather than Diocesan impositions that might fuel resentment). These ranged from utilising more retired and NSM clergy, increased lay involvement, benefices in plurality, subsidising mission parishes, mothballing churches, leaving closure as a last resort. When such decisions emerge from local churches, they are more likely to be accepted. Clustering churches retains parish boundaries, existing churchwarden roles and PCCs - which enables churches to keep their distinct voices in the whole process. When parishes are amalgamated, individual churches become smaller fish in a bigger sea, losing control over their futures. Team Ministries are appropriate in some circumstances but there is often no need to merge parishes - a demand which may be a ploy to silence opposition

as a prelude to imposed closures. In the event, in our deanery only two out of the proposed six churches were closed, and both have reopened under new banners.

Save the Parish

The new General Synod will be debating proposals to reform the **Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011** and simplify cumbersome procedures. Changes may enable bishops and diocesan teams to carry out pastoral reorganisation - with little or no local consent - centralising powers to create, unite, alter or dissolve parishes, benefices, deaneries and archdeaconries; to close church buildings for public worship, or set up new team or group ministries. Such radical proposals risk sweeping away centuries of carefully built-in checks and balances.



What may appear to some as costly buildings unfit for purpose are, to others, the precious heritage of which we are stewards. Of course, the church is much more than the buildings, but we underestimate *the importance of place* at our peril. The need to meet together locally, to share the sacraments, is vital to Christians in ways that online alternatives cannot replace. We need to scrutinise such plans very carefully to ensure that we protect our unique inheritance.

A broad church

Tolerance is a sign of maturity. In the Church of England, we glory in diversity and can allow no place for **racism**. I firmly support the **Five Guiding Principles** and the pastoral and sacramental provision they enshrine without any specified time limit. The seal of sacramental **confession** is something we share with the worldwide church just as we have no authority to redefine **marriage**. I believe we must defend clergy from secular or political pressures to undermine these received teachings under all circumstances.

If these concerns strike chords for you, I urge you to give me your high preference vote. Thank you.



11 Clere Gardens
Chineham
Basingstoke RG24 8LZ

Mobile: 07803167112
Email: julie.maxwell4@gmail.com

Proposed by: Dr Philip Hiorns
Seconded by: Mrs Philippa Aslet

I have been a member of the Church of England for over 25 years. I believe our Church has an important role in reaching out to and ministering to those who are hurting and disadvantaged and to making the good news of Gods love and salvation accessible to all.

Faith and Family:

I became a Christian at the age of 9 and attended a small independent evangelical church where we had committed youth workers who gave me a strong foundation for my faith. I also attended camps every summer where my faith and knowledge of the Bible grew.

I studied medicine in Cardiff where I attended two different churches over my 6 years there. I was also (and continue to be) an active member of the Christian Medical Fellowship, this has been invaluable in helping me work out the application of a Christian worldview to the considerable ethical issues that arise in my professional life.

I moved to Basingstoke in 1996, after completing my medical training, to begin working in Paediatrics (my dream since childhood) and married my husband Alistair in 1997. We have now been married nearly 25 years and have 3 children aged between 15 and 20 who all remain engaged in church life.

Work and Voluntary Roles

- I work part-time as a **Community Paediatrician** and have been working in Basingstoke for 20 years. I specialise in SEND (special educational needs and disability), Autism, Language Disorders and children in local authority care. My job involves a huge amount of multi-professional working as well as working with a wide range of different families, safeguarding is a very important aspect of all my roles.
- I also work one day a week for **Lovewise, a Christian Charity** that seeks to help parents, youth groups and schools by providing presentations on the subjects of marriage, sex and relationships from a Christian perspective.
- I am a trustee of the **Family Education Trust** a national educational trust which researches the causes and consequences of family breakdown. It has no political or religious affiliations.
- In addition, until recently I had served for 15 years as a **primary school governor** with particular responsibilities for SEND and Safeguarding. In my role as school governor we were responsible for supporting and holding the Head Teacher accountable. We regularly reviewed policies and visited the school to monitor the effectiveness of these policies. During my time I was also involved in the recruitment of a new Head Teacher and other senior roles as well as Head Teacher Performance Management.

