

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION REPORT

Since I came to the Church of England later in life – I was not confirmed until I was in my 60s – I have come to realise its pivotal role in this country, and in the world, and I would like to support and work for it in any way possible.

I began by serving as a Church Warden, on the PCC and on the Deanery Synod. I have also trained to be a Licensed Lay Minister. The essential value of the Church of England is seen, for example, in the parish system that holds together the rural communities of the country where it takes on many essential roles. In cities, it acts as the glue that holds together the sacred and the secular in many different spheres of life.

The influence of the Church of England cannot be underestimated in promoting the well-being of the nation. The rising number of people, including children, who suffer from poor mental health is, it seems to me, directly linked to a lack of exposure to and engagement with Christian ideas and practice. Not only this but the downright hostility to the Christianity that is perpetrated by certain bodies, the lack of religious education, and the diminishing media coverage of any positive news about the Church of England, all combine to erode the public perception of our values, beliefs and practises.

The unseen benefits of faith and gentle support of grace are brushed aside as wishful thinking. Yet, undaunted, the Church of England perseveres, continuing on its mission.

I would like to lend my support to this great Christian Body in a more substantive way. The extraordinary beauty of many churches and cathedrals, the haunting legacy of its liturgical and musical traditions, the power and healing nature of its worship, and the seemingly tireless resilience and energy of its clergy and lay people bear witness to the glory of God, the saving grace of his Son Jesus Christ and the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

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