

## General Synod Election 2021

# John (Tug) Wilson

## General Synod 2005 - 2021 (Seeking Re-election) Chair of Diocesan Synod House of Laity

**Proposed by:** Penny Allen  
General Synod 2010 - 2021  
Bishop's Council; Trysull Deanery

**Seconded:** Chris Gill  
General Synod 2015 - 2021  
Bishop's Council;  
Lay Chair Newcastle Deanery

Dear Elector

I have had the privilege to serve as member of General Synod representing the Diocese for three terms since 2005. During this time, I have spoken in numerous debates and put down amendments and questions.

Being a member of General Synod is not easy; it can be quite daunting at times. Through my service I have become well versed in the procedures and workings of the Church and Synod. This has been a tremendous help in my role in the Diocese as Chair of the House of Laity.

It is not just about speaking in debates though. I have listened carefully and reflected on the debates and then made prayerful and informed decisions and voted accordingly.

There is a lot more to General Synod than the main debates. There are bible studies, discussions groups and fringe events either as part of the main Synod agenda or in the margins particularly when the Synod meets in York. I am able to take a full and active part in many of these which is vital as these are an important part of being a member of General Synod. They help shape and inform the main debates.

### Seeking Re-election

The decision to offer myself again for election to General Synod has not been taken lightly. Since the beginning of the year I have been asked a number of times if I would stand again.

Having given it careful thought and considered the time implications, I feel sure that my experience and background will enable me to continue to take an active part in Synod business, representing and serving the Lichfield Diocese.

### About Me

I am married with two sons (one married and teaching and one qualifying as a Crown Prosecutor), and a grandson and granddaughter. My wife Ann was a medical receptionist for over 20 years with a large GP practice.

Our home church is St Chad's Lichfield where I have been a PCC member for over 40 years and have completed several terms as Warden. Through the pandemic I have produced a live weekly worship programme for the parish from my home studio.

My background is in business. For over 40 years now I have been a consultant working with major national charities, voluntary and community organisations. These include Crisis, YMCA, Age Concern and Fareshare - the UK's largest distributor of surplus food. Some of my work has been major church developments such as the Crossing at St Paul's (Walsall), St John's Preston, and St Swithun's Retford.



### Penny Allen writes:

I was first asked to nominate John (Tug) fifteen years ago. Now, after serving with him for eleven years representing our diocese, I am recommending him again for General Synod.

As Lay Chair of our diocese he represents us nationally at the Diocesan Lay Chairs Forum, discussing the challenges facing the Church of England.

Tug has chaired Diocesan Synod meetings with good humour and the necessary authority. He is acutely aware of the pressures and challenges facing the church as we emerge from the strictures of the pandemic.

Nationally he is very active with the National Deaneries Network supporting Deaneries in their mission and ministry.

He is passionate about the ministry of Lay people and has been active in promoting the 'Setting God's People Free' programme.

His wealth of experience and expertise in charitable, community and business sectors and his working life has given him a deep knowledge of the workplace and working with people.

Always interested in the views of others, he welcomes the opportunity to talk with Deanery and Diocesan members.

I hope you will consider making him a first or high choice on your voting list.

**Penny Allen  
Thank you.**

After heading up Link Line - the Wolverhampton church-based Social Enterprise - establishing it as a key support service for older people across the southern part of the Diocese I have gone on to set up a similar social enterprise operating across London.

At Diocesan level I have been privileged to serve on Diocesan Synod for many years, more recently as Chair of the House of Laity. I take an active role on Bishops Council and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. In the past I have also served on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

I was actively involved in the review and drafting of the new Diocesan Synod Standing Orders and am Chair of the Board of Patronage. I have also played a key role in the Deanery as Lay Chair of Lichfield for over 20 years.

Nationally I am Treasurer of the National Deanery Network and play a prominent role in organising the National Deanery Conference and regular live Deanery Briefings. I also chaired the national working group on Exclusion and Older People, for the Department for Work and Pensions.

### **The work of Synod**

A glance at the provisional programme for the early sessions of the next Synod indicates that once again Synod will be engaged with a diverse range of subjects including doctrine, ethics, safeguarding and international and overseas relations.

These (for example Safeguarding and the Reform and Renewal Programme) include issues that may mean significant changes in the structure and way we operate. Some, such as education, human sexuality and gay marriage and the revision of the Clergy Disciplinary Measure will really test the mind of Synod. These are significant or difficult matters to work through. I will listen carefully to the debates and support measures that will enable and strengthen all of us as one

body in our endeavours to grow the Kingdom.

It is important that, for the church as a whole, we are able to concentrate on reversing the trend in declining numbers. The challenge for this new synod will be how best can we use our resources for the Church to achieve its mission through the developing vision for the Church of England in the 2020s.

We have to engage with younger generations and not be afraid to embrace new ways of doing church and using new technology. This does not mean abandoning our traditional ministries. It is about recognising we also need to be where the people are and taking the "church" to them.

Already underway is work on ensuring we have the appropriate resources; (people - lay and ordained), properly financed and working within a framework that is simplified and easier to navigate.

### **The New Synod**

Deciding who should represent you at Synod may not be easy. I am not one to sit back. Those that know me well will testify that I take an active part. If re-elected I can assure you that I will work hard, prepare carefully and listen to the views and concerns voiced within the Diocese and represent these at General Synod.

Having read this paper I hope that you have confidence to favour me with your **FIRST VOTE** (or a high priority one if your first is committed) and thus support my re-election to Synod enabling me to serve as one of your representatives.

**Thank you.**

**Yours sincerely**



## **From Chris Gill**

### **General Synod: 2015 – 2021 Lay chair Newcastle Deanery**

*Tug Wilson has served the Diocese extremely well over many years and many will know of him as a very competent Lay Chair of the Diocesan Synod. His knowledge of procedure is second to none, and he manages debate in a firm, but friendly way encouraging everyone by ensuring that each individual and the contribution they make is valued.*

*Tug has contributed to General Synod business in a similar way over the last 15 years participating in debates, asking questions and, where appropriate, bringing amendments to strengthen or enhance the motion being debated.*

*In the last two years he has come to the fore in rallying other people to successfully change the term lengths available for Lay Deanery Synod representatives.*

*That success was undoubtedly due to Tug's high-profile work in the National Deaneries Network, where he has also enabled Deanery Synod members to learn more about, and to be able to consider, National Church Issues at a more local level.*

*When you come to select who you will vote for I would encourage you to consider giving Tug your first or a high preference choice. I believe that his experience and gifts are just what are needed in the difficult times ahead.*

*Thank you.*

**Chris Gill**

### **How to get in touch:**

If you would like to contact me there are a number of way you can do so:

By Telephone: 01543 268678

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