

Tim Bull

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Why Vote for Me?

IN MY DIOCESAN ROLES I've had the privilege of getting to know nearly all our diocesan clergy – many of whom I now count as close friends. Hopefully, you've discovered that I'm reliable, sensible and trustworthy. If we've not yet spoken, then I look forward to getting to know you.

I've also been blessed to have visited many of our churches, parishes and benefices. In fact, I believe that I've preached in nearly 150 different places – rural and urban, large and small, traditional and pioneering. So, I've gained some valuable insights into your joys and struggles, as you minister in this diverse diocese.

I hope that you will trust me with your vote for General Synod, knowing that I will represent you fairly and faithfully. However, if you're yet to make up your mind, you may find the information that I've set out here useful.

Who Else to Vote For?

AS YOU KNOW, the voting system for General Synod allows you to rank candidates in order. For the past six years, the vast majority of Synod representatives from St Albans Diocese have been middle-aged white men. So, please consider using your votes to ensure a greater diversity of representation.

C.V.

Maths degree
from Oxford.

Theology degree from
Cambridge.

PhD in computer
science from Durham.

PhD in theology and
genetic engineering from
Kings College London.

Fellow of the Royal
Society of the Arts.

Member of the Society
of Ordained Scientists.

Seven years in the
computer software
engineering industry.

Lecturer at
Durham University.

Twenty-two years in
ordained ministry.

Ten years as
a parish priest.

Seven years as
Director of Ministry
and one year as
Director of Vocations
in St Albans Diocese.

Residentiary Canon at
St Albans Abbey.

Married to Julie
with two grown-up
daughters.

My Agenda, Values and Interests

The Good News of Jesus Christ

At the heart of my life, work and ministry is a commitment to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Indeed, this gives me confidence for the future of the Church of England. I believe that the world needs this Good News more today than ever. I support the Archbishop of York's call to be a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church", and I recognise the need for change. However, within that I am fully committed to the parish system and to the key role that our clergy play in the Church's mission.

Clergy Wellbeing

While the wellbeing of all people is important, I believe that clergy need particular support. The pressures that we face are often challenging, and the role can be lonely and isolated. It's because I recognised these demands that I set up the diocesan *Clergy Wellbeing Forum*. At General Synod, I would work for clergy welfare, especially in the reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure.

A Church for Everyone

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I will work for a Church in which everybody is welcome – and that includes those who hold traditional views. It's because of this commitment that I am proud to be our diocesan convenor for *MoSAIC* – the Movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church.

Safeguarding

In recent years, the Church of England has made laudable progress in the area of safeguarding. Sadly, this has not always been the case. I support an approach which puts the needs of victims first.

Science and Technology

In the coming quinquennium, General Synod will be debating the ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI). My background as a Software Engineer makes me well-placed to contribute constructively to this debate. In our diocese, I have been running the *Take Your Vicar to the Lab* initiative. This has taken 70 church leaders to over a dozen locations including the William Harvey Heart Centre and the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Fake News and Disinformation

We live in a world where "truth" is becoming increasingly devalued. With two colleagues, I have been running a project – *Where is Truth Now?* – which is considering truth, fake news and disinformation. The project has resulted in publications, videos and events including a roundtable symposium at Lambeth Palace with two dozen eminent delegates (of various faiths and none) from the media, journalism, business, science, technology, public service and the arts.