

The Rt. Hon. Canon Sir Tony Baldry
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Proposed by: James Macnamara, Bicester Deanery

Seconded by: Elizabeth Farmer, Deddington Deanery

I have lived in the Diocese of Oxford almost all my life.

As a child, I went to Sunday School at St. Peter's Church, Burnham.

As a teenager, I was confirmed whilst at school at Christ Church in Reading.

As an adult, I have for the last almost third of a century, represented the constituency covering the Deddington and Bicester Deaneries in the House of Commons.

For many years, I have been a regular worshipper at St. Mary's Church in Bloxham.

From June 2010 until March 2015, I had the Crown Appointment of being Second Church Estates Commissioner which means that I was the link between Parliament and the Church of England. This involved me taking through the House of Commons the legislation to enable women to become Bishops.

All the speeches that I made, and all the questions that I answered in the House of Commons as Second Church Estates Commissioner can be found on my website: <http://www.tonybaldry.co.uk/category/parliament/>.

My final act on behalf of the Church before standing down from Parliament was to secure £55 million from the Chancellor for the Church Roofs Fund to enable the repair of roofs of Parish Churches throughout England.

I am an honorary Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

Immediately on standing down from Parliament I took on the task of chairing the Church Buildings Council which is a statutory body which has responsibility for the

care and maintenance of all 16,000 Church of England Parish Churches throughout England.

I also chair the Trustees of the St. Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in the City of London.

I was the Founder and Chairman of the Bloxham Festival of Faith and Literature.

During the time that I was Second Church Estates Commissioner, I was ex officio a member of the House of Laity of General Synod.

I want to put all that I have learned over the years, and all that I am to the service of General Synod. I believe passionately in the Church of England being a church for the whole nation.

I want to work with all those wish to see Church of England grow, to help encourage and foster the growth of congregations and in particular to bend every effort to encourage as many children, teenagers, and young adults as possible to be involved with the Church of England.

I want a church where every individual can grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, and where every tradition of church worship can flourish.

I believe that we should all be equally welcome at the Communion Table, regardless of our gender, or wealth, or the colour of our skin, or disability or sexual orientation.

As we move further into the 21st century, I believe that we should help create and trumpet the Church which is generous of spirit, welcoming to all and with open arms seeks to include everyone in the prayer mission and work of the Church.

If you have any questions about me as a person, or what I think, or what I stand for, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me personally. I hope that I made a worthwhile contribution during the five years of the last General Synod and I hope that electors in the Diocese of Oxford will give me the opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution in the coming five years of General Synod.

Rt. Hon. Sir Tony Baldry