

From: Anthony W. Archer

September 2021



Dear Fellow Elector,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself, explain why I am seeking re-election to the General Synod, and tell you what I have been doing during the last six years and where I stand on some of the challenging issues facing the Church of England going forward. I am most grateful to fellow Readers, **Tricia Humber** of Dunstable Deanery and **David Nye** of Wheathampstead Deanery, who have respectively proposed and seconded my nomination.

Personal

Born in 1953, I am a law graduate and later qualified as a chartered accountant. The greater part of my career has been in the executive recruitment industry. I now enjoy something of a portfolio career, since leaving full-time employment in 2010. My interests as a management consultant are in the areas of senior appointments, and board and governance consulting. I am a licensed Reader in the diocese, serving in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry. I try to stay grounded in local parish work, preaching usually once a month, and leading a mid-week group, which has been meeting on Zoom since the first lockdown in 2020.

Vision and Strategy

The General Synod needs representatives in the House of Laity who, together with the House of Clergy and House of Bishops, can fully represent the Church of England and discern a common vision for its future. You don't need me to tell you that there are myriad challenges currently, some of which may be very evident in the parishes where you serve. Under the leadership of the new Archbishop of York, a strategy is evolving for the Church in the 2020s, a simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped. There are some buzzwords in this which are capable of being misunderstood, including 'mixed ecology.' This is a reference to the strategic priority where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, schools and chaplaincies. One of the bright spots recently has been the excellent investment performance of the Church

Synodical and other experience

Diocesan Synod

House of Laity 1993 – 2010; 2013 – date
Chair, Council for Discipleship and Ministry 2014 – 2017

Bishop's Council 2013 – 2017

St Albans CNC 2008

General Synod

House of Laity 1993 – 2010; 2015 – date
Crown Nominations Commission
2005 – 2007; 2017 – date

Oak Hill Council 1996 – 2001

Wycliffe Hall Council 2001 – 2011

(Chair, Nom. & Gov. Committee)

Appointments Committee 1999 – 2005

Panel of Chairs 1999 – 2004

Advisory Board of Ministry 1994 – 1999

Private Member's Motion – Senior Church Appointments (which led to the report *Talent and Calling*) 2005

Other experience

Trustee, Ozanne Foundation 2017 – 2020
(Treasurer 2019 – 2020)

Governor, Royal Brompton & Harefield

NHS Foundation Trust 2016 – 2019

(Chair, Nominations Committee of the Council of Governors 2017 - 2019)

Dacorum Vaccination Centre Volunteer 2021

Commissioners which has enabled more funds to be made available, through the dioceses, to develop and support ministry on the ground. Significantly, the Commissioners were able to make substantial additional funds available to support dioceses in the pandemic, a task which may need to continue. Much of the strategic funding is for new forms of Church, but I am keen to ensure that this is invested in partnership with the historic, inherited model of parish ministry. Synod members need to hold the leadership, both nationally and in the dioceses, to account. I have tried to make it my task to ensure that the deaneries that I report back to (since 2015, Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead) understand how the national church is leading, but also ensure I listen carefully to, and understand the realities of, the stories and experience of ministry in the deaneries and parishes. While serving on the Council for Discipleship and Ministry in the diocese, until 2017, I took a keen interest in the strategy for lay discipleship. This remains of huge importance nationally and locally.

Episcopal Leadership

My principal work on the General Synod has been in senior appointments, and it has been my privilege to serve as an elected central member of the Crown Nominations Commission since 2017, for a five-year term which ends on 31 August 2022. I am keen, if you re-elect me, to be able to serve out this term, during which the CNC will consider six further diocesan vacancies. How the Church is led, and how we discern and nominate our bishops is crucial going forward. The CNC (both its central members and those elected from the dioceses from each vacant see) has made nominations to ten dioceses, including the Bishop of Dover, since 2017, of which five are women, two of whom have a minority ethnic background. That is a significantly better record than in previous years, but I am committed to trying to ensure even greater diversity. I have been a member of Women and the Church (WATCH) for a number of years.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

The 2021 – 2026 quinquennium will see the next stage in the same-sex marriage debate. LLF is being discussed in the dioceses and the House of Bishops is committed to bring proposals to the General Synod, probably in November 2022. I am cautiously hopeful that LLF, which is the only game in town, will assist the debate. The Church will never be of one mind on this issue and needs to learn to live with difference, for the sake of the Gospel. This is a mission imperative. My own position is clear. I am an affirming evangelical and Inclusive Church-supported candidate, 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.

Please give me your first preference vote if you share my concerns on these issues. I am keen once again to be your voice on General Synod and undertake to serve the interests of the diocese, if elected. In any event, please exercise your vote prayerfully and give me the highest preference vote you feel able. If you would like to talk to me and raise any issues, please call me on 07721 504125 or send an email to anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Archer

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