Local church involvement

I have been attending St Mary's, Eastrop for 25 years and over that time have been involved in a variety of areas of ministry included Toddler Groups, Ladies Bible studies and Youth Work. I am currently leading the 11-14s youth work (20 – 30 young people including several with significant additional needs) which has been a particular challenge over the past 18 months. In January when we had to again stop in-person Youth Work we decided to target our evening service to those aged 11 and over and their families and to involve young people in the service as much as possible. This service has been a huge encouragement to all involved and those attending and has has a regular 80-100 attending.

Issues that are important to me

- **Families** – as a Community Paediatrician I see how important stable families are to the well-being of children and young people. The Church has a unique part to play in being able to support and encourage both those in the community and those within the church through marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, toddler groups, parenting courses etc.
- **Marriage** – marriage is a hugely important factor in stable families and family breakdown brings much heartache and negative consequences especially for children. The Bible is also clear that marriage is a picture of the relationship between Jesus and the Church. As someone who has experienced my parents marriage breakdown I am aware that strengthening marriage as well as providing support for those who are experiencing family breakdown are very important.
- **Faithful Bible Teaching** – the Bible is God's word and is the way that we know God. Teaching the Bible in a faithful and accessible way is key to growing the church. This is particularly important for children and young people who need strong foundations and age appropriate teaching. We also need to think carefully about those with additional needs or who may struggle with accessing teaching and consider how best to help them.
- **Mental Health** – my job involves working with many children and young people (and parents) who have significant mental health problems. The past 18 months and the restrictions imposed have had an enormous effect on the mental health of many and especially young people and families. As Christians we need to carefully consider our response to this and how we can reach out and support those struggling with their mental health both in the church and in the community.
- **Societal pressures on young people** – young people today are surrounded continually by influences from social media. They are bombarded with images and narratives that put them under enormous pressure especially in the areas of sexuality and identity. Our culture is highly sexualised with pornography widespread and easily accessible, young people are faced with influencers and celebrities who portray fake and unobtainable images. How can we counterbalance this as a Church?
- **Safeguarding** – this is an agenda at the forefront of the church and society, it is not just children that need to be safeguarded but anyone who is vulnerable (and any of us can become vulnerable depending on circumstances).

I am prayerfully offering to stand for General Synod as a lay member. I feel I could contribute my expertise on some of the issues above and have many years of experience of working with different types of people with wide-ranging views and opinions. I am passionate about speaking out for the welfare of children and families.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Dr Julie Maxwell

Andrew Orange

Election Statement as candidate for election to the House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England, in the Diocese of Winchester



This is a very good moment in my life to start as a lay member of General Synod. It feels right as I reflect on it. Aged 67, I have just retired from Accenture (the leading IT Services company), and I have new time and energy to devote to the activities of General Synod. If you are so kind as to give me one of your top preference votes, please know that I don't just want to oil the wheels of the church bureaucracy – I actually want to be part of a movement that revitalises the Church of England.

I am a Chartered Accountant (trained with KPMG, London) and I have an MBA from INSEAD (INSEAD is one of Europe's best business schools, located in Fontainebleau, France and with an international mix of people attending). I hope that my accounting and business skills could be addressed towards making the Church of England more financially transparent, and perhaps – if it is possible - better organised.

I support the 'Save the Parish' network because the Church must reach people in their ordinary lives, and through communities that make up the parish. Local presence is all. Small is beautiful. Spiritually, incumbent priests are indispensable, having the ability to reach out personally and in a relevant way because they are local. Physically, our parish churches stand as Christian sentinels, witnessing to the faith of generations past, and continuing to be there to draw in the present generation at moments of crisis and celebration. Therefore, if you are part of the Save the Parish campaign, please be assured that I support your aims.

At the same time, I recognise the importance of our cathedrals. I was educated at The Pilgrims' School and as a prep school boy attended Mattins in Winchester Cathedral every Sunday during term-time, for 5 years - so I know the cathedral rather well, and feel very affectionately towards it and all the people who work there.

I have been a Christian all my life, but I still feel I am searching, and trying to dig deeper, to understand the mystery that is our faith. I believe that in England there are many more Christians than we acknowledge, and I am fearful that we make the mistake of ignoring them because in many cases they don't come to church. I feel instinctively warm towards the Church of England, but distressed that it is so ineffective at drawing-in these latent Christians. I feel that too much of what is reported about the Church of England is peripheral to our faith, and I fervently wish that the C of E leadership could 'zero-in' back on Christ and make the Church more relevant for ordinary people by spending more time

exploring what Christ's life means for us spiritually today, and less time on issues, and flavour-of-the-month concerns.

