



**ABOUT ME**

I have been involved in the Church and church activities since I was a small choirboy, including the following:

- PCC member at different times in three parishes – a rural parish on the South Downs, a large church in central Brighton (St Bartholomew’s) and currently at St Stephen’s, Lewisham, where I am also a deputy churchwarden.
- Member of Brighton Deanery Synod and currently a parish representative on East Lewisham Deanery Synod.
- Before retiring from teaching I served as a licensed Reader with a ministry in the school I worked in. I was also a tutor on the Bishop’s Certificate course.

I also served for several years as Chairman of my local Parish Council in West Sussex and later as secretary of a local Community Association in Brighton.

**WHY I AM STANDING**

I am asking for your vote because I believe my experience of three very different types of parish enables me to approach questions with an open mind and an awareness of the diversity of needs and opportunities within the Church of England. I am used to working collaboratively and with an eye for detail. I believe that constructive debate and respecting the views of those who disagree with you are what lead to good decision making.

**THE LOCAL CHURCH**

When the parish church is in regular use for worship and prayer, open and available as a centre for the local community and community activities, it fulfils its task of mission and evangelism. If it is locked during the week, opening only on Sunday mornings so visiting clergy can take a service for a handful of the faithful, it will merely reinforce the image of the Church as inward-looking and irrelevant. I believe that priority must be given to giving parishes the resources to grow as centres for the celebration of the Sacraments, for worship, prayer and mission. To do this properly will mean rethinking the way we allocate funds: a ‘viable’ parish

should not just mean one that pays its way; a truly viable parish is one where there is the potential to proclaim the Good News and make new disciples for Christ.

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

The Church of England exists to proclaim the truth of Christ to the nation. It will not do this effectively if it is not united and actively inclusive. I therefore stand firmly behind the Five Guiding Principles. I also fully support the use of Living in Faith and Love to deepen understanding between those who hold differing views on marriage and sexuality. We are a broad church with a multiplicity of views, so it is essential that we continue 'to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'.

### **REBUILDING AND GROWING**

The new Synod will be faced with the task of post-pandemic reconstruction. There are lessons to be learned, both positive and negative, from the way the Church of England has responded in the past eighteen months. To borrow a phrase from the politicians, we need to 'build back better'. Developing on-line worship as a means to keep in touch with those unable (or unaccustomed) to come to church has been a positive move, but it must not become a substitute for meeting physically as God's people in God's house, nor must it be allowed to be seen as a way of 'doing church on the cheap'. The Sacraments cannot be administered through a computer screen.

### **COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL**

The Church of England will only be heard by people outside if it can communicate effectively. The Christian message is at odds with the secular message of individualism, consumerism and moral relativism, so it is all the more important that it is presented in an engaging and attractive manner. I believe that the Church needs to embrace modern communication media and learn how to employ them in a professional and effective manner.

Above all, the Church of England needs to be true to itself as part of the Universal Church, authentic in its liturgy and rooted in the faith 'revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds'. This is the Church that I love, the Church I am seeking election to the General Synod in order to support and help.

**Thank you for reading this. If you feel that I would represent your concerns for the Church, please give me your first, or high preference, vote.**

**If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.**

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