

## **House of Laity Application**

### **Supporting Comments**

My name is Ian Sutton and I am currently a member of the Carsington Deanery synod. Together with my wife I moved to South Darley in August 2000 from Stalybridge, in Greater Manchester. The move took place after I had taken early retirement from my job as a Probation Officer during which time I attained the position of Assistant Chief Officer. Before retirement I was also chair of the Greater Manchester Council on Alcohol, a large charity.

My reasons for applying to be a member of the House of Laity on the General Synod are as follows:

- I have been a member of the Anglican Church for 71 years, attending Sunday school as a child and continuing as an adult
- I have been a member of Parochial Church Councils in Manchester, Stalybridge and currently in Derbyshire Dales.
- I was Churchwarden at St Helen's Church Darley for over five years including during the Interregnum between incumbents that lasted for 12 months
- I am currently Treasurer of the three churches in the United Benefice of St. Helen's, Darley, St. Mary's South Darley, and St John the Baptist Church, Winster.
- I have worked successfully with five Ministers in Manchester, Stalybridge, and latterly in Darley Dale, Matlock. Each of the ministers had their own approach towards the role and whilst I have not always agreed with them a positive working relationship has been maintained.

I am encouraged that the church is moving to be more inclusive which I whole heartedly approve of and support; my current church St. Helen's is now a member of the Inclusive Church Group. My belief is that the church has a job to do in treating everyone with respect as a child of God and to welcome all with an open and loving heart.

I believe that I have had a wide range of experience across city, large town and rural settings and that I can contribute to the work of the General Synod.

Ian Sutton

November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019