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Proposed by: Lawrence Tebboth, Amersham Deanery Lay Chair
Seconded by: Thomas Walton, Windsor and Maidenhead

About me

I have worshipped at St James, Gerrards Cross since moving to Buckinghamshire 25 years ago. I'm married to Gail and we have three married children who all have a vibrant Christian faith and are all serving God faithfully in their own churches.

My parents were Christians and I became a believer in my early teens. At each stage in my life I have been an active member of my Anglican parish church. I am passionate about the local church and that it should reach out to the world with the Good News of Jesus.

I have been a Churchwarden at St James for 6 years; I've been involved in the appointment process for a new Rector and in managing changes that naturally follow with new leadership. We are currently establishing new service patterns following the disruption of Covid-19. I am always keen to serve in any role where I can make a useful contribution: I am a member of our Global Mission Group and I've just started to help to teach in the vital ministry to children each Sunday. Beyond St James', I've served on Bishop's council for the last three years, contributing to decision-making at a diocesan level.

I took early retirement in 2015, after a career in pharmaceutical research with GlaxoSmithKline. I have significant business experience including project management, working in teams, managing change, facilitating decision-making and collaborating with people and teams in many different functions and at all levels.

Why am I standing for re-election?

I was elected to General Synod in 2015, having been encouraged to stand by fellow church members and leaders, and by my family. It has been a privilege to serve over the last 6 years – although it's hard work sometimes! I have spoken in debates and asked questions on various subjects, have proposed amendments to motions, and have served on a revision committee. I should like to be able to continue to serve, and believe that having become familiar with the workings of Synod I could continue to make a real contribution.

I am privileged to be part of a large and active church, and I trust that I am able to contribute to the wider Church something of that experience. I believe my business and church experience, together with the time I have available now I have retired, equips me well to contribute effectively to the work of General Synod, for the sake of the church as a whole.

If I were to be re-elected:

- I would support measures to enable local churches to grow and to reach out in the name of Jesus to their communities and beyond, for the sake of the nation and the world.
- I would use my experience and skills to facilitate wise and Godly decision-making.
- In all deliberations I would aim to ensure that Scripture is upheld as our primary source of truth, and to encourage the Church to remain faithful to its historic formularies.
- I would serve faithfully and prayerfully, and participate actively at General Synod and also Diocesan and Deanery Synods. I would be willing to serve on additional permanent or temporary bodies if invited.

What are some important issues facing the Church of England?

As the established Church, the C of E is in a unique position to offer hope and salvation to the people of our nation, but it is getting harder to stand up as a Christian in our increasingly secular and antagonistic culture. The Church must look outward (“a church of missionary disciples”) and become more and more Christ-like. We should explore bold, new and relevant ways of reaching the nation and the world with the gospel. Church planting, variety in worship (the traditional as well as the new) and Fresh Expressions of church can contribute, and local churches should be encouraged to find their own, locally relevant solutions. We need to optimise use of the church’s resources, at diocesan and national level, to support parish ministry and mission.

The decline in church membership, particularly among young people, is a serious issue. Our developing “Vision and Strategy” includes a bold ambition of *doubling the number of children and young, active disciples in the C of E by 2030*. Our approach should not be to bend to the culture of the world, but to be people with a heart for young people, aiming to introduce them to Jesus; not to fill the pews, but to see lives transformed.

To be bold and to reach out, we need to encourage church members and build each other up as whole-life disciples of Jesus. Good training, both for clergy and for lay-leaders, is vital if the Church of England is to continue to meet the challenges of our society, and to uphold the truth of the gospel.

Sexuality, identity and marriage will continue to have a high profile as we come to the conclusion of the *Living in Love and Faith* journey. Following scripture and the traditional doctrine of the church through the ages, I believe that God in his grace has ordained marriage between one man and one woman as the place for sexual relationships. I affirm the teaching of Lambeth 1.10. As we explore the way forward together, we must learn to welcome all as Jesus did, and repent of our mistakes in this area in the past. I aim to engage in the ongoing discussions in a spirit of grace, truth and unity. God’s blessings are generously offered to all.

Other challenges, in areas such as Medical Ethics, Safeguarding, Social Policy and the Environment, face us urgently. The Church must continue to engage and influence in these areas – as always, based on the teaching of scripture and the doctrine of the Church, and remembering that the greatest need facing us, our nation and the world is repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of these matters, or any other topic. I would be grateful for your prayers and support, especially a high preference vote.