I love the Church of England, but I also want it to change. I would test every proposal with the question '*will this help the Church to be more relevant nationally, and will it nudge latent Christians and others towards considering their spirituality more seriously?*'. Sometimes we must embrace risk, make a leap, and take a measured chance. At the same time, we must be humble, not necessarily imposing our own personal desires. But above all, we must not be asleep – and I'm afraid sometimes the C of E has been asleep recently, albeit unintentionally. I hope we can now draw on our many strengths, and change that.

In 2017, I completed a Winchester Diocese BCM course to be a Lay Worship Leader, and I now take Morning Worship once a month at our village church in Appleshaw, just outside Andover. I do this because I am passionate about maintaining weekly worship at our parish churches and I feel that I can make this modest contribution. During the second and third lockdowns, when in-church worship was permitted subject to taking the necessary precautions, I felt it was important to continue our physical services, and we did. As a member of General Synod, this experience will help to ensure that my comments are properly rooted in the need to maintain worship.

Supplementary Information – Education and Career

My education was at Winchester College, and after that Oxford University, where I read Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

I have been fortunate to have a multi-faceted career, during which I have been employed by excellent companies (in chronological order, number of years shown in brackets): **KPMG** (3), **Shell** (10), telco **Mercury Communications** (5), the computing giant **IBM** (10), and finally the IT consulting and outsourcing company **Accenture**, whose old name was Arthur Andersen Consulting (10). At Accenture, I advised on competitive strategy, helping us to win major contracts vs competitors. Over the years 1995-2000, I started and ran my own internet start-up, which provided a service for people to learn French and other languages, using topical news. After working in the IT industry for 25 years, I can recognise where processes can be helped positively by computers (and also where IT would be a nuisance).

These contrasting experiences of big organisations and self-starting entrepreneurship may perhaps also help me to be effective, if you elect me, to undertake future work with the Church of England. I would be most grateful for your vote.



If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me:

andrew.orange@btinternet.com

07788 567013

EVE PATERSON

General Synod election address for House of Laity



CHURCH: St. Mary's Andover
EDUCATION: Theology BA Hons, Durham University
CURRENT JOB: Great Commission Lead, Evangelical Alliance
NEXT JOB: Internal Communications & Engagement Officer, Tearfund

Throughout my life, I have seen the infinite value of churches stepping up to serve the needs – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – of their local communities. I have seen lives transformed by the love of Jesus that people have encountered through simple acts of sacrifice and compassion from their local church. These moments are when I feel the Church steps into the fullness of God's plan for His people, and this is why I would like to stand for the House of Laity; to see local churches released into Kingdom transformation in their local contexts.

ABOUT ME

I currently work for the Evangelical Alliance, managing a wide range of missional resources and campaigns. This role has given me the opportunity to equip and inspire Christians to make Jesus known, with an emphasis on listening to the needs of church leaders and uniting the Church for mission. I will soon be moving to work at Tearfund as Internal Communications & Engagement Officer. Social action is a key part of how I live out my faith, so I'm delighted to play a role in all Tearfund does globally to relieve poverty and reflect God's heart for justice.

Outside of work, I have two working cocker spaniels, Suki and Jasper, and I'm an avid reader, having read over 100 books so far in 2021. Reading really gave me a place to go during the pandemic, and I enjoy expanding my worldview by walking around in someone else's shoes within the pages of a good book. I am married to Angus, Worship Pastor at St. Mary's Andover, and we lead a small group together in our home. I'm also part of the worship team and have the privilege of preaching on Sundays.

WHY I WANT TO STAND FOR GENERAL SYNOD

My Dad was an officer in the RAF Regiment, so I moved regularly as a child and was part of many different church traditions over the years. This has given me an appreciation of the diversity of God's people, and I believe General Synod must reflect and celebrate this diversity. As a millennial, I hope to be able to speak into issues facing the next generation, ensuring that the Church of England listens to the views of its younger members, as well as creating an environment that is attractive and inviting to those we are trying to reach.

I believe Jesus is the source of true life, salvation, love, hope, and transformation in our world. I believe the Bible is the Spirit-breathed word of God with divine relevance to the twenty-first century. I believe we are called to partner with the transformative power of God's Spirit at work in our world. It would be an honour to serve in the House of Laity as we seek to see God's Kingdom come through His Church today.

