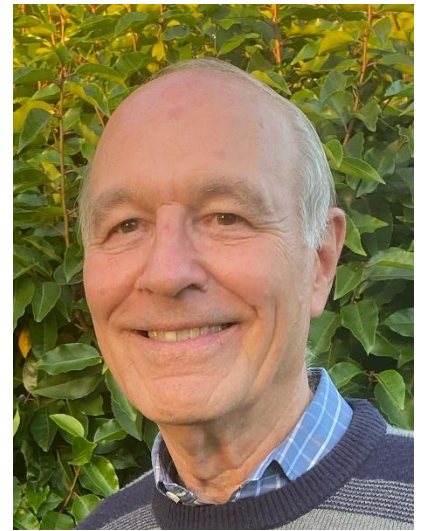


General Synod Election 21 - Statement for Graham Patey

I write to seek your support for my election as one of the lay representatives from the diocese of Hereford for the General Synod. These notes are intended to provide an introduction to who I am and to give you a feel for what I stand for. In brief, I am particularly concerned about

- young people,
- evangelism among adults,
- the unity of Christ's church,
- our responsibility for managing the planet, and
- enabling people both within and outside the church to know the Bible better



On the basis of this statement, I hope and pray you will be able to give me a high preference vote in this election. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Pamela Duggan (Hereford Deanery) and Elizabeth Bird (Bridgnorth Deanery and lay member in the last General Synod) for being willing to propose and second me.

If you have any questions or matters you would like to discuss with me, please get in touch.

Graham Patey

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Parish background

Currently I serve on the PCC of St Calixtus in a small village just outside Bridgnorth. Here I have used my historic civil engineering skills to assist the PCC in the oversight of the reroofing of the building. I also serve on the Bridgnorth Team Council, the Deanery Synod and from July this year the Diocesan Synod.

All the four parishes in which I have served on the PCC (in market towns and a city council estate) sat in the centre ground of Anglican life which has provided good experience for engaging with Christians from all persuasions in the church.

My life

My early life pre-university was spent in London, Surrey and the West Midlands. I moved to the North East of England after graduating from Churchill College, Cambridge whence I received an MA in Mechanical Sciences (engineering to everyone else!). In the course of studying for my degree, I wrote a thesis on the heating of churches and discovered there is no cheap and easy way to do it! At least it can now be done in a carbon neutral way.

Having qualified as a chartered civil engineer I worked on water supply, sewage treatment and flood prevention – all important aspects of responsibly managing the planet.

In my late 20's, I was looking for an opportunity to work alongside the less privileged in the world and was appointed director of a west African mission hospital for a year. It was a great opportunity to show Christ's love in action to patient, staff and community through the results of good administration. In the region around the hospital, there was no Anglican church and I was part of the locally led church. Together with the experience of fellowship within the hospital with Christians from a variety of church backgrounds, my view of church life and worship was richly broadened.

At age 30, I moved to work with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water which will be familiar to those who live in the catchment of the Wye Valley. There I had the privilege of working in several senior management roles including planning, logistics, finance, statutory and regulatory management and customer communications. This should all be very relevant to the work of the General Synod.

After getting married to Rosemary, we set up home in in Bridgnorth and I started a new career as a secondary school maths teacher. I enjoy working with young people and have been part of the Government 'catch up' programme to help them catch up with what they missed during Covid.

My career and service has included a strong focus on looking after our planet including our people and I should therefore welcome the opportunity to support and encourage practical measures to enable the church to progress towards its environmental and carbon neutral goals

Christian life and service

Having begun life in the Methodist chapel on the council estate where we lived, I became an Anglican when we moved at the start of my sixth form and had the privilege of singing in an excellent church choir.

In my adult life, I have been actively involved in Christian youth groups seeking to open up the Bible to young people and to present the Gospel so they may be truly converted, and become enthusiastic disciples of Jesus and fully functioning members of the church. This work depends almost entirely on building strong, long lasting relationships through regular weekly engagement.

It is hugely enhanced by residential events where young people can see in the leaders and some of their peers the reality of living a Christian life. Given the world in which they live, they find it a hugely liberating experience to spend time with Christian peers and adults, to talk, worship, pray and engage with the Bible together as well as enjoying all the excitement, adventure and new experiences that a residential event brings. I am privileged as a leader to be part of all this. The challenge for all of us in church leadership is to enable more churches to get to a point where children and young people are noted for their presence than for their absence in church. I am convinced this all starts, as Jesus and the apostles did, with evangelising adults and with making disciples of all nations.

Young people today have much less Bible awareness than when I started out. However, it is clear that adults, even those within the church, also suffer from the same lack of awareness. I would therefore support and encourage any initiatives that address these issues.

Vision and Strategy

Vision and Strategy – a major national initiative led by the Archbishop of York must be firmly taken forward with the strategic priorities

- to be a church that is younger and more diverse
- to be a church where every person has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith, and
- to become a church of missionary disciples

I should look forward to supporting and encouraging the development of this initiative.

If elected, I recognise that I would be representing all laity in the diocese and commit to being available to you and to providing feedback. I should be grateful for your first or a high preference vote.