

## John Naylor

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Proposed by Mr Tom Moore (Hodnet / Sambrook) and  
Mr Cyril Randles ( Trysull / Tettenhall Regis)

I would like to have a continuing opportunity to serve God and the Church that I love. The Church of England is in my blood. I was born into it, was educated by it, and have lived all my life as a member of it: I would like to put something more back into it. I offer my wide business experience and professional music skills to the service of the church. I have broad experience of Senior Management, working on Committees and Boards of Directors, together with many years of preparing, implementing and monitoring budgets and of Strategic Planning. I enjoy equally the experience of directing the music at a Cathedral Choral Eucharist and playing the organ in a small village church where only two or three may be gathered together. I enjoy liturgies suitable for 21st century congregations and I cherish the BCP, especially Evensong. I have experience of the practicalities of church life in some of the smallest rural parishes, but I also have experience of working within many of our great cathedrals. I have served as Chairman of the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance since 2012 and I have previously served for 12 years as Churchwarden of St Swithun's Cheswardine and 10 years as Lay Chair of Hodnet Deanery. I genuinely believe that I have talents, skills and experience relevant to the work of the General Synod and have the capacity to make a positive contribution to its activities. I was privileged to represent our diocese as an elected lay member of the most recent General Synod. I diligently attended almost every session of every General Synod meeting whether held in London, York or latterly online. There is much work carried over from the last Synod, not least the issues arising from 'Living in Love and Faith' and having invested so much time and effort to date on this matter I would very much like to see it through.

### ***What do I stand for?***

- I believe that The Church of England needs to continue to embrace change so that it can minister effectively to the needs of contemporary society. We should hold fast to that which is good and best in our heritage, but must be prepared to be open and flexible in our ministry of witness to the whole world. We need to adapt the training of our clergy and train and enhance the role of lay leaders to meet the challenges of the new world in which we find ourselves.
- Within the structure of the church, the role of the parish must be maintained and cherished. It is to their parish church, its clergy and its active congregation that most people, especially in rural communities, look for their worship, pastoral support and the conduct of their rites of passage. Most people contribute their time, talents and giving at the parish level.
- I look for the inclusion of all within the church: we are all God's people. I support the full inclusion of gay people within the ministry of the church. I would welcome church blessings of committed same sex relationships. I am uncomfortable with the concept of same sex marriage in church, but I am prepared at least to listen to arguments in its favour.
- I would like to seek closer cooperation with other mainstream Christian Churches; we are all Christians and should witness together. What we have in common is far more important than the issues which divide us.
- I would like to help to ensure that the Church of England uses its considerable financial resources faithfully and wisely. This is especially important in the new Covid affected environment where so much finance is needed from the national church, the dioceses and our parishes to support our worshipping communities.
- We need to continue and where possible increase our efforts to mitigate increases in climate change. The legacy that we will leave our children and grandchildren is one of the most important that we face.
- We must be absolutely vigilant with our safeguarding activities. Historic mistakes must never be repeated.
- We need to press for national support to relieve the financial burden of our many historic buildings.
- I would like to help, in some way, to help heal the wounds within the church. At times I am exasperated that, to the outside world, we seem to spend an inordinate amount of time and effort tearing ourselves apart rather than living together in unity and taking the Gospel to the world.

***Please vote for me and remember me in your prayers***

**Mrs Penny Allen writes:** *“John is a most valued colleague. He is intelligent and astute and his business experience and pragmatism have served the diocese very well in his role as Chair of the Board of Finance. He can be relied upon in difficult circumstances and he listens intently to the views of others. He thinks strategically and this is of great use in the many debates at General Synod. He is confident in speaking and has a well-developed grasp of the issues facing the Church. I recommend him wholeheartedly.”*

### **John Naylor: About me**

I was born on St George’s Day in 1948. My father was Rector of Stapleton in Cumberland, my grandfather was a Lay Reader in Manchester, and my uncle was also a vicar and my cousin a Benedictine monk: quite a church family! At the age of nine I went away to school as a Chorister at Durham Cathedral where my schoolfellows included the poet James Fenton, Rowan Atkinson and Tony Blair. After a clergy scholarship at Rossall School (originally founded as the Church of England’s Northern Public School) and 5 ‘A’ levels I went to St John’s College Cambridge where I was a Choral Scholar and read English Literature. In mid-career I attended the Harvard Business School International Marketing Programme at Emmanuel College Cambridge.

