



ELECTION ADDRESS

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Dear Voter,

... or as the New Testament writer Jude put it many centuries ago:

“Dear friends, ... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.” (Jude v.3).

The General Synod being elected now, which serves during the period 2021-2026, will consider some significant doctrinal and liturgical matters, including possible changes to the Church’s teaching on marriage and human sexuality. In 2017, the House of Bishops initiated a process, now called “Living in Love & Faith” and published earlier this year, which provides teaching and learning resources on marriage, sexuality and identity, drawing on Scripture, theology, ethics, history and science. There is now a church-wide discussion on these materials prior to the House of Bishops meeting to determine its stance and any proposed changes to church practice relating to human sexuality; these will then be debated by the new General Synod.

The General Synod, consisting of three ‘houses’ of bishops, clergy and laity, is the overarching governance body of the Church of England, having responsibility for the Canons, doctrine and liturgy of the Church, as well as for matters such as finance and mission. Major changes to what the Church believes, or to its liturgy, require General Synod’s consent. Significant doctrinal and liturgical changes require a super-majority of 2/3rds or more in all three houses. If you believe, as I do, that it is important to maintain the historic, traditional, orthodox beliefs and practices of the Church, not only in the Church of England but also in the global Anglican Communion - and to prevent a major global schism by maintaining unity in ‘the faith, once delivered’ - then your vote for a member of the house of laity for the next General Synod is very important: to you, your parish, and worldwide evangelistic mission. It is vital that the ancient Biblical voice of Jude is clearly heard in the elections in 2021: major changes to what the Church believes could be decided in the next 5 years, and the very future of our Church might well be at stake.

We can see how the secular culture has ‘developed’ in terms of sex and gender issues over the last several decades and that the pace of change seems to be accelerating - in a non-biblical direction. We can also see that the Church is being infected by this surrounding, rapidly decaying, secular culture; false teachers within are trying to divide the Word from the Spirit by suggesting that the Word as written does not mean what it clearly says and that the Church can come to a new Spirit-led non-Biblical position on these matters. Not only are our Biblical foundations being challenged but the very language of debate is being twisted so that truth itself is being lost. Meaningful debate is becoming impossible on issues which profoundly affect the Church’s obedience to God’s Word. We must resist this ‘cancel culture’ mentality, a form of intellectual cancer, already causing Western civilisation, built on Christian fundamentals and true freedom of speech, to be denied in favour of self-proclaimed ‘intolerance of any views but my

own'. Repentance it seems is not required of behaviour which God calls sinful, indeed it could be blessed in this 'new' 'spirit-led' world. Let us not go there as the Church and bride of Christ. We are called to stand firm: this I will do on your behalf.

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

St. John the Baptist Church, Hartford: PCC member since 1992/3; House-group leader since 1999; Deanery Synod representative since the early 2000s; St. John's Projects' Treasurer since 1994.

PERSONAL DETAILS

I was born in 1944 and spent my formative years in Wallingford, a town on the River Thames – where I learnt to row (as in a boat, not to argue!). I attended the local Grammar School and won a scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford, in 1962. There I read Chemistry - and rowed often! After graduating - with an upper second, and an oar for 4 bumps in Summer Eights - I stayed on to do research. Jenny and I were married in 1968. I completed my doctorate in January 1969 and we immediately moved north to Liverpool as I joined the ICI Mond Div. Research Department in Runcorn. We moved to Hartford in July 1969, and to our present house in the village in 1976. In a new business development role, I travelled widely and was instrumental in setting up a Joint Venture company for ICI in California in 1988. I left ICI in 1995 when the company decided to rundown its Watercare business, of which I was then the R&D Director, after refusing to sell to us as a 'Management-Buy-Out'. I continued to work in new product/technology transfer and set up Technopreneur Ltd. a technology/management consultancy business; with international venture capital, UK company, Government and academic clients, I ran this with a physicist colleague until 2008, when we both decided to retire and to close the business.

Jenny and I had two children and now have four grandchildren, 2 in Bristol and 2 in Durham. Having attended Wallingford Baptist Church Sunday School in my early years, and St. John's in Hartford with Jenny and our children as they grew up, I finally became a Christian in 1989, really growing as a new Christian when Dr Paul Gardner was vicar. I joined the PCC in the early 1990's and have been treasurer for our various renovation and extension projects – including the £1.5m Church Centre project built in 2009/10, being responsible for achieving £40k in grant money, and the administration of congregational loans and gifts. The Lord has used my management and financial skills, developed over a working lifetime in business, to good effect in recent years.

I pray he will continue to use my knowledge and talents to his glory in the years ahead.

We lost our daughter, Amanda, 5 years ago, and then we knew the reality of God's love from our brothers and sisters in Christ; Jesus weeps with you in the pain – love **and** grace is all you need.

I have followed the ongoing Anglican Communion problems over human sexuality since 2003. I personally 'signed' the GAFCON Jerusalem Declaration when the organisation was founded in June 2008 to resist the 'truth decay' and false teaching in all parts of the Anglican Communion; to guard and proclaim biblical truth globally and provide fellowship for orthodox Anglicans. That is where I continue to stand – on the inerrant word of God – with Jude, the Apostles, the loyal saints who have gone before and orthodox Anglicans around the world today – and on my knees before the Lord Jesus Christ, my Saviour.

Proposer: Mrs Rosalind Campbell, Middlewich Deanery Synod, former GS & Diocesan member.

Secunder: Mrs Audrey Kerr-Taylor, Middlewich Deanery Synod.