



CLARE LILLINGTON

Deanery: Newton Abbot

Parish: St Martin & St Mary Chudleigh

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Proposer: William West

Seconder: Hillarie Griggs

Both of Newton Abbot & Ipplepen Deanery

As a candidate for the House of Laity for General Synod I am writing to introduce myself. Hopefully you will conclude that I have the skills and experience to serve as one of your diocesan representatives.

Your vote in this election matters and I would very much appreciate **your first preference vote**.

About me

I have lived in Chudleigh for 43 years. I am married and have four adult children and six grandchildren. I enjoy walking, gardening and knitting for the family, but my current new interest is book binding both making new books and restoring the old.

Professionally I trained as an accountant and over the years I specialised in church and charity accounts. Twenty years ago I studied for a BSc Maths degree with the Open University, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Church experience

I became a Christian in my late teens. In Bristol I was church treasurer for Christchurch Clifton. After moving to Devon, I became treasurer for Chudleigh Church. A job I have continued for over 30 years. I have also twice been Churchwarden during that time. Currently I am a member of the PCC and a Deanery Synod Rep for Chudleigh on the Newton Abbot & Ipplepen Deanery, where I am the secretary. Recently I have been appointed to the Diocesan Assets Group, which scrutinises the figures for the Diocesan Board of Finance. I also assist treasurers in the Diocese when asked.

General Synod

Synod considers and approves legislation, debates matters of national importance and approves the annual budget for the work of the church.

Underlying the work of the Synod is to understand God's will for the church in areas such as:

Outreach – the Parish

The parish system sees churches in all areas of the country, but the decline in church attendance is a big concern. Every parish church has an opportunity to engage with its parishioners, whether churchgoers or not, and show the love of the gospel to the community. It is a vital network.

Outreach – Young people

Raising young Christians in 21st century is not an easy task. We need to sustain the outreach work in schools and communities equipping and training youth workers for the task. Young people are not just the future but members of the church.

Listening & Welcoming

Even though serving on any Synod can be challenging and tiring, it is good for grass roots parishioners to be part of the conversation both listening and contributing.

I hold a traditional view on marriage, I know my calling is to love, to serve, to listen and to pray, as ultimately it's the Holy Spirit that convicts us all. We are at our best when we listen honestly to each other, value one another and work together. We need a debate not argument to find a way forward.

Church Financial problems

We recognise that the church is facing financial problems which is leading to many dioceses proposing a reduction in stipendiary clergy. This should be a last resort not the only way to balance the books. Traditional parochial ministry is important. We should encourage vocations in parishes, lay and ordained.

Parish finances are not always healthy either and we need to support treasurers in their task. Many are getting older and cannot find a replacement. Volunteers are not always easy to find in a busy world and with the job having become more onerous over the years, people prefer easier roles.

If elected I will:

- Devote time and effort to fulfil my responsibilities faithfully.
- Be involved in Diocesan and local matters.

I would really value your first preference vote for me, Clare Lillington, in this election, and please remember all the General Synod candidates in your prayers.