

General Synod House of Laity Elections 2015



Michael Readman Election Address

38 St James Rd,
Harpenden
Herts AL5 4PB

michaelreadman@mac.com

mob: 07860 825963

Proposed by: Elizabeth Brown, *Secretary, Wheathampstead Deanery Synod*

Seconded by: David Nye, *Chairman Diocesan Board of Finance*

I have been a lifelong member of the church, and was confirmed while I was studying at Leeds University. I have worshipped at the parish church of St John's Harpenden for 25 years, which has a liberal catholic tradition, where I lead the serving team and serve on the PCC.

The church faces many challenges over the coming years, in a world with changing attitudes and cultures. I see this as an opportunity for the church to develop and prosper and look forward to helping to make it happen. In particular, nearly half the full-time clergy are due to retire within the next few years, and we will need to encourage young people to come forward for ordination, or other vocations within the church, if we are to re-engage with the communities we serve. Therefore we will need to find innovative solutions to fill the void, such as greater involvement from the lay ministry leading worship and mission. Synod is perceived as being slow to respond, whereas it ought to be seen as an advocate for change both within the church and the wider society.

I was delighted when the measure to approve the role of women as bishops in the Church of England was passed by Synod, but saddened that it took so long to achieve. It was disappointing to realise that the composition of the House of Laity was not representative of the views of the laity within the church. I chose to serve on our Deanery Synod with the aim of making a difference, and I am now standing for General Synod to ensure that the views of the laity are properly represented. I was elected as treasurer of the Wheathampstead Deanery Synod in 2014 and serve on the standing committee.

I graduated in Physics from Leeds University, I am a Chartered Engineer and my working career was spent in the broadcast industry, latterly as a consultant in digital television which took me to all parts of the world including India and post-apartheid South Africa.

I retired in 2012, but remain active as a trustee of two charities in the performing arts in St Albans. I have many interests including music, gardening, sailing, photography and have recently driven a steam engine!

I believe that my experience, which has taken me to many parts of the wider Anglican Communion, will enable me to be an ambassador for change by being an active listener, recognising the need to reflect that the views of the church at its grass roots are taken on board within Synod.

I look forward to your support in the forthcoming election, and if elected will strive endlessly to ensure that the church develops for the benefit of all within our communities.