



**TIM SCOTT**

**NOMINATORS: Canon Richard Liversedge, Mrs Jean Fenwick**

**SUMMARY**

The Church of England is facing major organisational change and restructuring over the coming years. As a church, we occupy a unique position in England, endeavouring to maintain a Christian presence in every community. I seek to continue that presence, but keeping in mind potential changes to how we may come together to worship and celebrate our faith, to enjoy fellowship together. I am a strong believer myself in spreading the Gospel through service to others where needed, addressing issues of importance to society and looking to maintain our God given planet not just for ourselves but for future generations. I would therefore value your first preference vote please, or the highest preference you are able to offer, to give me the opportunity to help our church during this period of change, to identify ways which would bring benefit to our mission and ministry for believers and non-believers.

**MOTIVATION TO JOIN GENERAL SYNOD**

Our Diocesan vision, *Living Christ's Story* with its priorities of becoming more like Christ, reaching people we currently don't, moving to growth and transforming our structures and finances, is I believe essential to our renewed focus for the future. We have an obligation to care and support others of whatever faith, and also to look after our environment by keeping up to date with climate change and sustainability issues.

Covid restrictions have underlined the importance of the social side of our church, while at the same time enabling us to explore the use of online resources far more than we might otherwise have done. If we are to reach future generations, we clearly need to adapt to modern living - we cannot expect to return to how things were before covid but must change how we operate as a church; adaptation is the key to our survival. Indeed, the role and training of the clergy may need to be reviewed and adjusted to deal effectively with the changes ahead; one size may no longer fit all. Also, we need to identify and develop ways to bring out the potential in lay members of our church, a resource I sometimes feel is overlooked.

Our church is too important to be treated purely as a business. Though finance is important to our sustainability, it must not be allowed to dominate but rather we must find realistic ways to live Christ's story within our means. We need to modernise, but at the same time seek ways to retain a parish presence. Rigour and accountability on how resources are deployed at Diocesan level, and indeed at parish level, will be essential in reshaping our church. We need to recognise that some of our traditional ways may hinder our mission, that we may need to let go of structures that are no longer appropriate. Clergy and lay need to be trained for a shared ministry, with an emphasis on enabling each other for various tasks. Tables may need to be over turned before new life emerges from our church.

Our message should be simple, consistent with Christ's story but avoiding market chasing initiatives and box ticking exercises for their own sake. We ourselves need to go and show the Gospel news to others. Not only are our finances reducing, but the proportion of the population for whom traditional church is culturally appropriate is rapidly dwindling, becoming restricted more and more to the 50+ generation. Younger generations need to see the relevance of our faith to their modern world; the Multiply initiative working to make disciples amongst people in their 20s, 30s and 40s continues to have an important role to play here. I shall seek to ensure that similar initiatives are done on a national level.

We need to be clear, gracious and confident in how we present the Gospel. In today's individualistic society, we as the national church need to remind people of the balance between rights and responsibilities. We need to re-gain our confidence in the truth of historic Christian doctrine, and the benefits the Gospel brings to society. We must take care not to compromise our biblically based beliefs, being prepared to include and differentiate as appropriate, and to pursue peace and reconciliation wherever possible. Freedom of speech is to be preserved, within the constraints of the law.

Engagement and inclusivity do indeed continue to be major issues for the Church of England. A significant initiative working its way through the system is *Living in Love and Faith*, exploring the questions of human identity, sexuality, relationships and definition of marriage. I believe such contemporary issues need to be openly discussed and debated in the light of the historical understanding of the church.

While our Christian faith should be seen as a liberating faith, seeking to care for each other and our planet, it must be resistant to demands contrary to biblical and Christ's teaching. Faith should transform not only the individual Christian believer, but our churches as corporate fellowships and also the communities with which they engage. Indeed, the Mustard Seed initiative, with its vision to enable the growth of Community Hubs as places of Christian hospitality and welcome in local communities, makes a significant contribution here in areas of deprivation.

## **EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

I have been a career academic mathematician for the majority of my working life. Following my school education in Shropshire and undergraduate degree and doctorate in mathematics at the University of London, I began my career with two years at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, followed by another two years back in the UK at the University of Durham. I then joined the UK Atomic Energy Authority in Dorset for 12 years (where I specialised in developing mathematical models) before moving to take up an academic post in industrial mathematics at the University of Hull, retiring in July 2020 having served as Head of Mathematics.

My retirement will enable me to devote significant time to General Synod. My experience with developing and presenting energy and environmental modelling to specialist and non-specialist audiences will help me interact with a wide range of individuals and I'd be willing to stand for election to any General Synod committees where my experience would be of benefit.

While at the University of Hull, I served two consecutive terms as an elected member of the University Senate to represent my academic colleagues in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. On General Synod I would seek to represent all laity in our broad church.

Throughout my career I have managed projects with varying numbers of people and resources, seeking to listen, understand and evaluate potential. I have also gained insight to various cultures from visits and time spent in Continental Europe, North America and the Middle and Far East.

From my professional background in industry and university I have developed the ability to understand complex issues, to critically analyse and assess information, to see both the detail and the wider picture, and together with my understanding of the Church of England, these skills would enable me to contribute positively to the work of General Synod.

## **PERSONAL**

Sarah and I met through Lady St Mary's church in Wareham, Dorset, where we were married in 1992; we now have a son and daughter both in their 20s and active members of their local churches in the London area. Sarah and I attend St Barnabas church in Swanland, part of Hull Deanery where I serve as the Lay Dean. I am also an elected member of York Diocesan Synod. Prior to moving to Yorkshire, I served on Salisbury Diocesan Synod and represented Purbeck Deanery on the Diocesan Board of Finance. I was also awarded in 1988 *The Bishop's Certificate in Christian Education* after 2 years of part-time study. At parish level, apart from general church activities, I have served as PCC secretary (Holy Rood, Wool in Dorset) and treasurer (St Mary's, Beverley).

I am a Trustee of Hull Church Institute (a charity offering small grants to local churches for outreach and growth) and a recently appointed Foundation Governor at Archbishop Sentamu Academy in Hull. My outside interests include cycling and country walking with family and friends.

Any questions or issues, please feel free to contact me either on [Tim.Scott724@gmail.com](mailto:Tim.Scott724@gmail.com) or by phone on 01482 631398. And finally, I should like to thank Richard Liversedge and Jean Fenwick for supporting my nomination to General Synod.