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William Duncan

St Andrews Church Plymouth: Plymouth City Deanery

Nominated by

Proposer: Malcom Prideaux
(Plymouth City Deanery)

Seconder: Judy Hodgkinson
(Plymouth City Deanery)

ELECTION ADDRESS- GENERAL SYNOD 2026

Background

I am a retired solicitor. After qualifying in 1979, my wife and I moved from London to Plymouth in 1982 and have been involved in St Andrew's Church since then. Our three (now adult) children all grew up in the church and have continue in their faith, having had the privilege of excellent teaching from our Church leaders and from Christian camps.

I have served in various roles on the PCC (Treasurer, Churchwarden and on the Standing Committee). I am currently on the Church's PCC and its Standing Committee as well as the Deanery Synod. I also serve on several Trusts.

As a solicitor for over 41 years, my experience has been in various types of disputes (in particular commercial, property, and professional negligence). Apart from dealing with Courts, my work inevitably involved negotiation and mediation with other parties, to try and work out a satisfactory solution to the dispute.

In Synod, I would very much like to commend mediated solutions where possible and would also hope to contribute by having developed an eye for detail.

Why I am standing for General Synod

I became a Christian at 16 and have grown up in the Church of England. Over the many years of membership, I feel that it is now that the Church faces its greatest challenges.

In a society which increasingly stresses individual identity, I would want to see Synod to take every opportunity to encourage people to find their identity in Christ.

Over the next 5 years, it will be critical that the Synod navigates the current trends whilst adhering to the Bible. If the Church does not hold fast to the gospel, it could become irrelevant. Its gospel message over centuries has often been counter-cultural, and this has been its strength, because people recognise and respond to its integrity. If we lose that and the courage to preach the gospel, then the Church of England will lose everything.

My desire is that the Church will grow and will continue to pass on the truth of the Gospel to our children, and future generations.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all our deliberations, and will grant us His wisdom as we seek to build His Kingdom.

Yours in Christ