



## **Nigel Clarke – Synod Election Address**

I have been a member of my local congregation since 1990, through two buildings, five incumbancies and two vacancies, and have served two terms as Church Warden, both covering periods of vacancy.

I am corrently: a member of my Church Council, licenced to administer communion by extension, offering intercessions, reading, and preaching about once a month.

In the past I have organised and conducted Sunday schools, and took an active part in fundraising for, and procuring the new Church building.

I am a self employed Architect – not quite retired! Married for 45 years with with two grown-up children

I am chair of Hanwell Big Local Partnership – a lottery funded local initiative, commissioning social/environmental schemes and initiatives over a ten year period, to the total value of over £1 000 000.00.

If elected, I would aim to

**Support the archbishops** in keeping their pledge to support the parish as the best means of evangelism.

**Put the "frontline first"**, ensuring that resources that properly belong to and are generated by the parishes remain at parish level, freeing up laity and clergy for mission.

**Ensure that law and projects which initiate from the centre all support and enhance the parochial system** by integrating the Strategic Development Fund into the parish and opposing the revision to the Mission & Pastoral Measure which would make it easier and quicker for the dioceses to close churches, make priests redundant, and throw priests out of their homes.

I believe that effective mission requires the prioritisation of spending on **good theological education** as a crucial investment.

I will support the call for a Church-State commission to agree a national plan to **protect and preserve historic parish buildings**.

More importantly, I recognise and value the Church's "establishment", and the necessity of its voice being heard in current environmental, social and political debates, but I note that, in entering these debates, it does so on the World's terms; it succeeds thereby in diminishing its authority and speaking without effect, and its center of gravity shifts from the inner, the spiritual and the eternal, to the outer, the worldly and the transient.

It is losing touch with that which inspires and energises.

I will do what I can to convince the Church that this is her biggest problem.