



Richard Gutteridge

I was brought up at St Faith's Church, North Wilford where I got my first experience of church leadership being on the PCC at 18 and Church Warden by 20!

At 23 I was away at college, part of a large Anglo-Catholic church and at the same time a member of the college Christian Union. This meant that I had to think through issues of theology and realised that I was Evangelical but with an understanding and appreciation of Anglo-Catholic worship and tradition. Whilst at college I was recommended by Bradford Diocese for Reader training. This did not commence until I was back in Nottingham at St Saviour's Nottingham, in The Meadows area of the City. My Reader ministry has not been confined to The Meadows, I've had the opportunity to take services in a number of villages as well as some suburban parishes. I know about Evensong with a congregation of 2 in a cold village church, as well as thriving parishes with well attended services.

I have served on St. Saviour's PCC (some years as Church Warden), Deanery Synod (including a period as Deanery Treasurer and thus part of the Deanery Leadership Team in Nottingham Central Deanery) and Diocesan Synod (including being on the Pastoral Committee and Ministry Group before serving on Bishops Council between 2006 and 2009).

My employment has included working for British Rail in personnel roles, with positions in Nottingham, Leicester, Birmingham and Derby. British Rail sponsored my professional training in Human Resource Management (Chartered MCIPD). Leaving the railway on privatisation I completed an MSc in Human Resource Development before becoming self employed as a consultant. Gaining a qualification as a Social Enterprise Business Advisor I've specialised in business start-up support and business development in the third sector.

Since 1996 I've been a member (and at times a director) of The Meadows Partnership Trust which is a secular development trust engaged in urban regeneration including offering employment advice and supporting the local foodbank.

Recently St. Saviour's has adopted new patterns of church life, partnering with Meadows Salvation Army we have set up missional communities and see this as the prime place in which people develop in discipleship. We also set up KME (Nottingham) Ltd as a (social enterprise) business arm of the PCC and we are looking at a number of mission opportunities that can be developed by commercial activity. We have

opened a 4 tier softplay facility with cafe in the nave of the church which operates as a fully commercial business, see <http://www.edensoftplay.co.uk/>

All this is about transformation from traditional to mission shaped church from Anglican Parish to Ecumenical Fresh Expression. It's about meeting needs in different ways and it's not always comfortable! What is it though, is exciting and relevant to local people. The Meadows has been recognised as an area of extreme multiple disadvantage and these changes are enabling the church to connect with local people in new ways.

Whilst appreciating other traditions and situations I would bring to General Synod a knowledge and experience of life and ministry in the Inner City. A passionate desire to see changes that benefit those often left behind. The knowledge and experience of mission using traditional and innovative ways of outreach, of seeing how a business can deliver mission through leisure, housing and health initiatives. In austerity Britain such thinking outside the box is vital in meeting need when familiar funding streams are absent.

I think the whole area of Reform and Renewal is going to have increasing prominence in the next quinquennium. The re-evangelisation of the country is vital, and new ways of outreach will be needed. Pioneering work on missional communities is focusing on developing discipleship and the centrality of discipleship is part of the Reform and Renewal agenda. Whilst supportive of the vision I believe it will need to be handled carefully so that we don't just tinker around the edges and move money around without addressing fundamental issues of the way we are church recognizing that one shape does not fit all.

Another big issue that will affect the new Synod is that of Human Sexuality. I understand from scripture that God created human beings in His own image as male and female and marriage is between one man and one woman for life. I do not believe we should accept any change in the understanding of Christian marriage or perform same sex weddings in church. However sin distorts God's image in us, and our human relationships often fall short of the ideal. This means that pastoral issues need to be handled sensitively and the church must be welcoming to all.

On other issues that may arise I take Scripture as my guide and will seek wisdom from the Holy Spirit in seeing how to apply scripture to meet new situations, I recognize the Book of Common Prayer as defining Anglican doctrine.

I live alone and would put down my hobbies as being a Group Scout Leader and attending meetings!