

Election of Members to General Synod

Election Address of Andrew Stilliard

I seek to be elected to the General Synod as I feel I have a lot to offer the body in terms of debate and experience within the wider church. I have been a member of the Church of England since 1997 having come to faith through adversity in the free church during 1986.

I work as a procurement professional within the public sector and have wide experience of both managing budgets and people which has taught me to be an open minded thinker and consider all views prior to decision making.

Within the Devon church I have served on my local Parochial Church Council since 2004 being used as a mission/outreach officer and recently have served 3 years as a churchwarden at my home church, St Mary Magdalene, Torquay. I currently serve on the Torbay Deanery Synod and have recently been elected to the Diocesan Synod which had prompted me to apply to the national body. I with my wife serve as homegroup leaders which is a delightful task helping to shape faith in others and to lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

When our new minister arrived in 2010 he wanted to start to engage with the homeless and folk suffering from addictions and I supported the establishment of the ' Living Room Community Café ' and serve on the management team, which is a challenging work in many ways. This form of outreach has been very successful in offering an open door and listening ear to hundreds of folk passing by and has led to over 20 new committed believers who have been also led through baptism into the church life. This work has been much endorsed by Bishop Robert who has met some of those whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel.

I have always enjoyed the challenge of helping new believers to come to know their saviour in a personal way and have run many Alpha and other beginners courses within Devon church life which has given me both immense satisfaction and a desire to do much more.

I believe the Church of England needs to be far more active in engaging with the general population and particularly the marginalised within society and I seek to work on Synod to bring about a change of emphasis to enable churches to be more proactive in releasing resources to enable these goals to be met wherever practicable.

In my youth I was active in local politics and learned a lot about interacting with many different types of people at their level and also had the opportunity to debate issues of varying magnitude which has provided me with a good all round grounding. I am now an active member of Churches Together in Torbay and believe in the power of prayer to transform both communities and individual lives. Please note that I am not affiliated to any political party.

As a volunteer on my rest day I serve in Torquay as a schools pastor which has opened my eyes to the difficulties that young folk often experience in this diverse and beautiful county in which we live.

God has done so much within my life to help transform my experience of both Himself and the Church, I feel driven to play a bigger part in the future strategy and direction of our beloved national church.

I submit my nomination for your prayerful consideration.

Andrew Stilliard, Torbay Deanery, September 2015