PROPOSER: Ruth Guy, Winchester Deanery
SECONDER: Nigel May, Andover Deanery

If you'd like to talk further about what I could bring to this role then please contact me by emailing evelyn.f.paterson@gmail.com

Electoral Address by Chris Scoggins, House of Laity candidate



Hello there,

I want to talk about why I am standing for General Synod, what I bring to the table and why I would like your first preference vote.

I am passionate about the Church of England as the major expression of Christianity in our country. We have a critical role to play in the nation in holding to Jesus' teaching and being the rock in the sand for the nation's moral values. It is crucial to make our Church more relevant to more people today.

I feel called to serve on General Synod - this body is fundamental to the development of our Church. I would like the Synod to be:

- More democratic, by its membership truly representing all church-goers
- More diverse in its make up
- More dynamic in its decision-making and actions

What do I offer as your representative?

I bring to the table considerable experience in 'getting things done' in organisations: I have 19 years' track record in governance across the private, public and third sectors including churches and schools; I have served as Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive, Trustee and Director in various organisations. In these roles I have had to balance financial realities with the growth and development of the organisation to achieve its vision.

Today I am not setting out a position on the issues confronting the Church (after all, new issues will arise over the 5 years of the next Synod); rather my focus is to commit to considering all the facts and views around each issue and acting as will best further a positive agenda focussed on Jesus' teachings:

- Stronger evangelism
- Ambitious renewal in every diocese
- The transformation of society

"Transformed people transform places" as my vicar says, and the local church should be leading people to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, this will result in God's love working out through the wider community to transform society in each place.

I am a lover of history and tradition but at the same time I am an agent for change – a tricky balance!

I can do this because I have a career history of leading organisations through major and difficult transitions. I am skilled at taking people with me through changes, respecting their views and their context and engaging in open discussion of the issues at stake. I have lived abroad and worked in many countries across Europe, Asia and the Americas, so I am adept at working constructively with people with a wide range of views. This is how I would approach my role on General Synod, should I win your vote.

I believe that a core part of successful governance is empowerment of local people and as such I am a strong supporter of our diocesan structure. Recent events in our Diocese have caused pain and distress for many who care about the Church and I believe that it is essential that we come together and re-establish a unity of purpose and show our love for one another in order to move forward. For many who are not yet believers the inter-factional strife within the Diocese, and the Church as a whole, is hard to reconcile with our teaching of the Bible and can be a major barrier to conversion.

Who is Chris Scoggins?

I am a Chief Executive who has retired early and I now spend a lot of time on various ministries. I was CEO of National Rail Enquiries and of two other national non-profit companies in the transport and utilities sectors. I have been a Non-Executive Director for 11 years. I have served on many governance bodies across the transport sector, setting industry direction on a variety of issues.

I became a Christian in my 30's. I have helped run Alpha several times. I am married to Jan and I have two children aged 25 and 22. I am a keen student of history, a rugby supporter and I have recently taken up gardening.

I serve on Southampton Deanery Synod and so on the PCC of my church. I was Chair of the Church Council at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church from 2008-2010. I have worked in children's ministry, setting up an infants' church during my time attending Chelmsford Cathedral (1999 – 2002).

I am the ex-officio diocesan appointee on the board of governors at our church school, where I have:

- taken on the role of vice-chair, and lead governor for finance
- helped lead the school through a complete change of the leadership team
- worked through the tremendous issues of the Covid pandemic, which are especially acute in this school with its very high level of cultural and ethnic diversity and high levels of poverty.

I also volunteer at a number of community projects through the church:

- the Marketplace, a 'social supermarket' offering dignity and choice to those moving on from food bank dependency
- the Southampton Churches Winter Night Shelter
- the Love your Neighbour food project in Southampton which delivered nearly 200,000 meals to clients who could not get to a food bank during the Covid pandemic
- delivering meals to the homeless with Above Bar Church, Southampton
- collecting donations to food banks run by Lighthouse Church, Southampton

Representing our Diocese

I am committed to listen to the electors of our Diocese, and if elected I will be available to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have from time to time. I pray for unity in our Diocese and healing of the recent rifts that have taken place, through constructive engagement on the way forward.

If you would like to contact me with questions during the election process, I can be reached by email at cas10scoggins@gmail.com

I would very much like to be honoured with your first preference vote.

