



# Tim Fleming

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**Harpenden, Hertfordshire**

Proposed by:  
Rosemary Campbell, St Albans Deanery

Seconded by:  
Janet Bird, Hertford and Ware Deanery

It has been an honour and privilege to serve the St Albans Diocese as a member of General Synod since 2016. I very much hope that you will allow me to continue to serve for a second term by giving me your first preference vote or the highest preference you feel able.

## **WHO AM I ?**

I live in Harpenden with my wife Caroline and two young boys aged 10 and 12. I am 48 years old and a life-long resident of Hertfordshire.

We worship at St Nicholas Church in Harpenden, where I am delighted to serve occasionally as lay Sub Deacon.

I am the Chief Operating Officer for St Albans Cathedral, providing direction and leadership to a wonderful team across the four strands of strategy, finance, people and operations. Prior to working at the Cathedral, I held several roles at a FTSE-10 plc global beverage company (Diageo) and in professional consultancy (PwC).

Outside of work I enjoy the outdoor life, take pride in the community in which we live and serve the diocese more widely where I can.

## **MY EXPERIENCE FOR GENERAL SYNOD**

- A sound working knowledge of how General Synod operates
- Wide-ranging professional skills gained from both the commercial and charity sectors
- An understanding of the challenges and opportunities of sustaining historic buildings
- Proven experience in governance, finance, people development and cultural change
- Member of St Albans Diocesan Synod since 2012
  - Member of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Chair of the Audit Committee
  - Member of the Diocesan Board of Education
  - Member of Bishop's Council
- Trustee of the Cathedrals Administration and Finance Association
- An ability to operate across the detail and strategically, an essential skill for any member of General Synod

## **WHAT SHAPES ME IN MY APPROACH TO SYNOD DEBATE ?**

The potential reach of the Church through the love of Jesus Christ is truly inspiring and a gift from God. How we use what we have been given, through our people, parishes, buildings, chaplaincies and places of learning is important.

The experiences of children and young people through Church and at school shape how they treat and respond to others – their friends and strangers alike. We have wonderful engagement with many schools, but there is more to do in strengthening and building these relationships.

I have first-hand experience of seeing how our use of buildings in imaginative ways not only builds financial resilience, but connects many new people with the life of Jesus. We create opportunities when we listen to our local communities and adapt how we do things.

In our role as the established Church, we have a responsibility to model a fair society and not be afraid to engage in national debate or use our influence where appropriate. Examples include the economy, education, community life, racism, the climate crisis, abuse and inequality.

The wellbeing and training of our clergy and lay leaders must not be forgotten. It goes hand in hand in ensuring we continue to attract people to explore and fulfil their vocations.

## **BRINGING BALANCE**

As a younger member of General Synod and someone who is still in employment, I can bring perspectives to debates and votes that otherwise are not heard.

Always careful to listen to the experiences and gifts of others, I try to look beyond my own thinking in the knowledge that this can guide us towards a better outcome. The Church is richly blessed in its many ecumenical and other relationships, and these are to be encouraged.

I will push for equality for all, putting aside gender, ethnicity, age, disability, economic status or sexuality. At the moment, in many areas of Church life this simply isn't the case. Without it, our Gospel message of Christ's love for all becomes too often crowded out, or lost altogether.

Good governance is one of the ways by which the Church is tested and viewed by the outside world. In the last Synod, I was appointed to the revision committee for new legislation improving governance and accountability across England's 42 Anglican cathedrals. I talked about the need for our cathedrals and churches to reflect a sense of inspiration, deep mission and grace; saying 'care is at the heart of good governance, care is at the heart of the Church, and care often means recognising things aren't binary'. It is that care which I will bring.

## **YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT**

I am very careful to ensure I avoid missing any substantive votes at Synod, and my voting record shows this. By voting for me, you can be assured your own vote will count. You can find my reporting from Synod's sessions at [www.timflemingblog.wordpress.com](http://www.timflemingblog.wordpress.com)

In my day job I often say that cathedrals benefit from being both a constant foundation and places for innovation. Organisations only thrive if they are trusted, if they are responsible, if they are welcoming and if they live out what they stand for. If re-elected to General Synod, I will continue to push for a Church of England that does the same.

With my prayers and best wishes

Tim