

General Synod Election Address

Geoffrey Shuttleworth JP

I am standing for election to the General Synod as I believe that I can make a positive contribution on behalf of this Diocese.

Having served on General Synod since May 2014 I have gained valuable experience of the complexity of Synod. I was privileged to vote in the final vote for women bishops and see the successful outcome of this process. I have voted on a range of issues and contributed to group discussions; I made a written contribution to the revision of Guidance on Clergy Conduct and supported the work of Birmingham Diocese to influence the Church of England's climate change and ethical investment policies.

I have served on the Birmingham Diocesan Synod since 2003, including 9 years on Bishop's Council and 6 years on the Finance and Property Sub-committee. In Committee I spoke up for the smaller and less well-off parishes and in Synod I spoke in favour of women in the episcopate. I have served as a Churchwarden, covering two interregna, and as PCC treasurer. I contribute to debate at the Handsworth Deanery Synod and now serve as Deanery Treasurer.

I retired from work as a Civil Servant in 2006. During my career I carried out company audits within a wide field of activities. I investigated fraud and I managed teams responsible for fiscal and regulatory control of commercial bodies, for human resources and for estate management and budgetary control.

I serve as a Justice of the Peace sitting on the Birmingham and Solihull Bench in Birmingham. My experience as a bench chairman in Adult Court and sitting in the Youth Court has given me a good understanding of many aspects of life. This is voluntary work that I have been undertaking since 1999, giving me regular contact with fellow Magistrates who are community leaders from across a wide range of faiths and cultures.

I am a voluntary youth leader with The Scout Association. I lead a Scout Group within Handsworth Deanery, that provides structured activities within a faith framework for young people, both boys and girls from 6 to 18 years. I am supported by my wife, Pat, who is the Cub Scout Leader.

My wider role as Commissioner responsible for International Scouting within Birmingham brings me into contact with young people from all over the City and the world. By taking young people abroad and in facilitating visits and welcoming visitors from other countries, I see aspects of life from many different cultures. Within this role I am involved in a city-wide programme of inter-faith understanding between young people.

Within the Scout Association I have chaired Regional Committees and have been involved in the formulation of National Policies.

Most importantly, regular weekly Scouting gives me a good understanding of the needs and aspirations of our young people.

Since leaving Aberystwyth University I have been a member of the former students' Mountaineering Club and was for 28 years a member of a Mountain Rescue Team in Snowdonia. I enjoy walking and regularly go rock-climbing.

I believe that I have the experience, qualities and energy needed to fully represent this Diocese at General Synod.