

Simon Talbot



Who am I?

- Born in Newmarket – age 64 - married to Mary for 34 years.
- Vicar of Great Shelford with Stapleford and Harston with Hauxton and Newton.
- Rural Dean of Granta & Hon. Canon of Ely Cathedral.
- Ordained for 39 years – served in urban and rural parishes in East Anglia, Yorkshire and Surrey before moving to Great Shelford.
- Interested in Real Ale, cricket, politics, cooking, wood carving, gardening, photography and walking.

Where do I stand?

- **Inclusive Church** – I support the equality of all people in all areas of church life, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. In addressing the important issue of human sexuality in the forthcoming Synod, I hope we can model holding together different viewpoints, without losing sight of the need for equality.
- **Representing clergy** - as a long term member of *Church of England Clergy Advocates* (branch within Unite the union) I have been acting as coordinator of CECA members in General Synod and as a voice for our over 1,400 members across the CoE.
- **Mission & discipleship** – I am a strong supporter of traditional parochial ministry. I am also keen to see mission and discipleship placed at the centre of our decision making, thus helping the church to become more outward looking.
- **National & international life** – I support keeping social issues high on the agenda of Synod, especially those highlighted by Covid. Often Synod is at its best when it is looking outward, especially at a time of acute social upheaval in our nation and international tension.

What experience do I bring?

- Served as one your representatives in General Synod 2015-2021.
- Broad experience of parish ministry – urban, small town and rural.
- Experience in prison, hospital, school and hospice chaplancies.
- Long serving school governor.
- Long involvement in ministry training and development (training incumbent, ministry training tutor, ministry coach, ministry development reviewer).

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Why am I standing?

- In the last General Synod I was heavily involved with the campaign to revise the *Clergy Discipline Measure*. I managed to successfully table a following motion in the final meeting of Synod pressing for a speedy replacement of the CDM and affirming key themes which must shape any new Measure. I would like to continue to work within General Synod shaping a new *Clergy Conduct Measure*
- I believe in synodical government and would like to make a difference by serving as one of your elected representatives.
- I bring the experience of 39 years of ministry to help contribute to the debates and decisions of Synod.
- I have energy and commitment and a strong desire to make the link between General Synod and the Diocese work.
- I am a member of 'Inclusive Church' and would want to be a voice for an open and inclusive model of church life.

Promises and hopes...

- I promise to consult and draw on expertise among diocesan clergy colleagues.
- I undertake to make myself available to listen to your concerns and give them a voice if I am able.
- I would want to bring a dose of realism and a sense of humour to the task!

And finally....

- General Synod voting is by single transferable vote. If you are intending to vote for me, please put me high on your list, preferably number one. Chiefly, please **DO** use your vote.
- I'd like to thank Sarah Gower and James Shakespeare for proposing and seconding my nomination:-

Sarah writes: "It is my pleasure to propose Simon Talbott as a clergy representative to General Synod. I have come to know Simon over the last eight years and have been impressed with his grasp of the complexities of many different aspects of the Church of England. I commend his ability to chair and to participate in meetings with clarity and insight, alongside his tenacity in bringing something to a conclusion, where this is possible. It is delightful to have a colleague who is keen to share his enthusiasm with others. I believe Simon is someone who has the passion and desire to see the inclusion of all people within the life of the church. Without hesitation, I heartily commend Simon to you."

James writes: "I am delighted to second Simon Talbott in his nomination for General Synod. Simon draws on a remarkably wide experience of Christian ministry, is whole-heartedly committed to furthering mission and discipleship, and has a track record in representing the concerns of fellow clergy. I warmly commend Simon to you."

- If you would like to discuss any issues that I have raised then please feel free to contact me: The Vicarage, 12 Church St., Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EL. ☎️ 01223 847069 📧 simon@thetalbotts.co.uk