



Election Address

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Some things about me

- retired from full time paid work
- worship at Mansfield St Mark – of liberal anglo-catholic tradition. It is a place where the quality of teaching, liturgy and music enhances spiritual growth. It is an inclusive church, seeking justice and growing disciples through open and practical engagement in the local and wider community
- lived in Mansfield for 45 years, having graduated from University of Nottingham, taught in London, returned to Notts. as deputy head teacher in a large comprehensive school
- for 15 years before retirement, a lecturer at the University of Nottingham training secondary science teachers. Led British Council teacher development projects in China, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Published a textbook for science teachers, science books for children. A former Ofsted inspector of schools
- involved currently in local affairs as Chair of Governors at Mansfield Queen Elizabeth's Academy and contributor to the Maun Valley Citizens movement
- serve as trustee with the All Saints Mission and Ministry programme in the NW of England for part time training of ordinands and lay ministers
- volunteer for Framework, the Notts. charity in support of the homeless. For 10 years I have led a team to organise the Mansfield Big Snore, a winter 'sleep out' in church car park raising over £90,000 and funding an outreach support worker
- married to Philip with one married daughter and a granddaughter
- sing with Mansfield Choral Society, take piano lessons, belong to a book group and enjoy hill walking and travelling

My Church of England life

- Mansfield St Mark PCC member
- Diocesan Chair of the House of Laity for 8 years to date – chair deanery lay chairs' group
- Lay Chair of Mansfield Deanery for 8 years to 2014
- Bishop's Council member. Member of Diocesan Finance Committee
- Member of Sacrista Prebend management committee
- Lay Canon and member of College of Canons of Southwell Minster
- Member of the Diocesan Lay Chairs' national forum
- General Synod member 2010-2015

Why I wish to stand for General Synod

- Lay ministry is a calling. I consider that offering myself to service on General Synod is a response to that calling
- I have completed one five year period as a Diocesan member of General Synod and wish to build on that experience. I have an excellent track record of attendance and participation in the debating chamber; to read and listen, to ask questions, to speak and to vote
- My work in Mansfield Deanery and the Diocese more widely has enabled me to develop expertise in the organisation and administration of the church and its resources locally. Serving on General Synod is an opportunity to apply and extend this experience nationally

- As Diocesan Chair of the House of Laity and as a Deanery Lay Chair, I have been closely in touch with local parish issues and with deanery matters. I am in a very strong position to represent the views of the lay people of Southwell and Nottingham at national level
- I have worked hard to engage with local financial matters. The enhanced deanery leadership role and that of Diocesan Lay Chair, has prompted me to develop skills for strategic thinking, planning and communication. These experiences prepare me for wider participation in the work of General Synod
- I am well used to reading lengthy documentation and preparing for meetings, for speaking in public and for processing outcomes as written reports or as verbal feedback.

Issues coming to General Synod

- As a General Synod member already I have been involved with the initial presentations, group work and debates focused on the national 'Reform and Renewal' programme, a response by the Church of England on the urgent need for discipleship. This includes strands on resourcing the future, developing ministerial education, streamlining church administration and legislation, and church leadership of the future.
- I am particularly interested in continuing to address the implications of the declining number of clergy coming into parish work and in harnessing the skills and expertise of laity to take on administrative and leadership positions in order to release ordained people for their special ministry.
- As a member of Diocesan Finance Committee I have a good working knowledge of church finance and the links between national and local funding. I strive to engage meaningfully with the annual budget debate and contribute to discussions on, for example, new approaches to diocesan funding and to clergy remuneration. I have encountered the tension of ensuring that the Church is run on sound economic and business lines whilst, at the same time, taking account of Christian principles and values to inform financial decisions
- In the recent past I actively supported the movement towards the acceptance of women bishops. The agenda in Synod for the discussion on human sexuality and the Church is underway. As an advocate of Inclusive Church, I want to listen and contribute to debate and work towards an outcome where everyone is able to participate fully in the membership and leadership of the church, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, wealth, sexual orientation or disability.
- The Church is grappling with the challenges facing small rural parishes and the maintenance of historic church buildings. In the Diocese we have something to offer and something to learn from the national work on rural ministry.
- The working through of a new Diocesan environment policy and the proposed development of wind turbines provide preparation for the wider national debate on the response of the Anglican Church to climate change.
- A review of debates and motions brought before General Synod in the last five years highlights the themes of Christian unity and social justice. It is heartening to note that Synod debate is well grounded in a commitment for the Church to have a clear voice in our secular world and to promote the principles of diversity, equity and inclusivity both in society and within the Church

If elected, I shall have much more to learn. I look forward to the challenge and to once again working collaboratively with lay and clergy representatives from the Diocese.

Pam Bishop
August 2015