In Jesus' name,

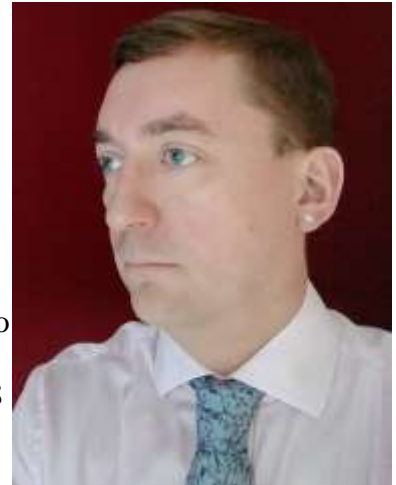


Gwilym R Stone,

(he/him) Age: 40

Email: gwilym@grstone.me Twitter: @gwillybobs
Tomsk Villa, 11 Rollesbrook Gardens, Southampton, SO15 5WA

Proposed Claire Robinson, Diocesan Synod House of Laity 2012 to 2021, Southampton Deanery Synod Lay Chair 2018 to 2020
Seconded Anthony Cross, Diocesan Synod House of Laity since 2018



Faith becomes interesting when
we're no longer scared of the questions,
playful not sombre, we worship a God who laughs.

Jay Greene, General Synod House of Laity 2015-2021, Church Commissioner, says
“Gwilym Stone’s strong faith, deep roots in the church, his breadth of experience, and commitment to radical Christian inclusion mean that he will serve Winchester diocese well. I encourage you to give him a first preference vote so he can represent you on General Synod.”

About me...

WORK

I moved to Southampton early in 2007 to take up a job at the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, and have progressed through various roles, generally with a focus on the UK’s representation within international fora, including heading UK delegations at International Maritime Organisation Committee and Sub-Committee sessions, and the EU Committee on Safe Ships and Pollution Prevention.

Since 2018 I have been Assistant Director for Ship Standards, leading a team of 30 policy officials, with responsibility for safety and environmental regulations ranging from fishing vessels and small inland waterways craft up to the giant cruise and container ships that often tower over the Southampton sky line.

CHURCH

Growing up in a Vicarage some of my earliest memories are of helping Mum unpack Traidcraft boxes, while as a teenager it was at the summer Scripture Union holidays that I found a living faith.

After my time as student I spent a year at Keele University and 2 years at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln as Chaplaincy Assistant.

Since coming to Southampton I have been part of Swaythling Parish, in the north of the city – worshipping, and regularly serving, at St Alban’s for ten years or so and more recently as part of our “Threshold” service. Linked to that involvement in Threshold I received Bishop’s Commission for Mission – Pioneer in September 2020.

I have been a member of Diocesan Synod since 2012, PCC Secretary since 2012, and Southampton Deanery Synod Secretary since 2020.

Among my academic qualifications I have MA in Youth Ministry and Theological Education.

OTHER STUFF

I'm Chair of Governors at Mansbridge Primary, and believe social transformation starts with high quality education for all. I'm Treasurer of Van Mildert College (Durham) Alumni Association, and Membership Secretary of the Small Pilgrim Places Network. When I do find I have some spare time I increasingly find myself watching model train videos on YouTube...

I live with my partner of 13 years, Alan.

Why am I standing for General Synod?

I could answer with this verse from a hymn...

Add to your believing
deeds that prove it true -
knowing Christ as Saviour,
make him Master too:
follow in his footsteps,
go where he has trod,
in the world's great trouble
risk yourself for God.

The Church's positions on sexuality make it an uncomfortable place for many, including me, and does much to undermine our credibility, especially with "missing generations". If I want to see a Church that is affirming of LGBT+ people, then as a Gay man I need to stand up and do all I can to make it happen.

While I will engage with Living in Love & Faith with a hopeful attitude we need to get beyond legalistic debates and get on with embedding inclusive practice. As a Church we also need to tackle exclusion due to disability & neuro-diversity and issues we might characterise as "class" as urgently as those due to race and sexuality.

It is a big concern to me just how much Church activity is build around "deficit" models of salvation – the assumption that those outside "the Church" are lacking something, and by getting them inside we are somehow fixing them. It risks missing what God is already doing in a person's life before we get involved, and it doesn't seem to ring true with the way Jesus encountered people. For example the women at the well is such a rich passage about two people meeting in a place of equality, or Zacchaeus – Jesus says to Zacchaeus "come down" because "I must stay at your house today" - it is what Jesus needs to do that is the focus point not Zacchaeus' "sins".

