

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil. Ch.2vs3-4



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Proposed: Debbie Woods
Seconded: John Berry

Introduction: Your vote in these elections is important. I would urge you to consider all the candidates and to use your vote. Please pray and think about who you would be most comfortable representing you at General Synod. I set out in this address why you might kindly consider my candidacy and use your vote for me.

Background: I am in a family with an amazingly patient and loving wife and mother— Alison - my soulmate for 46 plus years. We have three children and five grandchildren. Although born in the south and brought up in East Anglia we have lived in Wilmslow for 39 years. I left school at 16 and became a chartered surveyor in 1973 and spent the last thirteen years before semi-retirement working in Stockport Council, latterly as their Director of Town Centre Regeneration.

I am a keen rower and currently am Captain of Runcorn Rowing club and still compete. I also coach.

My local church: I have been a member of St Johns Lindow since 1989 and for all my Christian life. I continue to be discipled and have tried to contribute.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of ministry in the crèche, to primary aged children and to teenagers. I spent many years assisting and leading bible study groups for the youth in our church. Currently I lead a Home Group and a men's bible study group and assist with the Toddlers. My wife and I work with our more mature family and friends in the "Evergreens" group. I have represented St Johns at Deanery Synod for the last 5 years and have served on the PCC for longer than I care to remember.

I love the bible and am passionate that both young and old engage with it and pray that when they do so, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus walks of the page into their hearts. The greatest miracle and the greatest encouragement and joy is found in seeing people, young and old, come to see Jesus as Lord and Saviour and then continuing to grow as a Christian.

My Commercial experience: Prior to Stockport Council I was Director of Property for a computer company and National Estates Controller for a bank. I also undertook many significant development schemes in the North West when at British Gas. It would be great to see local churches at the heart of our communities and for the church to deliver on a policy net zero carbon emissions and thus my experience in property should be extremely relevant.

In the last three posts I also facilitated weekly meetings, open to all, but primarily designed to encourage and enthuse Christian brothers and sisters from all denominations to work heartily, as

working for the Lord.

Whilst at Stockport I was part of an ecumenical prayer group for business people which met at St Mary's Church and which tried to help and pray about the social and environmental problems facing the town and borough.

Currently I am assisting a local Stockport charity with their relocation plans.

My Sporting Experience: I am committed to serving in my local communities and thus have been happy to coach and captain Runcorn Rowing Club where I have been a member for 37 years. Runcorn lies in Halton and on the border of Cheshire West and Chester Councils. One borough is significantly deprived the other relatively affluent. I have coached our juniors, drawn from both boroughs, which has given me even greater insight into what young people think and believe. It saddens me that many have no thought or knowledge of Jesus.

I have been privileged to use my rowing knowledge at Christians in Sport camps, which has been an absolute delight, as has hosting their sports quizzes for the Club and Liverpool University who row from Runcorn.

Why vote for me: I endorse the vision for the Church of England and would love us to become simpler and more humble and bolder as we hold out Jesus to our communities. To do so we will have to face up to the changes in our culture and times, which Living in Love and Faith and other reports attempt to do and to the many other challenges facing us in doctrine, in caring for the vulnerable, in dealing with our past mistakes, on the environment, on caring for the clergy as well as in more mundane matters such as finance.

I am a learner and that helps me to listen to people carefully and consider what they have to say before commenting. Although I fail, I take seriously the command to love God with all my heart soul and mind and love our neighbour as ourselves. I also recognise that God is sovereign and believe that the churches main mission is to display Jesus to a disbelieving world and to encourage each and every Christian in their walk.

I would pray that my experience, which is still current, of working with all ages – particularly the more vulnerable, young and old - as well as my professional and sporting experience would be of value to the church.

I would aim to listen far more than speak and to vote having listened, prayed and considered against my understanding of the bible.

Thank you for reading this address. Please do pray and consider carefully how best to use your vote.