

General Synod 2026 – Election Address by IAN BOOTHROYD

Nominated by:

Martyn Bowler
(Lay Chair,
Newstead
Deanery)

Michael Bolton
(Gedling Deanery;
member of
Bishop's Council)



Why vote for me?

- I've been a Christian all my adult life, and I remain committed to the Gospel as good news for everyone who will hear it and who decides to follow Christ
- I've experience of the C of E as parishioner, Reader, employee and trustee; and a member of General Synod
- there's much more I want to tackle at GS if re-elected (see page 2)
- I'll always report back in the Diocese and I welcome your opinions

More about me...

I grew up in Bradford and studied at Cambridge and Nottingham Universities (whilst in Nottingham, I worshipped at St Nic's). After a career in local government my last paid job was Diocesan Secretary in Durham.

I served as an elected trustee of the C of E Pensions Board from 2014 to 2019.

I've been a Reader for many years; in Stapleford until 2005, and since 2016 at St Michael's Farnsfield (some of my sermons are on the parish website!).



I became a member of General Synod at the start of 2023.

I'm married, with grown-up children. I lead a music group and the church choir. I play lawn bowls, I support a football team, and I enjoy walking in the hills.

...and my work on General Synod

In the last 3½ years I've attended every session of the Synod and taken part in every vote. From the start I pressed for clergy **stipends and pensions** to catch up with inflation – largely achieved this year – with extra provision made for clergy retiring since 2021, which I proposed two years ago.

I've been asking for **more open-ness** to give more influence to ordinary GS members – for example: on who gets appointed from the Synod; and on the distribution of **national funds**. In June the two formulas for distribution of the Church Commissioners' money to Dioceses were published, at my request. I've been appointed (if I'm re-elected) to a group which will look at the financial proposals for the 2029-2031 period.

I'm a member of the **GS Environment Group**, and since my time on the Pensions Board I've pressed for strong up-to-date policies on climate change. I supported the national decision in 2024 to disinvest from major oil companies.

I supported the **LLF process**, and the further work now proposed by the House of Bishops on same-sex relationships.

Here in our Diocese, I've reported about GS regularly to Diocesan Synod and my own Deanery. I've also reported to 4 other Deaneries which have not had a resident member of GS – I've been to **29 Deanery Synods** since 2023!

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Here are some more priorities – if I'm re-elected...

- > The **parish church and parish ministry** are the basis for the work of the C of E, and I agree with 'Save the Parish' that it's vital to support this wherever possible. National funds should be used primarily to support parish ministry in communities and dioceses which don't have enough income and resources. I'm sceptical about competitive grant schemes – and about funding new churches, if they cut across existing parishes.
- > The Government's new 'Places of Worship Renewal Fund' for listed **church buildings** is a competitive grant scheme which falls far short of the former Listed Places of Worship scheme under which VAT could be recovered. The Synod should protest because scarce volunteers, working hard to maintain church buildings on behalf of their communities and the nation, now have to raise more charitable funds to pay to the government in tax.
- > The proposed new **Independent Safeguarding Authority** should be set up as quickly as possible – to increase confidence within and outside the church, and limit the continuing damage from cases of abuse, and from the failures to deal with them effectively. The Synod will need to expedite the proposals and the legislation.
- > I support **Inclusive Church** and **Together in the C of E**. I hope that it will become possible to accept and bless faithful and committed same-sex relationships in the church.

> I'll continue to support full inclusion of women at every level of the church.

> I'll support the Church Commissioners' proposed **"Project Spire"**. This is intended to acknowledge that some of the church's assets derive from historic involvement in the slave trade; and to make modest investment in communities affected by it.

> The Commissioners have large holdings in **high tech and social media companies**, including Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet and Meta. I want to ask them about engagement with these companies on their ethics – including the safety of social media, environmental impacts and workers' rights.

The election

I hope you'll vote for me, and any other candidates you want to support, using your Single Transferable Vote. Support for more than one candidate, in order of preference, gives you more influence in the election, and it can't harm the chances of your top choices.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me:
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'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.'

