

ELECTION ADDRESS FOR GENERAL SYNOD 2015

PROFESSOR DAVID WAY CBE, MSc, BSc (HONS)



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David Way

Why I am asking for your nomination to the General Synod

I believe that the Church can do much more to improve the lives of people who live in this country as well as those enduring poverty and conflict across the world.

Our Christian voice and actions will be vital to tackling serious and challenging domestic issues such as homelessness where we can give practical help, hope and comfort to so many people.

We also need to ensure that the Church brings understanding, charity and compassion to the greatest international challenges, especially to migration and its causes.

I want to help develop clear and confident messages from the Church at a time when people are seeking insights and perspectives that feel right and give them hope.

Recent politics has shown that people appreciate individuals and organisations of principle rather than platitudes. This is our Church. This is our opportunity to attract more people to listen to Christian views.

There has never been a better time for the Church to grow in membership, confidence and influence, to be the strong voice of reason and caring.

My experiences in the Church

I am a Churchwarden at St Mary Magdalene, Tanworth in Arden, Chair of PCC meetings and the Worship Advisory Group, a member of Shirley Deanery Synod and of the Birmingham Diocesan Synod.

I believe that being a member of local, Deanery and Diocesan bodies enables me to hear and represent the views of many more people throughout our church family.

I have been actively involved with Growing Younger within the Diocese, especially advising on the strategy for Mission Apprentices; and sharing my experiences with the clergy who mentor and manage them.

My experiences outside of Church

My career has been mostly in the public sector, helping to tackle unemployment and give young people the skills they need for work. I have worked at the highest levels of Government and the Civil Service.

My most recent job was as Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, working with thousands of employers and young people to successfully revive Apprenticeships in this country.

This role gave me direct experience of working with politicians, key influencers and the national media.

Previously I worked in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region tackling issues of urban and rural regeneration. This gave me a real appreciation of diversity and how communities manage to work together to raise aspirations and tackle complex and long-standing problems.

I was awarded the CBE in 2011 in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for my work on Apprenticeships.

I am now semi-retired and able to give more time to work for the church.

My Gifts

I have considerable experience of working with national bodies and making a difference.

I am an effective contributor and influencer within committees and with politicians, practised at building consensus and agreeing action.

I am good at listening and analysing issues and then developing solutions. I am reflective and considered in my approach.

I understand the importance of good communications.

My passions

I want to continue to learn and make a difference as a Christian.

I want to bring more people into church, especially more young people.

I really care about youth unemployment, education, giving people the skills and confidence they need to succeed in life, homelessness and poverty.

I want to use my experience of operating at a national level and my understanding of the complexities of public policy, political and secular working to grow the Church and help shape a more tolerant, just and spiritual world as Christ would wish.

Finally, more about me

I am married to Margaret and have two grown up children and two granddaughters.

I am grateful to my sponsors who are Pat Saunders who chairs the governing body for Tanworth in Arden Academy and Fran Kruc who works with a number of charities in the region.

I ask for your support for the honour of becoming a member of the General Synod.