

General Synod Election Address

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It is an exciting time for the Church – as a living body it always will be. Opportunities abound to grow our mission and outreach. Local communities are looking for ways to partner with us. Our church schools and education provision has never been more valued. Young and old alike are looking for connections to make sense of the world. General Synod has become more outward-facing.

All this calls for clear and committed action through Synod and out into parishes at large. Strategies and visions need nurturing and developing. Synod members need energy, enthusiasm and resilience. My passion will always be the continued growth of the Church's mission in all its many and diverse forms.

I am 42, married to Caroline and we have two young children aged 6 and 4. I have the privilege of working part time as Head of Finance for St Albans Cathedral. My professional career includes working in a global business and professional consultancy. At a Diocesan level I am an active contributor to Synod, promoting and inspiring our mission of Living God's Love. I am a member of the Diocesan Board of Finance and its General Committee and Assets Committee.

We worship at St Nicholas, Harpenden, where I am a Chalice Assistant and my wife Caroline a Sunday School leader, and at the Cathedral, where we are Sidespeople.

A bit more about me and what I can bring to General Synod

I was born in Bushey in Hertfordshire. Although baptised at our Anglican church, I went to Sunday School and Junior Church at our local Methodist church. I experienced some fantastic youth leaders and the joy of sharing a faith journey with other young people. I studied Physics & Maths at Durham University, where I had the opportunity to worship at Durham Cathedral. I witnessed the wonder of sacred liturgy, choral music and being part of a large worshipping community. A path then led to St Albans Cathedral.

In 2011, I was elected a member of the Cathedral's governing body. Taking an active role in several working groups, I was a member of the Cathedral's finance, welcome and development project committees. This gave me experience in the challenges and rewards of growing a church in the varied areas of financial stewardship, visitor welcome, fundraising and long-term development.

My professional career has involved exposure to several sectors, including not-for-profit, consumer goods, manufacturing, pharmaceutical and government. I have worked for a global beverage company (Diageo) and in professional consultancy (PwC). These roles gave me business and cultural experience in developing teams across the UK, Ireland, Africa, the Middle East and Central Europe.

Two years ago an opportunity arose to become Head of Finance for the Cathedral. In this broad role I am responsible for the management and growth of all financial activities. My work brings into sharp focus the financial challenges of maintaining historic buildings and growing mission. I've seen how using our buildings in imaginative ways not only builds financial resilience but connects many new people with the inspiring life of Jesus Christ.

My priorities for General Synod

My firm belief is we must not allow General Synod to become fixated on single issues, however important they are. God calls us to be responsive to many needs. I am someone who seeks to be balanced and pragmatic, recognising when decisions need to be made.

There is, and always will be, urgency in attracting and involving children and young people in the life of the Church. As a Dad I experience the wonder of children hearing Jesus' story and responding in how they treat those around them – their friends, teachers and strangers alike. Effective working with schools can deepen young peoples' understanding of faith and discipleship. As young people become adults workplace ministry and chaplaincy can be incredibly successful in bringing alive the Christian way of life.

The Church must continue to find new ways of engaging with and learning from the older generation, providing space for people to connect with new ideas and tackling loneliness. The CofE's place in national society gives us an established voice to influence and shape the country's social agenda. We must use this to support building a fairer society, encouraging sustainable economic growth and understanding the complex issues that matter to people like migration, welfare and elderly care.

I am committed to the Church remaining welcoming, inclusive, diverse and open to all. I hope that as people of faith we will find a way forward following the facilitated conversations currently taking place on same sex partnerships and marriage. I don't know where God will lead us but I do know we will need to listen to each other and be guided in prayer, generosity of spirit and by love.

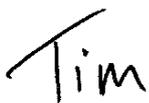
Providing the right support and opportunities for our ordinands and clergy remains a priority. It's a stark fact that we need to rapidly increase the number of ordinands to both sustain and grow the Church. This requires innovative thinking on how we train and attract people to explore and fulfil their vocation.

I will encourage General Synod to embrace all these opportunities and resource them properly. This means being responsive and open to change. Telling stories and sharing journeys. Having the courage to prioritise, take action and trust others.

I support the CofE's Reform and Renewal programme currently being discussed by General Synod. It will help us remain relevant and current yet always rooted in faith and inspired by our witness to others. Decisions will be made about how we allocate financial resources, train future clergy, develop lay ministry, simplify our structures and nurture talent. I bring skills and experience in how best to achieve change with a light but accountable touch. Synod's decision-making must be properly informed but also move with the right degree of pace.

So why vote for me ?

Our Church has the wonderful privilege of being present in some shape or form in every community. Its potential reach is truly inspiring and a gift from God. By using our two greatest assets – the life of Jesus and the infinite gifts of people – I have no doubt the Church can continue to grow. The actions of General Synod matter. I hope my brief words in this election address connect with what excites you and inspires your faith. If they do, please vote for me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.