

Electoral Address



Rev Preb Karl Freeman (60)

I am married with three adult daughters, a son in law, a granddaughter and a Golden Retriever! I grew up in Islip, a rural village just outside Oxford. Having trained at St Luke's College in Exeter, I followed my parents' profession into school teaching. Playing senior rugby was probably as much an incentive to go to St Luke's as learning to teach! I taught for eight years before theological training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and being ordained in 1990.

Background and experience

I served my title post and first at St Andrew's Plymouth before being appointed four years later as Team Vicar under the then rector, Bishop Nick McKinnel. I subsequently became stipendiary chaplain at the University of St Mark and St John, working amongst students and staff for five years as well as serving on the Academic Board and Board of Management. Thence I became rector of Emmanuel with St Paul, Plymouth in 2000. Spanning all three posts I also served 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery as their military, reservist Chaplain and was made an MBE in my last of twenty-three years there.

I have served outside the parish as Rural Dean on two occasions. The second time, being responsible for establishing what is now Plymouth City Deanery out of the former three city deaneries. I have been a member of Diocesan Synod. I have served as an assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands for four years. I co-founded an ecumenical group, The Peninsula Gospel Partnership, through which was brought into being a training course for lay people in biblical understanding and ministry. I remain on the development group as well as a teacher on the course. I am a training incumbent and a mentor to students on the South West Ministry Training Course.

I am a member of our Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship and, because I felt I needed somewhere to state my commitment to the historical and orthodox position of the Church of England, became a member of Reform when it was founded.

My passion and foundational calling is to see the 'ordinary person' introduced to following Jesus Christ and deepen their relationship with him through membership of the body of Christ, his Church.

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My concern is for the church is:

- That she preserve her doctrinal orthodoxy, distinctiveness and loving purpose amidst a sea of change in today's world.
- That different styles of churchmanship should thrive and be able to find unity through the common tenets of Anglicanism expressed in our canons, liturgy, creeds and our conformity to the authority of Scripture.
- That she not lose sight of the need to proclaim the repentance and belief called for by our Lord in Mark 1:15.
- That she remain 'in the world' without being 'of it' in order to be a witness through any and every means she can legitimately use to commend the Gospel.

Diversity of understanding

Since entering the Diocese in 1990, I have amassed considerable experience to draw upon in offering debate, wisdom and guidance for the future of the Church of England. I have been invited to conduct mission work in both the rural and urban context; served as chaplain in hospital, school, university and the military; served on many synods, committees, working and management groups; and am used to speaking up in meetings.

Why am I standing for synod?

- I believe the Church of England is uniquely placed for mission in our nation and has a vital message for today's world. I am concerned that in our church's eagerness to communicate the Gospel she is in danger of perilous compromise.
- In our turbulent times of belief, I believe our church, is called to receive all people in a kindly and loving manner, whatever their background or faith perspective. While our Gospel speaks of love and acceptance it also speaks of taking up our cross and following. Both aspects of that voice must be held to in Synod.
- I want to hold our church to a Lord who loves his church too much not to share the whole truth, before which we must all find repentance through grace.
- I want to keep the church to her great commission with scriptural integrity.
- I want to bring some of the wisdom I have gained over my years of ordained ministry and put something back into the church which I love.

I hope you will have confidence in choosing to vote for me as someone who passionately believes that the Church of England, at its best, has massive potential to transform our society and bring hope to the world. To that end, I promise my sincere, prayerful and deepest endeavours.

Karl Freeman

11th December 2017