

ELECTION ADDRESS



I am seeking your vote in the elections for General Synod and would be very grateful for your support, please, so that I can serve as one of your representatives. I will always be ready to listen and to value your opinions. If elected, I would be privileged to represent you and prayerfully consider any matters you raise that can be brought before the General Synod.

Personal details: Living in Nantwich, I am a Chartered Civil Engineer and work for Jacobs, a large, multi-national engineering company, as a Divisional Director on major construction sites.

My soldiering days are over, but I was the Commanding Officer of a major unit and the Chief of Staff of a military Headquarters during an exciting career. Usually working amongst teams of fellow-believers it was exhilarating and uplifting to do so. Since that time, I have continued a commitment by carrying out voluntary, military work for the Ministry of Defence, my Regimental Association and provide support for the City of Liverpool on civic-military occasions. Throughout my involvement with the Regimental Association, I have always recruited and provided a Padre for pastoral work.

Youth Service: I have spent 11 years running the Army Cadet Forces of Cheshire and Merseyside containing 700 and 800 teenagers respectively. In those wonderful experiences I had 5 clergymen as Padres under my direction; 2 at Cheshire and 3 on Merseyside; as well as a large staff of volunteers and Crown Servants. I ran both Organisations on Christian lines to the immense benefit of the children and young people resulting in their attaining the British Army's Values of; Selfless Commitment; Respect for Others; Loyalty; Integrity; Discipline and Courage both moral and physical. The Padres carried out a significant workload of pastoral work with the cadets, which was greatly appreciated by them, as well as conducting organised worship. During 2012 and 2013 I was in charge of a challenging, successful campaign against misogyny which reached the national press.

Church details: I worship in a parish of urban deprivation, running the Sunday School and acting as Parish Safeguarding Office. In the past, I have been a church warden and a member of two parochial church councils at different times.

Pilgrimages: I have been to Jerusalem and Bethlehem four times on pilgrimage. It was an absolutely incredible, moving experience which was uplifting and so powerful in reinforcing my faith. Of course, I have visited Walsingham and found that to be a profoundly spiritually uplifting experience.

Leadership: I have led organisations of up to over one thousand strong in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Personal Reflections: The Eucharist is central to my expression of my faith within a context of well-structured worship. My military background and youth service all contain the same importance for structure and regularity of routine. The continuing teachings of the Church and, of course, the Bible are pillars of my faith. Christ's commandments to love God and to love one another are fundamental to me. I support marriage as understood biblically and by the universal Church.

I would like to contribute and help the Church generally to address the overall decline in attendances. Strongly supporting, reinforcing and using our parish system I consider to be the way forward. We still have a widespread, effective footprint to reach and save all souls, which is entrusted to our clergy as their mission. The innovations of planting churches, promoting house groups and evangelising academies are all to be promoted I believe.

The pandemic has been a fascinating experience. It has been so important to me that my Church has been open any all the time that has been allowed. Its value to the congregation has been huge. Although the Church has been active through social media and Zoom throughout, as we have learned in business, they are still limited in scope. They lack the ability to address people's pastoral issues and the Eucharist needs really to be experienced in the flesh.

A lot of the population influx locally is by migrants with whom I have enjoyed working at Church. However, our penetration into those communities is limited and I would like to see us doing better.

Proposer: Peter Hart, Church Warden and retiring Member of General Synod.

Secunder: Debbie Woods, Member of General Synod standing for re-election.

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Thank you for your time. Please give me a high-preference vote.