I read somewhere Dolly Parton quoting her Mother ...

"We are not poor, we just don't have money.
We're rich in attitude, we're rich in spirit, we're rich in love."

This issue of deficit models is not just a challenge at an individual level - in a context like Swaythling, where we have limited financial resources, and, numerically, limited human resources, others can start to talk about us as being a "poor" Parish, we can start talking about ourselves like that too. But this is unhelpful, it undervalues the people of the Parish and can dis-empower them from the things they are already doing for God, and with God. We should be focusing on what we have, that we are "rich in attitude, rich in spirit, rich in love".

Thank you for reading, please vote for me as your first preference.



GENERAL SYNOD 2021-26 ADDRESS

DANNY STUPPLE – seeking election to the House of Laity

My CV

I have been married to Pippa for 39 years. Pippa is Programme Director for GP Nurse Education – Wessex Deanery. We have 3 adult children – A Lecturer in Clinical Nursing Care and Terminal Care Nurse, Barrister and Secondary MFL Teacher. We have lived in Fair Oak Parish since November 1985. I work as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, specialising in providing a Construction Contract Dispute Resolution consultancy since 1993. See <http://absconstructionclaims.com>

I am a member of the PCC at my local Anglican Church, St. Thomas', Fair Oak and Horton Heath and have been in various other positions of leadership there since 1985. I have been a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) to the Winchester Diocese in the Eastleigh Deanery since 1995. Please refer to www.sttoms.co.uk

I became a Governor at the parish Secondary School, Wyvern College, in June 1994. The College achieved Technology status in 2001, when I then became Chair of Governors for the ensuing 10 years, at which point the College then achieved an Outstanding Ofsted evaluation in 2011. I then oversaw the next transition of the College to Academy status, achieved in June 2012. I then stood down for the new Chair in 2014. Please refer to <https://www.wyverncollege.org.uk/>

Together with 3 other founding Trustees I formed Zion Projects in 2003 to advance the Christian faith in the public domain, through Festivals and conferences on Theology, Regional Intercessory Prayer meetings, and acting as a charitable vehicle for releasing social enterprise and voluntary sector initiatives for community cohesion through the regional expressions of local Church across the Eastleigh Borough. 4 of the most developed of these initiatives are Street Pastors, Eastleigh Basics (Food) Bank, The CAP Centre and ARK (Acts of Random Kindness). Please refer to www.zionprojects.co.uk and <http://www.connect-eastleigh.co.uk>

Following professional involvement at Moggerhanger Park during 2004-2007 I became Chair of Harvest Vision, the overarching charity responsible for Moggerhanger Park in Sandy, Bedfordshire in 2009. Please refer to <https://www.moggerhangerpark.com/> Following purchase of the property for £1 in 1994 approximately £9million has been raised to convert the House, Gardens and Farm to its original state, as in the 1820s. The Park seeks to operate as a National and Regional catalyst for creative thinking for Christian initiatives, based upon its historic connection to the Thornton family and the Clapham Group. The social transformation experienced from late Georgian to mid-Victorian in Britain is an inspiration to the work of creative cultural change being encouraged at Moggerhanger.

To further these ideas, I stood as an Independent candidate in the Eastleigh National By-Election in February 2013. I was very pleased to be 5th and obtained more votes than all those totalled below me in the poll. The majority of the 768 votes were from those outside the Christian faith, which has led to many good on-going links across the Borough of Eastleigh.

Since March 2014, I have been Lay Chair of the Eastleigh Deanery Synod and have again been re-elected in early 2020 : see <http://eastleighdeanery.org.uk>

In June 2016, I was duly elected as Chair of Churches Together in Eastleigh (CTiE) - see <http://www.hopeeastleigh.uk> and in early 2020 as Joint-Chair of Churches Together in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak & Horton Heath (CTiBiFOHH).

In June 2017, I was duly elected to Winchester Diocesan Synod and have again been elected for the current triennium starting 2021.

As 2021, therefore comes to its last Quarter, I therefore believe I can bring decades of experience within my local Anglican Church, Deanery and Diocese – and my wider life commitment to family, community and wider society, at this time.

