

The question is, why should you make me your first preference vote?

Who am I?

My name is Richard Buzzacott. I am 73 and I am retired. I worked firstly in private practice in Bristol and then in Devon County Council in various Senior Posts where I had responsibility for negotiating and delivering, a number of high value contracts. One, nearly 20 years ago before I retired was worth up to a couple of hundred million pounds. I have lived in Tiverton for 45 years and am a member of the Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery.

I go to St Andrew's Church in Cullompton.

My Christian faith has been the anchor of my life since I first committed my life to Jesus when thirteen.



What would I stand for if you voted me onto the General Synod ?

There are five principal areas of interest if you voted me in.

1. **Budget:** Currently the Exeter Diocese runs at a deficit. It is not a wealthy Diocese with lots of legacies or inherited wealth, so is largely dependent on the Common Fund. The Common Fund comes hard in our area as we do not have lots of super wealthy parishioners. I would seek to push for a releasing of some National Funding to help struggling areas and a greater understanding of the issue.
2. **Stipendiary Clergy:** Every year the number of paid clergy declines. For many outside the church and those in the church, they are the front face of the church, doing baptisms, weddings and funerals and taking regular

services. That is in no way to diminish the task of all to present the Gospel which is a primary task of all the Church. But if this was a business, and you wanted to grow you wouldn't cut your productive units.

3. **Changes to Doctrine:** Let's be honest, there is a major debate about the Doctrine of Marriage in the Church. I do not think a strong biblical case has been presented to change the marriage canon.
4. **Find a constructive way forward:** When I was working, I led the team that delivered the five new High Schools in Exeter. There were many honestly held differing views as to how this project should be delivered, even, if it should happen at all.

BUT A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HONEST WAY WAS FOUND THROUGH THIS.

In the stress and strain of current life, I honestly believe that the Church of England has a privileged position in society to present a hope in Jesus. Somehow a structure must be found that this message can continue to be given in every part of this Diocese. I feel it's beholden on me, if possible to use my best endeavours to help find that way forward.

5. **Mission of the Church to this Nation:** The Church has to be relevant to people of all ages and all parts of society. That includes many smaller rural and urban churches continuing to witness in their communities.

I have always done a lot of cycling and extreme mountain biking all over the world, including cycle touring in many places including China and a three month tour in South East Asia. I now go to the gym, sea swim and have done some surfing. A lot of these activities are done with 20 and 30 year olds. Many are bringing up young families and they have real concerns about society. They have pressures from work, cost of living etc. I am genuinely surprised that many have never heard the truth of Jesus.

If I were voted onto General Synod, I would hope to present the case for more mission work by the Church in this area.

Voting for me. I have an email address of merfaith@protonmail.com and if you have queries please come back to me. I will try my best to answer them.

Thank you and please consider voting for me as your first choice.