

Rev'd Roger Knight BD AKC – Candidate for General Synod

I was encouraged to stand for General Synod because of my firm belief in the parish system. I am quite sure that the life of the Church of England – the foundation of our mission, evangelism, pastoral care and our contribution to society – is in the parishes. I truly believe in localism. My stance is broadly that of the recently established movement *Save the Parish*. I do not believe that the Church of England ought to become a top down bureaucracy. On the contrary, I would support allowing the clergy and people in the parishes as much autonomy with which to pursue fresh initiatives as possible and would wish to ensure that the parishes are adequately resourced in terms of people, plant and finance. I see no opposition between the need for the Church of England to be active in young, diverse metropolitan communities and sustaining our support for older and smaller congregations in the countryside and suburbs. God's resources are infinite and, so long as we are doing His Will, we shall not run out of the things we need to accomplish His purposes. Keep the faith.

What else would I stand for if I were elected to General Synod? I've been an environmentalist in one way or another for fifty odd years. I'm the one who always turns up on a bike. I am very committed to the reform of the egregious Clergy Discipline Measure. I see great potential in using the internet to reach out to, to serve and to involve people who are unable or unwilling to meet physically, but I still believe that the core activity of the Church, on which all else depends, is the meeting in Christ's Name to pray together, to enjoy the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to give thanks together, to offer praise to God, to hear His Word and to do this in remembrance of Him.

Generally, having received a liberal education, I believe in reasoning out every issue (including such matters as we are considering in LLF) in the light of a rational consideration of the evidence. As an evangelical, I seek understanding in the light of God's Holy Word revealed in the Scriptures. As a catholic, I reason things out as a member of the Spirit filled Body of Christ which has received from the Lord the truths she passes on from generation to generation. I also believe that we have to be attentive to what the Spirit may be saying to the churches today. [I am definitely not a post-modernist.] I tend to come to conservative conclusions and to be loyal to them, but I am open to new ideas and the possibility that it is time for change. I love the BCP but mostly conduct services from Common Worship, whose merits I also recognise.

I have lived in this diocese for most of my 66 years. I attended S Nicholas Southfleet as a young child and then S Matthew's Wigmore in later childhood and young adulthood. I have also benefitted from attending Sunday School and youth groups run by other Christian churches and in school and college. With friends and family members, I have enjoyed worship and fellowship in a variety of denominations. Basically a conservative evangelical with a Pentecostal tinge, as I grew older I came to appreciate more catholic insights into the Sacraments and the nature of the Church. I am honestly challenged by and open to what liberals have to contribute to the Church and her internal conversation.

I took Science A levels and studied medicine for two years at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. I graduated BD AKC from Kings College London and received an Oxford Certificate in Theology at the conclusion of my training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

I served my title at All Saints Orpington, experiencing rural, suburban and estate ministry in a large and diverse parish with an LEP on the Ramsden Estate. I then had responsibility for the Church of S Christopher Newington in the Parish of S Laurence in Thanet in the Diocese of Canterbury during which time I was also officiating chaplain to RAF Manston. I have been Rector of Cuxton and Halling since 1987 and, as a result of being incumbent of Halling, one of the trustees of the Plume Trust for the relief of necessitous clergy, which, as the longest serving member, I also chair. I have been a member of the Rochester Diocesan Synod for most of the last thirty years.

If elected, as I am sure will the other candidates, I shall seek to do my best by God's grace for the governance of the Church of England in the years that lie ahead.