

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION 2021

RICHARD MORGAN



Proposed by Josephine Wibberley
Deanery of Cambridge South,
Archdeaconry of Cambridge

Seconded by Michael Poole
Deanery of Fincham & Feltwell,
Archdeaconry of Huntingdon & Wisbech

Thank you for giving some of your time to read this Election Address. I hope you will read it carefully and prayerfully before deciding how to cast your vote in the forthcoming General Synod election. I have the knowledge, experience and ability required to help represent our diocese and I am asking for your **First or High Preferential Vote**.

I was elected to General Synod following a bye-election in August 2017 so I would like now to serve for a whole 5-year term. Two particular items I was pleased to be able to support were:

- a) a Private Member's Motion calling on the Archbishops' Council to enable the formation of a Church of England-led task force on homelessness;
- b) a Private Member's Motion calling on the Government to end the 'cruel' experience of so-called 'pauper' funerals in a debate where members heard of the plight of those unable to afford funeral costs.

You can find some of the Reports I have written during the past few years at the Diocesan website here

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/governance/general-synod/>

Background

I have worshipped at St Mary-the-Less, Cambridge for many years. I am a member of the Parochial Church Council; Lay Chairman of Cambridge South Deanery Synod; and a member of Ely Diocesan Synod. I was also a member of the Diocesan Houses Committee for 12 years. I am a member of Ely City Council and currently I hold the office of Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chairman of Ely City Council. I live with my wife, Jane, who teaches piano in Ely, Soham and Witchford.

Evangelism

Evangelism is the essential role of the Church in this multi-cultural and multi-faith society. The Church of England is a broad church, a Biblical church, and a Sacramental church and is in a unique position to proclaim the Gospel. This is the church I know and love, and I want it to remain that way. I am a passionate believer in the parish system and as the Established Church our clergy have the 'cure of souls' within the parish system. The continual amalgamation of parishes (and deaneries) stretches our clergy too wide but I do not believe our church tradition, including priestly ordination, should be described as "key limiting factors" as we search to connect with "young people".

Coronavirus

There is no doubt that the most dramatic result the Covid Pandemic has had on the closure of church buildings is the exceedingly quick shift of religious services from in person to online worship. We may not be able to return right away. We may need to exercise caution for ourselves and those whom we love. Some of us may need to keep watching from a distance for a while. But when the time is right, God's people can and must gather again, and I hope you will join in. After all, our gatherings are ultimately a taste of heaven. The Bible's vision of heaven does not look like quarantine, a livestream, or a Zoom call. It is a "face to face" encounter with the risen Christ.

Looking Forward

Laity need to find new ways of supporting parish clergy, continuing ministerial education – and supporting more ordinands! Properly ordered worship, God-Centred, emphasising the greatness of God and our total reliance on the Creator will enhance our evangelism, and we must engage with the new thirst for spirituality which is evident in our society.

Our work amongst young people is vitally important and well-presented teaching courses will excite youngsters without the need to "water down" our faith or the uniqueness of salvation wrought by and through Our Lord Jesus Christ. The deep spiritual understanding that children possess should never be underestimated.

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