

## GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION 2021



**ANDREW YATES**

### **Ministry in Truro Diocese and Elsewhere**

It has been a privilege to serve in the Diocese of Truro for 18 years, currently as Priest-in-charge of Paul and across the parishes of the Penlee Cluster in Penwith. Previously I worked in the benefice of Tresillian and St. Michael Penkivel in Powder Deanery. Both of these parochial appointments have been dual-role ministries alongside the post of Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer (SRO); supporting churches' involvement within their local communities.

Prior to coming to Cornwall I ministered in inner-city Sheffield, rural Suffolk, in a former pit village in the East Kent coal field and in a parish in Lenny Henry's home town where I also acted as industrial chaplain to a large Shopping Centre. So I believe I have a wide experience of ministry in different contexts – knowing both its challenges AND its joys.

### **General Synod Representative 2015 -2021**

I hope you will feel that the trust you put I me at the 2015 election has been justified

I led the successful passing of the Environment Motion at the February 2019 Synod. This motion, originally sponsored by Truro Diocese, was combined with one from London Diocese. The composite motion called for a senior staff member to be appointed as an Environment lead in each diocese and the setting up of a simple energy measuring tool. It was passed with a very large majority and also gave our new in post Bishop Philip a platform for his maiden speech. Collaborative working with members of another Diocese was a positive experience bringing new ideas and a broadening of the Climate Change work here.

It is clear in both my work as a parish priest and as the SRO that one of the major issues facing our communities is housing and the crisis of finding affordable homes for those many families who are feeling so vulnerable at this time. I am sure this will be your experience too. As I look to the work needing to be done by the next General Synod housing must become a priority. If elected I would aim to work in a similar way to bring forward a motion on housing which would positively commit the church at diocesan and parochial levels to making a difference in this area. There is already much interest around in the national church as a result of the Archbishops' Report 'Coming Home'. Again, I would seek again to partner with a more urban diocese to both strengthen the case for such a proposal and for the opportunity

to learn from their experiences and feed back in to our approach as a church in Cornwall and to other organisations such as social housing providers and St Petrocs Society

I have been pro-active at Synod Question Time by regularly asking questions which are then posed to the relevant central Church body. I submitted questions on a number of topics including the use of the Low Income Community Fund ( LICF ), on the number of diocesan staff that were furloughed in COVID as well as questions relating to the Environment linking in to our motion. I see this as an important opportunity to raise concerns that myself and fellow clergy want to be considered at this national level. If elected I would be open to taking yet more suggested questions from fellow clergy and asking them at Synod on your behalf.

### **Clergy Covenant for Well Being**

The role of the priest is changing dramatically. As On The Way is introduced across the Diocese and multi-parish benefices become the norm, there are increasing pressures on us within our day to day life and work as clergy- and on our families too. I have followed closely and supported the Clergy Covenant for Well Being. Its aim is to promote a culture in which all Christian disciples, through mutual care and personal responsibility, model a way of being that expresses something of what it means to have 'life in all its fullness'. I believe the principles it embodies have great potential for creating a mutual support system and our General Synod reps need to ensure the Covenant is introduced and monitored for effectiveness in our Diocese so that we and where appropriate our families can benefit.

### **Raising Cornish Challenges and Show-casing Church Social Action Projects**

Cornwall remains an area of the UK facing huge economic challenges. Our low wages and high house prices economy continues to impact on families living and working here. All of you will know from your pastoral contacts the challenges many still face through the pandemic; the devastating impact that will result from increased fuel prices and the cut of the Universal Credit uplift. Cornwall is going to need every opportunity available to us to raise the issues of deprivation that are to be found in so many of our parishes across the county. Through my work as Social Responsibility Officer I am well acquainted with the church based projects that are out there serving the most marginalised. As a General Synod member for Truro Diocese I am in a good position both to highlight the case for special consideration for Cornwall and to show case the excellent work being done by our churches through Food Banks, Meals for the Homeless, Street Pastors and other social action projects

### **Prayerful Approach to General Synod Membership.**

My final commitment, if elected, is to approach this privileged task in a fully prayerful way – looking at every issue that is presented to Synod in a holistic way. My diocesan role enables me to encounter the wide variety of opinions across our Diocese on the challenging issues of our day. I promise to listen reflectively to these different voices as a key factor influencing my decision on how to vote in the debates. I will endeavour too to encourage parishes and diocesan bodies to see the importance of undergirding the work of General Synod with prayer.

I firmly believe that an openness to God's guidance in these matters must be a priority.

Thank you for reading this address. In the run up to the election I am very willing to be contacted by any of you should you have any questions that you would like to ask me.

Andrew Yates [srotruro@btinternet.com](mailto:srotruro@btinternet.com) 07773088906 [www.penleecluster.org.uk](http://www.penleecluster.org.uk)