



ADRIAN YOUNGS

Archdeacon
of Bath

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I am married to Fran who is in her third year of a curacy at St Swithins, Walcot in Bath. We have two grown up children. Becca is Commissioning Officer for a Police and Crime Commissioner. Tom has just graduated in Theatre Production (Lighting) and is currently on his first UK tour of a musical. We have a bonkers Borderpoo puppy called Alfie. In my spare time I'm a season ticket holder at Bristol City FC, though in truth I am a West Ham supporter, having grown up in East London.

CAREER AND MINISTRY

After graduating with a degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD in microbiology/cider fermentation, I undertook postdoctoral research into Rheumatoid Arthritis. I was called to ordained ministry, training at Wycliffe Hall, becoming curate in Dorking, Surrey and associate minister in South Croydon. I came to Bath & Wells as incumbent in the villages of Trull with Angersleigh nr Taunton. I was there for 14 years, which included training curates, planting a new congregation, and undertaking two major building projects. I served as Area Dean, and on Diocesan Synod. I was a member of the Crown Nominations Committee that appointed Bishop Peter. Nearly four years ago, I became Archdeacon of Bath. In recent months I have taken on the oversight of a major reshaping of diocesan support staff built around our Diocesan vision and priorities.

WHY GENERAL SYNOD?

My heart and passions lie in the conviction that God has given the local church, local christian communities and local christian people, the awesome task of being the means by which his love and purposes, revealed in Jesus Christ, are shared with our local communities. The local church is central to God's plan for his world - parishes, chaplains and schools; serving, planting and pioneering, and enabling ordinary Christians to live out their faith humbly and boldly in their day to day lives. So I am passionate about helping to shape the CoE to release and resource that local ministry and witness. Biblically- shaped 'frontline' ministry and mission are my priorities in standing for election.

My time as an Archdeacon and the experience of a pandemic have brought to even sharper focus ways in which our current set-up in the CoE sometimes hampers rather than serves our local churches. How is it possible that the number of cups used at communion is more important than our being able to receive grace as we share the blood of Christ? We need to re-examine what matters in the Eucharist. How is it that when we need to be fleet of foot in pastoral reorganisation to make the most of mission opportunities, that everything is held up for months by long bureaucratic and repeated consultations. We need to be trusted as a Diocese to make good local decisions and get on with it. How is it that the future of church buildings is still in the 'too difficult to tackle' pile when so many of our parishes are weighed down with the responsibility for listed buildings, longing to use them for mission, but often short on money and people to release the potential? We need to face the challenge head on. How is it that when we are facing significant financial pressures, and yet have many opportunities to invest in new christian communities and service to the world around us, that the Church Commissioners are not releasing even more funds to the frontline? Today is the 'rainy day' that these funds have been invested for, before we slide into further decline.

These are just some of the issues i would seek to raise and address were I to be elected. Thank you for reading and considering my nomination.