



Chris Gill

Proposer: John (Tug) Wilson, Lay Chair of Lichfield Diocesan Synod

Seconder: Josephine Locke, Newcastle Deanery Standing Committee

Having spent the last 6 years on General Synod I have been encouraged to stand for election again. I feel I could contribute much more effectively now and would be able to serve the Diocese better. So having sought God's will through prayerful consideration I stand ready to be called to this work if chosen. If you believe God is calling me to serve on General Synod then your first or a high vote would make that clear.

My faith is based on the fact that I know that I am a sinner [*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*], but that through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has provided sufficient grace for my sins to be forgiven and for me to inherit the promise of eternal life. Nothing I can do will improve my lot – God has already done everything that needs to be done. For my part I have to accept the gift, repent of my sin, put my trust in God and try to follow his ways - God calls us to come as we are, but not to stay as we are. Through scripture and in prayer we must diligently seek his way for us so that we might become more like him and bear witness to his name and glorify his Kingdom.

God's great love to me demands a significant response on my part. He has given me everything I have, including gifts of administration, and the desire to give what I can back to God drives my service for the Church and in furthering His work. I am joined in this by my wife of 41 years, who has significant gifts of hospitality, and together we support each other in our work for the Lord. We are delighted that our two grown up children have a strong faith and are active in their own Churches.

Current Church Involvement

- Worship at St. Andrew's Church, Westlands in Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Lay Chair of Newcastle Deanery Synod
- Member of Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and of the Diocesan Finance and Central Services Committee
- Member of Stafford Area Mission and Pastoral Committee
- Member of General Synod
- Member of the Diocesan Vacancy-in-See Committee and served the Diocese on the Crown Nominations Commission for the appointment of Bishop Michael

The Day Job

- I am an Accountant working for the County Council as a Senior Finance Business Partner, supporting commissioners in managing annual budgets in excess of £100m
- However, I anticipate taking early retirement within the next 12 months, which should allow more time for engaging in General Synod activities and to offer my time for membership of other committees

Other Volunteer Activity

- Lead volunteer running the 6th Form Management Team Games across the Midlands Region of one of my Accountancy Institutes (CIPFA)
- Finance volunteer for a week of the Keswick Convention for twelve of the last thirteen years (in addition to attending for a week of excellent Bible teaching each year)

Previous Church and other Voluntary Activities include

- Churchwarden
- PCC Treasurer and Charity Commission contact

- Led age-appropriate teaching for our Pathfinder group (School years 7 to 9) on a Sunday Morning
- Member of PCC Standing Committee and of the Church in the Westlands Ecumenical Executive
- Member of the Bishop's Advisory Group for the appointment of Bishop Matthew
- Chairman of Governors to two Primary Schools
- Chair of Appeals Committee at St. Peter's High School, Stoke
- Volunteer Project Examiner for CIPFA
- Sought funding for and established the post of Youth Outreach Worker for the Church in the Westlands

Other interests

- Hill Walking
- Vegetable Gardening
- Motorhoming

Key Issues for the Church

The Church has many pressing issues currently – not least its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent financial impact – but it should not lose sight of its key priority to *...go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)* and I am keen to see our work develop in two key areas:

- The national statistics around participation of Children and Young People in Church are dire and we have to take seriously our responsibility to take the Gospel Message to younger generations and to nurture them in their faith. As Young People grow older, we also need to encourage them to continue to grow in their faith and to feature fully in the life of the Church, giving them confidence and support to share their faith with their peers, so that they too can grow the Kingdom. We need greater discernment and priority in reaching Young People
- Despite much good work, the Church continues to struggle with the fact that *making disciples* is something for us all to do and is not just down to our Clergy. We need to keep the momentum of our past work going and to train, encourage and empower lay people so that they have the confidence, wisdom and God's strength to invite people along to Christian activities and maybe even to share the story of their Christian journey with them. Hopefully, the new vision & strategy initiative for the Church to become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped, will offer much to encourage us in this regard with the three strategic priorities:
 - To be a church that is younger and more diverse
 - To be a church where mixed ecology is the norm
 - To become a church of missionary disciples

Another key priority is for the Church to hold fast to the authority of scripture. Scripture is the Word of God and if we do not allow this to guide our lives, then what do we use? and how can we be sure that anything else would be from God? It would be so easy to ignore the Word of God; much of this Country does and goes its own way, which I believe is one of the reasons why there is so much division, anger and hurt. Jesus was not afraid to be counter-cultural and we should follow his lead, particularly where we believe something is against God's will.

The careful study of scripture and prayerful consideration will need to underpin all that General Synod has to consider be that *Living in Love and Faith, Safeguarding, Racial Justice, Responding to the Housing Crisis, Climate Change* or any of the many other matters that are likely to come before it in the next quinquennium. God loves each of his people in a unique way and we must learn to love our neighbours in a Christ like way that helps proclaim the Gospel message to others. If elected I will endeavour to do my utmost in this regard.

If you would like any clarification on any of the matters above or any other issues then please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail mrchrissgill2@gmail.com