

Tim Bull

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Why Consider Voting for Me?

AS DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY I work with clergy serving in churches and settings spanning all traditions. I am privileged to hear about the joys and concerns which make up your lives. Because of all these contacts – and also my ten years as an Incumbent – I believe I'd be well-placed to represent our shared issues on the Synod.

MY PARTICULAR ROLE also brings me into contact with diocesan strategy and direction. So I believe I could represent St Albans Diocese nationally, while also supporting the work of our local churches and people.

“Tim has skill in presenting ideas in simple and engaging ways.”¹

IN MY PHD THESIS, I examined the relationship between theology and genetic engineering. I would try to help the Church to engage with today's issues with honesty, intelligence, wisdom and integrity, seeking always to be guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

CANDIDATES FOR SYNOD often rightly contend that they will be balanced and unbiased. My academic study has given me an ability to weigh up complex arguments and to see through woolly thinking.

“Tim thinks rapidly, clearly and strategically.”

I ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR to work equally with all – no matter what their tradition, views or circumstances. I also try to bring a joyful lightness of touch and to never to condemn, criticise or complain.

“Tim models the Christian life as something exciting and attractive.”

I BELIEVE IT'S HELPFUL to elect at least one person who has served on General Synod before, and who knows how everything works.



C.V.

Maths degree
from Oxford

Theology degree
from Cambridge

PhD in computer
science from Durham

PhD in theology and
genetics 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

Sixteen years in
ordained ministry

Ten years as
Incumbent of a parish

Ten years as a
diocesan CMD Adviser

Member of
General Synod

Director of Ministry
in St Albans Diocese

Residentiary Canon at
St Albans Abbey

Married to Julie with two
teenage daughters

¹ The three quotes here were made by colleagues as part of my recent MMDR.

My Guiding Principles

FAITH In 1961, J. B. Phillips published a book entitled: *Your God is Too Small*. Many people have an understanding of God that is limited and narrow. I believe that a key task of the Church is – through prayer, mission, worship and teaching – to open hearts and minds to a bigger vision of God and God’s saving, transforming work in our world.

☞ This principle will be especially relevant as the General Synod considers the report from the Archbishops’ Evangelism Task Group.

HOPE It seems that we all want to see growth; but how easy it is to become dispirited by a lack of progress! Yet God has blessed his Church with an abundance of gifts – above all with *people*. I believe that by focusing firstly on inspiring, equipping and empowering everyone to live out their own personal discipleship, we’ll be able to recapture a sense of divine hope.

☞ As the Synod considers the Reform and Renewal programme, especially discipleship, it will be important not to lose sight of the principle of hope amid the details of policy.

LOVE “See how these Christians love one another.” These words come from Tertullian writing in the 3rd century AD. My dream is that the world today might look at our shared life and be struck, not by our divisions, but by our love. And, I pray that that love might overflow into acts of care and service to our needy world.

☞ With the issue of same-sex relationships likely to be on the agenda, it is more important than ever that, even if we don’t always agree, we still seek unity in Christ.

Messages from My Nominator and Seconder

NOMINATED by Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans. Jonathan writes:

“I am pleased to nominate Tim Bull for the General Synod. Tim combines a rigour of mind with a warm and generous pastoral heart and I have every confidence that he will represent the clergy of the Diocese with diligence and distinction. The training of authorised ministers is going to continue to be a hugely important area for the church in its Reform and Renewal programme and I believe Tim will be able to bring his expertise and understanding to bear as the future shape of the church’s ministry is determined.”

SECONDED by Fiona Gibson: Cople, Moggerhanger & Willington. Fiona writes:

“I am confident that Tim would be able to represent the clergy of the Diocese well but, more than that, because of his understanding of life, faith and ministry across workplace, parish and Diocese, he will also be able to consider the wider impact of Synod strategy across society.”