

Election Address – His Honour Ian Morris



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My application to be a member of the General Synod comes about because of the call for independent lay members who will call the Church to account – hence me, an ordinary member of a congregation to whom Christianity is important, who believes that he can bring something to the table.

I am a retired Circuit Judge who has served as a Deputy High Court Judge. Approaching problems with an open mind and finding the correct solution through both intellect and faith in God I served particularly as a Designated Family Judge for Herefordshire & Worcestershire and Liaison Judge for the lay Magistracy of those counties. I have chaired and taken part in several NHS enquiries when things have gone wrong. In the early 1980s I set up '*Alphega*' – a charity devoted to neighbourly care of the terminally ill which became The Birmingham Cancer Support Group before later in effect being merged into Macmillan Cancer Support.

Since my retirement I have chaired the Bromsgrove International Young Musicians Competition and set up the Bromsgrove Young Musicians Platform to help young musicians on their journey of public performance. I also have significant experience in the prosecution of child abuse and have contributed a research paper to the International Journal of Child Abuse. I have published both poems and a book and enjoy writing. Life also includes regular mentoring undergraduate students at my old Oxford College. My wife and I now live in Sunbury-on-Thames to be nearer adult children and both of us attend and play respective parts in the Parish of St Mary's.

I believe that the current problems that the Church of England faces need very careful appreciation and management; that the richer churches should be more directly financially assisting many poorer parishes that are struggling to provide the important spiritual leadership of their congregations through markedly limited available time of their Parish Priest, on whose shoulders the overcentralised hierarchy has placed year upon year a burden that would not be tolerated in the outside world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morris', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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