

Richard Lindop

**Personal Statement supporting nomination for
General Synod**



I am standing for General Synod because I believe that my skills and experience equip me to be an effective member of Synod and, as an evangelical, I want to support the Reformed position of the Church of England, based on Scripture. I believe that my skills and experience, described below, will enable me to be an effective member of Synod.

I am a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, with over 50 years experience in the rail industry. I have been married to Fiona, a physiotherapist, for 47 years, and we have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. I have been a Reader for over 40 years, in three dioceses, and we have been members of the church family at St Alkmunds, Duffield since 1992.

My professional roles have included locomotive and rolling stock maintenance, sales and marketing, managing development and design of new infrastructure (stations, bridges, track, signalling electrification) from feasibility to detained design, project management of major design and construction works, health and safety, strategic financial management, and leading and managing teams of up to 200 people. This has taken me to live in different parts of the country and given me a wide experience of the Church. I am now mainly retired, but carry out some part-time consultancy work.

I became a Christian at university in Cambridge, and then moved successively to Sheffield, north London, Doncaster, Hitchin and York, before settling in Duffield in 1992.

We have been members of St Alkmunds, Duffield ever since. I was admitted and licensed as a Reader in Sheffield diocese in 1983 and have since been licensed in St Albans and Derby dioceses. Our church in Hitchin (St Albans diocese) was an Anglican/Methodist LEP, and when we moved to York, we joined the local Methodist church on York North circuit, where I was accredited as a Local Preacher, preaching regularly at the 12 chapels on the circuit. This has given me a good understanding of local ecumenical issues.

As a Reader, I have always supported local churches through preaching and leading services. Additionally, for a number of years prior to the pandemic, I was a volunteer speaker for Tearfund, speaking at churches of all denominations to encourage our supporters. As a result, I have, over the years, led worship and preached in some 33 Anglican churches in Derby diocese, in addition to other churches of various denominations across Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and elsewhere before we moved to Derbyshire. This has given me a wide appreciation of the variety of our local churches, particularly in the rural communities. I am currently

particularly supporting St Mary's, Chaddesden and St Peter's Stapenhill, as well our ministry team at St Alkmunds, Duffield and St Paul's, Little Eaton.

Within the wider church context, I have been involved in youth work for many years. My wife and I met as leaders at Scripture Union camps, and I spent some 15 years as a volunteer leader on summer and Easter camps. We were youth leaders (Pathfinders) in our church in north London, and as we moved around the country, found ourselves called to set up and run youth groups in Doncaster, then Hitchin, then York and finally in Duffield! I continue to support the youth leaders here by helping at our Sunday evening Salt Café for 11 – 18 year olds. I am therefore very aware of the challenges facing our young people in church, and, of course, of the need for transparent and rigorous management of safeguarding.

I am also chair of Trustees for a small charity linked to our churches in Duffield and Little Eaton. In addition to providing some funding for parish youth workers, we have recently raised sufficient money to purchase the former HSBC Bank in Duffield and are in the process of converting it to a café as part of our outreach to the community. We see this as a significant opportunity for the church to engage with the people of Duffield. I am currently leading management of the building works and the Trust will be employing the staff and have oversight of the café and wider use of the premises.

I am actively engaged with our local community as Chair of Trustees at Ecclesbourne School, a post I have held for over 10 years, having been a Trustee for nearly 30 years and also formerly Treasurer of the Parents, Staff and Friends Association (PSFA) for 5 years while our children were at the school. As a bird watcher, I have a keen interest in the environment and ecology, and I volunteer for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, surveying for water voles and otters, as well as supporting our local nature reserve (Millenium Meadow).

My professional skills of project management, team leadership, strategy and option evaluation are orientated to working within Synodical structures. My experience of the church over the last 50 years includes preaching and leading services in many rural and suburban churches, both Anglican and Methodist, as well as many years of leading youth groups. My experience across the church and my skills and interests therefore address many of the issues Synod is facing, including organisational, financial, safeguarding and environmental challenges. I therefore have a very wide range of church, managerial and financial experience, as well as a commitment to preaching and teaching the Bible faithfully, all of which, if elected, I would bring to Synod in order to play my part in enabling the Church to flourish and grow.