Reasons for Standing

My reasons for seeking election at this time are many, but the 5 main ones are :

1. To be part of the reimagination of the Church of England, post-pandemic
2. To play an active role in the **Renewal & Reform** programme of work, which seeks to provide a narrative of hope to the Church of England in the 21st century. I believe it is rooted in a sense of Biblical hope and an understanding of Christ's call to us to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into the harvest field – something very close to my heart.
3. As set out most recently at the last General Synod in July 2021, I am particularly galvanised by the vision set out in paper GS 2223, where the Archbishop of York outlined the Church of England's vision and strategy as “**Simpler, Humbler, Bolder**” - **A Church for the whole nation which is Christ-centred and shaped by the Five Marks of Mission**. I would love to engage with this, so that it might succeed, both nationally and regionally.
4. I am also strongly convinced that the Parish, our Anglican distinctive, must also be central to such conversations. Engagement with the newly launched “**Save the Parish**” movement in this transition, will be something I look to assist with, given my dispute resolution skill-set, as explained above.
5. With such insights gleaned from General Synod, I pray that I might then be helpful in implementing such vision and strategy, “on the ground”, as it were, in my Diocese, Deanery and Parish

For these reasons - and given my experience - I therefore request your vote to be elected to the House of Laity for the next quinquennium.

Many thanks in anticipation

Danny Stupple

General Synod Election Address

Susan Turner, M.C.S.P

Phone: 01980 842854

e-mail: jd.turner@hotmail.co.uk

Proposed by: Duncan Courts, Deanery Synod Representative for St. Peter's, Bournemouth.

Seconded: Lt. Col. Peter Poole, M.B.E. Deanery Synod Representative of St. Peter in the Wood,
Appleshaw.

I have spent my working life supporting people with terminal and life-limiting illnesses. I am a church warden, pastoral visitor, street pastor, bereavement support volunteer and an active participant of Messy Church.

I wish to stand for General Synod, in order to speak for the marginalised congregations in the rural Parishes. My concern is for rural Parishes in general, but is driven by the particular example of the Diocese of Winchester.

Little is spoken of the reasons for the decline in attendance of congregations, other than it is a reflection of the change in rural life. However, where there is no dedicated priest as a vital force in the community, there is no motivation to attract a congregation. Volunteer laity, albeit worthy, are outside the discipline of an ordained priest. Closed churches, occasional visiting retired vicars, uncertainty of Services have not only been a symptom of the decline, they have contributed to it.

The Church has always been slow to change and when it has tried to do so, those changes have too often proved counter-productive, the financial ones to mention only one, but the current trend of issue-activists driving agenda, exemplified a degree of ignoring the very real problems which need to be addressed.

I worship in a small rural parish in the Diocese of Winchester, where there has been a push for business-plan driven change by the now retired Bishop, which intends joining our church to a Benefice of 16 parish churches, served by one priest, and two other ordained ministers. There has been little information to the involved congregations, and that which has trickled through, has been selective and sparse. This is against a background of the recent redundancies of ordained vicars within the Diocese. Concerns and questions are not acknowledged.

This is not only a local parochial matter. There is and has been a continual stream of articles and letters in such publications as the Spectator, The Times and the Daily Telegraph from ex-Bishops, Priests and Laity, all speaking against the drive towards large Benefices and the necessity to support the rural parish system.

If the concept of a Parish Priest in each Parish is no longer viable – let it be honestly addressed, in order that an open debate can then follow. What is the future of the Church to be – a centralised system comprising huge Benefices and large Metropolitan churches with their multifarious

attempts to attract new members with nods to evangelical methods, like an aged aunt trying to 'boogie' with the teenagers.

Now, more than ever, the Church of England should be offering a stable support system, not one that plays catch-up with other forms of worship, or by imposing impractical business plans.

Change is happening in Society so fast, that the ensuing uncertainty is one of the main concerns of most people, and as admitted by Archbishop Welby, it was a mistake to close the churches at the outset of the Covid lockdown. So what an opportunity the Church has now, to offer stability where uncertainty reigns, confident in its history and strength, rather than attempting a modernisation that weakens and diminishes the very position it has held for so long, which ultimately could lead to the loss of the bed-rock of the Church

I am seeking your vote to serve on General Synod, so that the under-represented and active church, which I believe is the silent majority, might be heard as a counter to the activist element currently driving such detrimental change to the Church.