

**ADDRESS: JULIAN NIGEL PAYNE**

### **Proposer & Seconder**

Mr Peter Anderson and Mrs Eleanor Parry are members of the Plymouth City Deanery, who are also colleagues and friends in my parish of Eggbuckland and Estover have kindly consented to be my proposer and seconder.



### **Summary of Relevant Experience**

I have been a Christian for 40 years, spending 19 of these within the House Church Movement. At the turn of the Millennium I decided to come back to the Church of England, where I had started my Christian journey. One reason for my return was to follow a calling into the ordained ministry but another important factor was the structure and the accountability of the denomination that seemed to make sense.

In 2005 I became a member of St Edward's Church, in the Parish of Eggbuckland with Estover. I have recently been elected for a second time as Churchwarden and hold the position of Vice Chair of my PCC and am the Operations Manager & Administrator of my parish. Presently I am the Lay Chair of the Plymouth City Deanery; also, being member of the Exeter Diocesan Synod and the Bishops Diocesan Council.

### **Important Issues Facing the Church**

1. **Living in the world:** Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter have begun to dominate the world in which we live. Being relevant in such a changing world is increasingly becoming a challenge, change is something most people fear but the one thing that can't be stopped is time itself. Although we must not depart from the essentials of our belief we must live in the now and not the past, Jesus' life is a prime example of how this should be done.
2. **Same Sex Marriage:** This is a controversial and dividing issue which can lead to division and Jesus can sometimes be left out of debate and discussion. The Church needs to accept that it has been wrong in its treatment of the LGBT community over centuries and a real and true apology is overdue. The Bible can be interpreted in a variety of ways on many issues, some would say it clear in its condemnation of same sex relationships, yet this is far from the truth, scripture is against promiscuity and treating other human beings merely as objects, this is something we choose often to ignore yet is of prime importance to understand.
3. **Racism:** Since the vote on leaving the European Common Market there has been an increase in racism, the media has helped to towards creating a society that is becoming insular and inward looking. The Church of England needs to be outspoken in its support of asylum seekers and refugees, against a tide of prejudice and ignorance. We also need to stand by our Muslim brothers and sisters who too are being marginalised and persecuted for their faith, simply because of a few who would seek to portray a corrupted version of Islam.
4. **Young People:** In the last general election young people surprised the nation when they came out to vote, they always had been treated as if they didn't count but politicians have begun to wake up, so must the Church. Although our population is getting older the true future lies in the young, they have a much more positive view of the environment, other nations, poverty and many other matters than we give them credit for. We need to give them a say in determining the future of the Church!
5. **Safeguarding:** Some traditional denominations over the past few decades have been the focus of the historic abuse of individuals. Although not entirely exonerated from the past they have made major changes. The Diocese of Exeter is a good example of this

change but unfortunately there is some way to go before all parishes not only understand the significance of Safeguarding but appreciate that it covers children and vulnerable adults. No longer can or should we be ignorant of our responsibilities towards safeguarding.

6. **Disability:** For many years I have lived with disability both personally and within my family. This is a very important issue, which I have always had a personal interest in, both as a Trade Unionist, Councillor and now as a member of the Church of England. In my own church we have made major steps towards creating a 'level playing field' for the disabled in terms of physical features and accessibility to the things that able-bodied people have access too. The Diocese is also making good head-way and bringing to parishes a policy of inclusion, which is welcomed. Finally, 'Dementia', my father suffered from Alzheimer's disease and I know how this can affect those who care for them. There is now a growing awareness of this condition and I am gladdened to see the Church is getting involved, we in Plymouth seem to be an example of good practice.
7. **Environment (Climate Change):** There are still some who have taken a view of denial but for most of humanity 'Global Warming' is now an accepted reality. Our churchyards are places where we can help make a change, in my own parish we are now an Eco Church, we have flowers, insects, animals, birds and bee hives. This is not only confined to the outside, but our church building has recycling bins, electronic heating control and uses environmentally friendly energy suppliers. As Christians we have responsibility to look after our planet.
8. **Social Engagement:** The Church must never be silent and seek a 'quiet life', this is not the role of the Bride of Christ. Jesus was not aggressive and did not seek conflict nevertheless his meekness should never be seen as weakness. As a Christian and a member of the Church of England I hope I can follow such an example.

### **Gifts to bring to role**

During my career I have been a Civil Servant, Trade Unionist, a City Councillor, an Ordinand, a Teacher and an active member of the Church of England. All these experiences have helped to give me abilities and gifts that I know can be used working within the General Synod of the Church of England.

### **Name & Contact Details**

Julian Nigel Payne  
Louieville, 9 Unicorn Close,  
Plympton,  
Plymouth  
PL7 4QD  
Tel: 01752 344632  
Mob: 07778 105752  
Email: julian.payne1@btinternet.com