

VIVIAN HALL for General Synod 2021 What can I bring? I am middle-aged, and currently a Local Worship Leader (formerly Churchwarden) on Bodmin Moor. This is my first time standing for membership of General Synod and, if elected, I fully intend to speak as frequently as possible in debates on a range of subjects and will seek to bring a distinctive and youthful voice. I believe that the Synod should value integrity over conformism, and rationality over emotionalism. I would describe my churchmanship as central and traditionally Anglican, with an emphasis on theological rigour.

I believe in a Church of England which:

➤ Understands that the real work of the Church is done in the parishes. The parish church has a vital role to play as part of the glorious inheritance of the Church of England. We must fight the idea that clergy, their theological training and our buildings are in any way “limiting factors”. I stand as part of the “Save the Parish” movement. I would invite everyone to watch the video of the inaugural meeting in August on the web which underlines the serious position we face. Parish churches are the ‘engines of mission’ in the Church of England. It is through direct personal contact with local clergy and congregations that the message of Christ’s Gospel is brought to the people and the love of God reaches out into the community every day. This is where the real work of the Church is done: not by committees, synods and ‘advisers’. The Church must steer clear of managerialism and centralisation and strive to avoid top-heavy and wasteful bureaucracy which places burdens of time, energy and money on the parishes. As custodians of major financial resources, the Church must act as responsible stewards entrusted to deploy these assets to ensure that Parish ministries are faithful and fruitful.

➤ Understands the need for mission. The Church of England has ageing and declining congregations. We must take steps to mobilise our resources to reverse the decline in numbers and the consequential weakening of our influence nationwide. We need to seek a reassertion of the ministry, especially to young people and in the encouragement of the taking up of vocations. We must be willing to reach out to people and be open to learning from ‘success stories’ across all Church traditions, engaging with unchurched people by planting new churches and holding services and activities at times and places where such engagement is possible. Christ’s Great Commission is to go out and

make disciples, but we must also develop the discipleship of existing worshippers. We must therefore avoid any temptation towards forever seeking novelty in preference to tradition and adhere to our faith against circumstances, however inconvenient.

➤ Will confidently challenge secular culture. We should be clear and humbly confident in our historic message and in the teaching and proclamation of the Word of God. Our age is dominated by the increasing incomprehension and sometimes hostility of some opinion to Christianity. This can all too easily lead to pressures on the Church to accommodate itself to the secular culture, in the belief that this will make us appear more relevant or acceptable. We are called to give a coherent and authentic presentation of the Gospel, not to be 'conformed to this world'. We must take a positive role and exercise leadership spiritually and morally, challenging the present secular culture. We need to recognise the vital importance of family as God's gift.

➤ Will use the Book of Common Prayer (1662) within the 'mixed economy' of worship. As a committee member of the PBS Truro Branch, I shall continue to defend and promote the BCP, which has shaped the doctrine and spirituality of Anglicanism for over 450 years. The Church should not fear the continuance of the timeless beauty through which generations of Anglicans have been nurtured in their faith and helped to glimpse the holiness of Almighty God. All churchgoers—including young people and newcomers—also deserve the opportunity to come to know and love it.

➤ Supports the sanctity of life. Anglicans have rightly been clear in our opposition to assisted suicide. Although we should all be motivated by compassion for the terminally ill, doctor-assisted suicide would help to foster a dangerous undermining of the sanctity of life, potentially leading to many vulnerable elderly people choosing death in order to avoid 'being a burden' on their families. We should never abandon them or doctors to this horror.

If elected, I shall undertake my duties to the best of my ability. I would be grateful for your first preference vote, or the highest vote you are able to give. If elected, I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss Synod matters with you, your PCC, or your Deanery Synod