

Andrew Cook (age 57)

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Current church involvement

I worship at St. Bartholomew's Roby where I serve in a variety of roles including:

- Deanery Synod representative (since October 2020)
- Member of the Deanery Mission and Resources Committee
- Member of the grounds team
- Sidesperson
- Mission co-ordinator
- Co-leader of a "Connect" Bible study group
- On the rotas for reading and leading prayers in the Sunday morning services

Previous church roles

- PCC member April 2019 to October 2020
- PCC member & PCC secretary April 2012 to April 2018
- Deanery Synod representative April 2004 to April 2011
- Helped on "Youth Serve" summer community projects

Other Faith related activities

- Member of Evangelical Alliance
- Member of Latin Link North West Prayer Group
- Long term supporter of Tearfund, Latin Link, CMS, CARE, Care for the Family and Scripture Union
- During the pandemic I have started to join the meetings of the Liverpool Diocese Evangelical Fellowship

Personal Background

I am married with two grown up daughters and two granddaughters.

I became a Christian in my teens. My interest in mission began even before then whilst in Sunday School where I was introduced to Tearfund and SAMS. Whilst at university I spent the second summer (9 weeks) in Peru working on a Scripture Union camp site as part of RBMU's "Project Timothy". (In subsequent years this has become Latin Link's Step Programme.)

For relaxation I enjoy gardening, walking and visiting National Trust properties.

Career

Whilst at school I spent some holidays and evenings working on local farms (near Boston, Lincolnshire).

I left school after A levels and studied at Birmingham University (1982-1985).

After university I started work in Liverpool (September 1985) and have 36 continuous service with the same company (albeit that it has changed names a few times over the years). My role as a design engineer has given me experience in working in national and international standards forums. I am used to researching, preparing

and reviewing a range of technical documents (large and small). I anticipate that these abilities to work with other people and to critique documents will be beneficial in serving on General Synod.

Why General Synod?

I have been committed, worked hard and endeavoured to be helpful in all areas of life. In doing so I have generally kept out of the lime light, tried to keep my head down and not rock the boat. However, it has become increasingly apparent in recent years that society is changing and moving further away from some of our long established Christian beliefs and traditions. Whilst the UK has had a role for centuries in making Jesus, God and the Bible known in other countries, some of those countries now see the UK as a mission field as we move away from our history. I have been challenged over the years to be more involved in some way in politics and believe that now might be the right time to change from watching from the outside to playing an active part. I can see that in many areas society is challenging the church. Some of these challenges are right to accept and change the way things are done, but that is not true across the board. I believe that we must stay true to the guidance of God's word, the Bible, even if it makes life more difficult for us. We would not be alone in such circumstances as Christians since Biblical times have borne witness. As General Synod continues to look at the Mission and Pastoral Measure, how to approach to Climate Change and how to follow up on Living in Love and Faith in the next few years I would like to offer my service to the process of determining what should change and what should be protected. In this it would be good to move the church in a growing number of areas to a place where we are positively leading society rather than being seen out dated, out of touch and trying to catch up.

Areas of interest

Mission

Providing the opportunity for people everywhere to meet and know Jesus and consequently respond with grateful love to serve the Triune God is fundamental.

Children and Youth

Our daughters have benefitted from excellent Christian leaders and role models throughout their growing up. I am keen that such provision should be the norm for all children and young people. Developing a safe environment to enable faith to start young and be nurtured and encouraged throughout life is critical to the church's future.

Worship

Arising from having family spread across the country I have had the privilege of experiencing worship in a number of Anglican churches as well as in Methodist, Baptist, Independent Evangelical and United Reformed churches. Language and consequently liturgy requires continual attention to have contemporary as well as long standing varieties to meet the needs of all of society, but must in doing so generate a sense of respect, wonder and awe as we focus on Almighty God.

Prayer

Unless we seek God and put all we do at His feet and allow Him to determine our way, we will be less than the best we could be for Him. Whether or not you support me, please pray regularly for those who are elected to General Synod.

Proposer: Richard Denno, St. Mark's Haydock in St. Helens Deanery

Seconder: Val Boyes, St. Bartholomew's Roby in Huyton Deanery