I subsequently have had two parallel careers – one in Business, the other in Music. In my business life I held various roles in Marketing, Strategic Planning and Corporate Finance. Between 1975 and 1980 I was Marketing Director of The Universal Grinding Wheel Company at Stafford. I successively became Managing Director of Britains / Petite, Giltspur International (a division of Unigate), Chief Executive of Campbell & Armstrong plc and finally Managing Director of NDI Ltd (Point of Purchase Equipment) where I was a principal shareholder. Shortly after NDI was sold to McCann Erickson I retired from full time business activity. During my business career I developed extensive marketing and finance skills, was a tutor in Marketing for PhD students for the SERC and received specialist training in Job Evaluation. I have wide experience of Committee Work, including the National Economic Development Council, the CBI, and the British Standards Institute. I successfully managed a series of major companies, was chairman of other companies in Europe and the USA and was actively engaged in mergers and acquisitions and their corporate finance requirements. Subsequently I became Chairman of ‘The Big Bird Company’, a local pub owning company, later profitably sold.

In my musical career I became organist at my father’s church at the age of 13 and I held music scholarships at Rossall and Cambridge. I gained extensive experience of singing in world-class choirs including St John’s College Cambridge, The Monteverdi Choir, The Academy of St Martin in the Fields and I was a professional member of the Chapel Royal Choir at HM Tower of London. I have performed at The Proms, in many broadcasts, most of the major London venues and have sung in the cathedral choirs of Carlisle, Chester and Christ Church Oxford.

Most of my time is now divided between church administration and conducting choirs and orchestras. In 1980 I founded The Lydian Singers whom over the last 40 years I have directed as Visiting Choir in most of the cathedrals of the UK and many in Europe. Since 2005 I have been Music Director of The Northern Concordia Orchestra and Nantwich Choral Society with whom I have now performed many of the great works in the Choral Repertoire, most memorably The Dream of Gerontius and St Matthew Passion in Chester Cathedral and Verdi’s Requiem in The Victoria Hall, Hanley. I am also Music Director of the Open University Chapel Choir who most recently have sung at Ripon, Ely, Lichfield, Chester and Hereford cathedrals.

I have served continuously on PCCs in rural parishes in the dioceses of Southwell and Lichfield since 1975. I was Churchwarden of St Swithun’s Cheswardine for 12 years, was PCC Lay Chair for 7 years and currently continue as a PCC member and Chairman of our Benefice Treasurers Group. I was Lay Chair of Hodnet Deanery for some 10 years. I regularly lead Intercessions and services of Evensong.

Since 2012 I have been Chairman of Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance. In that role, I chair Bishops Council when financial matters are under consideration, and I chair the Finance and Central Services Committee which consists of all the chairmen of the diocesan committees which are part of the Board of Finance. (The Diocesan Chief Executive reports jointly to the Diocesan Bishop and the DBF Chairman). During the earlier part of my tenure the DBF successfully progressed to the achievement of balanced budgets, but the effects of Covid restrictions have now placed severe strains on our diocesan finances: very close and careful financial management is required.

My wife and I have recently joyfully celebrated our 51st Wedding Anniversary. Jenny served as a Magistrate for 30 years and we have two children, Katy, a corporate lawyer who lectures at Nottingham Law School and is married to a senior Consultant Anaesthetist. Tom is Deputy Headmaster at Repton School, married to specialist physiotherapist. We have five absolutely delightful grandchildren. When I am not involved in church and musical activities I enjoy gardening, watching rugby football and cricket and entertaining our wide circle of family and friends.