

## Michael Stallybrass

### General Synod (House of Laity) Candidate 2015

I am writing to seek your support for election to General Synod in the forthcoming elections. I am on the electoral Roll of St Mary's Priory church, Old Malton, am licenced as a Lay Reader to the Benefice of Malton and Old Malton in Southern Ryedale, and have been nominated by David Millican, South Wold Deanery, and seconded by John Rummel, Southern Ryedale Deanery. As a lay person, I have been Lay Chair of Southern Ryedale Deanery for three years, am a member of Diocesan Synod, and also a member of the Diocesan Deaneries Working Group.



I was baptized and confirmed as an adult, and have been a Lay Reader for the past thirty five years, offering ministry as a Reader in three different Dioceses, Derby, Worcester, and York. I am currently undertaking training to work in and support the development of a local ecumenical Chaplaincy team. I am married to a Catholic, have four grown-up daughters, and this year we celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary. Now semi-retired, but running a small specialist international consultancy business, my career in the Railway Industry has taken me all around the world. I am also half Norwegian, and regularly spend time in Norway. It has been a privilege over the years to have been a member of Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Southern Baptist and Pentecostal congregations in various continents as a result.

I bring a passionate interest in Ecumenism, Lay Ministry, the Rural Church, and the liturgical use of music. I also have a strong interest in the use of social media and the Internet as a tool for both ministry and evangelism. I believe very strongly in an all-inclusive church, which proclaims and actively demonstrates God's sacrificial love to everyone – especially to those who feel marginalised or excluded from society. This includes those who are refugees, disabled, homeless, hungry, imprisoned, or persecuted for their faith – regardless of gender, race, or sexuality. I do not belong to any organisation, political party, or pressure group. Rather, I try to approach every issue on its merits, seeking guidance from scripture and through prayer.

My interests include music, church art and architecture, and re-enacting. As such I am active in Brass Banding, regularly help to lead music in Anglican, Catholic, and Orthodox services, visit churches wherever I travel, and am a member of Regia Anglorum, on occasion working as a Viking trader.

I believe that the rich diversity of experiences that I have had in my life and in many different churches will help me discern God's will for the Anglican Church today, as part of

the global Body of Christ, in the face of the many challenges that we all face now and will face in the future.