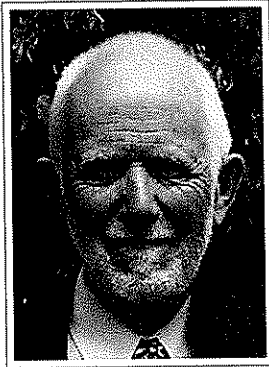


General Synod Election 2015



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Dear Elector,

Coming from the Deanery of Bedford I would count it a great honour to represent you on general synod, to contribute to debates where my competence is relevant and to later share with others in the diocese what has been happening in the Synod.

Work in the UK and Europe

For the first 28 years of my career I was a family doctor with special interests in the care of prisoners in prison and after their release, and in the care of drug users and homeless people in the community. I have served on the Council, the Central Direction Committee, the International Committee of the Royal College of General Practitioners and was an examiner for the qualification of MRCGP.

I am churchwarden at St James Church Biddenham, a parish which combines a traditional village, a large new build estate and another new build estate just being started. In the new build estate we work with a husband and wife team of pioneer ministers from the Church Army. I am a member of the Deanery Synod and run a men's Bible study group of 20 members most of which are not church goers. I also run a general Bible study and prayer group with a membership of 16, of which 3 members are not church goers and a men's curry group most of whose members have no contact at all with church. I have had 2 periods of serving on the St James Church PCC and have run a home church for another Anglican church

At our French home we have run an Alpha course in French for our local catholic church, supported and welcomed by the catholic Bishop of Cahors.

Overseas work with my wife

For the last 16 years I have worked in the Middle East and Horn of Africa and latterly was Middle East director of the Christian Mission PRIME

I worked for the Saudi Military for 15 months in Riyadh as primary care consultant, research director of their hospitals and developing the use of medical board accreditation. I ran an underground Bible Study and prayer group.

I worked for 2 years in Djibouti with an Afar population most of who were malnourished and many of the children were starving, both in Djibouti town and among the nomads. I was the only doctor for 25,000 people and effectively had no resources from the government. Our resources for a feeding programme were obtained from the UN and the medical resources from my friends in 8 countries around the world

I worked in the diocese of Egypt, North Africa Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. For one year I lived and worked in Menouf, a town in the Egyptian Delta, as lead medical team member in a project to turn round a failing Christian hospital. The training programmes in the hospital are now accredited by Duke University USA and Edinburgh University. I preached weekly at a midweek service in St Mark's Church Menouf and when Rev Richard Bewes withdrew through ill health I led the diocesan clergy retreat in 2005

I have worked as the medical member of the International Committee of Reference for the ministry of Christ Church Aden in Yemen since 2005. As well as the general oversight of the work I have run postgraduate conferences for the doctors in the Christian Ras Morbat Clinic and for the doctors in the city of Aden. When it became too dangerous to run these in Yemen we brought our colleagues to Cairo.

My Hopes for the next 5 years are:

- 1) To help members of our churches to grow in the understanding of their faith leading to increased numbers of committed people in our churches and an increase in vocations.
- 2) To promote justice for people living in poverty and people justly applying for asylum.
- 3) To work at the Muslim Christian interface
- 4) To develop lay leadership in the church, using my own experience of lay leadership and ministry in the Anglican Church and Catholic Church as a resource among others.
- 5) And to work for the defeat of the assisted suicide bill and to ensure that people are offered competent and loving palliative care.

If elected I would specifically hope to use my experience in contributing to work in

- 1) Promoting discipleship and the development of vocations in our parishes
- 2) The development of Lay leadership
- 3) Resourcing the future, particularly ministerial training

In my work I have often been working around the edges of society where there are few guidelines as to the right way to go and one has to think laterally. Resourcing has often had to be found from unusual sources. I feel that this flexibility would serve well in the consideration of how to advance our church over the next 5 years.

Yours sincerely

