

Peter Kelsey

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Proposed by: John Paulson

Seconded by: Liz Meaden

I am seeking your vote in the upcoming elections, because I believe that I have a lot to offer as a lay member of General Synod. I want to commit to the Synod and be there to represent the Diocese of Derby.

I believe that:

- Jesus wants his church to grow and his word be heard across the nation.
- We have an obligation to use our God given talents to help enable this to happen.
- We must be an outward looking community, seeking to include all made in God's image.
- We have a responsibility to our current congregations, to nurture and provide for them, whilst we also look outwards in mission and make disciples.
- In Matthew 18:20 there is no differentiation between traditional, urban, rural, charismatic or any other type of Christian gathering; just "where two or three are gathered in My name". We should celebrate and help to grow all expressions of Christianity.
- We must involve the laity in Deanery and Diocesan policy making to ensure that the whole church moves forward together with a common purpose to the glory of God.
- In practical terms we need more clergy and to maximise the productive input that we can achieve from all laity and clergy.
- In financial terms we need to follow the Charity Commissioner's guidelines and not seek to constantly build capital at rates above inflation.
- With God's help and guidance, we can grow the church and with growth most of our current distractions disappear. Without God's help we can do nothing.
- Attitudinally we must ensure that belonging to a church is a friendly, warm, encouraging and supportive place to be and not a petty or judgemental one.
- Everything that we do should only be done after prayer and seeking Christ's guidance.

Who I am:

- I have lived in Derbyshire for 20 years.
- I have moved around the country with work a lot before settling down in Sheffield prior to moving to Derbyshire.
- I work in Holmewood, just outside Chesterfield.
- We have lived in Lea for 12 years.
- Sue and I have been married for 30 years.
- We have 5 children and 8 grandchildren.
- We support various charities including Childline and Ashgate Hospice.

My church membership:

- I was brought up on Morning Prayer and Evensong and am delighted that these services are still celebrated in our Parish every month.
- Shortly after moving to Lea we became involved with fundraising for the Parish Church's roof and I became chair of that successful committee. The success of our fundraising was focused around community involvement, something I believe in.
- My daughter introduced us to New Wine 4 years ago and we spend a week each August at their United celebration.
- Sue and I are both on our PCC.
- Our congregation is small, yet lovely, and we are reaching out to the wider community by instigating coffee for the people dropping children at the school next to the church each month, by getting involved with Thy Kingdom Come and holding a successful open day each year, by holding pray suppers and by our Rector having healing services. These are all intended to involve the wider community and help to show them the love of God.
- I am a member of the Carsington Deanery Leadership group.

My qualifications and experience:

- I have a BSc in Mathematics and Management Science from Manchester.
- I spent 20 years in multiple furnishing retail before starting a contract flooring division for an international furnishing retailer.
- In 2004 this international furnishing retailer went into administration and we bought the contract flooring division.
- Through the huge efforts of all the team we have built this business into the largest flooring contractor in the UK, with the responsibility of employing 350 people and looking after their wellbeing.
- I love what we do and the difference we can make so I continue to work passed normal retirement age; although we do take quite a lot of holidays.
- Having spent so many years involved with the furnishing industry I wanted to give something back. I joined the Furniture Makers, a City of London Livery Company, and, having been involved and chaired most of their committees, I am currently a trustee of their charity and chair their property charity subsidiary.

God gives us all talents and I believe that mine will be of use in the General Synod. I want to listen, learn and contribute to the positive direction of the church. I am used to working with people volunteering their time and helping them make good, sustainable, consensus driven decisions.

It would be a privilege to serve as a member of General Synod for the Diocese of Derby. If you would like to know more about me, please email or call. I would be very happy to hear from you. Please consider voting for me.