

## **Revd Peter Selby**

Candidate for General Synod

I would like to introduce myself as I offer to serve to represent our diocese on General Synod. I believe that my experience as a Minister in Secular Employment (MSE) provides me with a unique opportunity to link the important role for the local church in growing and developing followers of Jesus with the life he calls us to lead in his world.



In a world that is still struggling to find meaning and recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic I believe that God is calling his Church to share the good news of Jesus as the only lasting cure for his broken, hurting creation: Synod needs to provide the structure and leadership to enable local churches to undertake this calling.

### **About me:**

- I am married to Lesley, a local GP and we have three adult children: a daughter with Down's syndrome who lives locally and two married sons, one in the army and the other training for ordination at Oak Hill.
- Since moving to Stockport over 30 years ago we have worshipped as a family at St Andrew's, Cheadle Hulme, where I served as church warden and diocesan synod representative prior to ordination.
- Throughout that time, I have worked at Manchester Royal Infirmary where I am a consultant physician and honorary professor of metabolic bone disease. More recently I have also been associate medical director with responsibility for governance – in other words I am responsible for oversight of the quality of medical care offered in the hospital.
- Following a growing period of conviction that God was calling me to ordination to witness more effectively to Kingdom values in the complex world of the NHS, I trained on the All Saints course. Following ordination in 2018, I have served as curate in my sending parish whilst maintaining the main focus of my ministry within the hospital and wider NHS.

### **What can I offer to synod?**

- The support and nurture I have received from St Andrews has confirmed for me the importance of the parish church in making and equipping followers of Jesus. Although my calling is not primarily to parish ministry I could not function as a workplace minister without the prayerful support of my parish community and would seek to support the importance of local churches if elected.
- Whilst there are an increasing number of self-supporting clergy within the church (although the majority are not MSE) we are not well represented in synod and, if elected, I would provide a voice for this group.
- Much of my experience in the NHS is directly relevant to the business of synod:

- I am used to dealing with people with a variety of different views and experiences to my own and working to establish constructive solutions. Skills such as this will be important given the contentious nature of some of the issues which the synod will have to discuss.
  - In my clinical practice I am brought face to face with several of the issues which the Synod will need to address including those relating to human sexuality and end of life care. I believe that this experience will allow me to contribute to these discussions with grace, balance and sensitivity.
  - Much of my NHS work is related to the application of ethics in practice. I have been a member of a research ethics committee and am now an active member of the Trust's clinical ethics committee. During my training for ordination I wrote a dissertation for my MA in which I critiqued the current structure which underpins medical ethics from a Christian point of view. Many of the decisions which synod will have to take depend on sound understanding of Christian ethical principles.
  - Many of the issues which have been addressed by the NHS in the aftermath of COVID are directly relevant to that same recovery process in the Church. This includes structural questions such as how we learn from the lessons of the pandemic and personal ones such as how to minimise support colleagues and minimise the risk of burnout
- In my workplace I have been recognised as adopting an irenic approach which I would wish to bring to some of areas of disagreement in synod, should I be elected.

I believe that through my calling to a dual ministry in both parish and hospital God has provided me with a set of skills and experiences which will bring a fresh perspective to many of the issues which Synod will need to address. I offer myself for election so that these might be used to help Synod provide the leadership to the Church to enable it to fulfil its calling to go out and make disciples.

If you would like further information or to talk through any issues. My "day job" means that I am most easily contacted via email ([peter@theselbys.org](mailto:peter@theselbys.org)) or you could try my mobile (07721 539081), but I am likely to only be available to speak at any length on that outside working hours.

I hope that you will feel able to support me in the upcoming election, even if I am not your first choice candidate, I would be grateful if you would consider giving me one of your higher preference votes.