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Proposed by Judith Babb: Member of Diocesan Synod and Bishop's council

Seconded by Francesca Hall-Drinkwater: Churchwarden at St James Fulmer and member of Amersham Deanery Synod

About me

I am a churchwarden at St James Gerrards Cross. My wife, Gail, and I have worshipped at St James since we moved to Buckinghamshire 19 years ago. We have three married children who all have a vibrant Christian faith and are all serving God faithfully in their own churches.

My parents are Christians and I became a believer in my early teens. At each stage in my life I have been an active member of my local Anglican church. I have been a member of PCCs and leadership teams, and of Amersham Deanery Synod. I am passionate that the church should reach out to the world with the Good News of Jesus. At St James, I am a member of our Mission Committee and of the Steering Group of our "Love Africa" initiative which aims to mobilise the local church in Uganda to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and to care for the poor; I have visited our partners in Uganda three times. I also help to lead worship and on the audio-visual desk and am always keen to serve in any role where I can make a useful contribution.

I took early retirement at the beginning of this year, 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.

Outside church I enjoy music, walking, gardening and spending time with my family.

Why am I standing for election?

I have been encouraged by fellow church members and leaders, and by my family, that I could make a significant contribution to Synod, and therefore to the future of the Church of England. I have been privileged to be part of a large church that has grown significantly over the last two decades, and I hope that, in representing St James in General Synod, I might be able to contribute to the wider Church something of that privilege.

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 elected:

- 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 the catholic creeds and the 39 Articles
- I would promote and 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
- 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 Church of England 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 and church attendance nationally is falling. The Church should not just plan for an ordered decline, but must be outward-looking and should actively explore bold, new and relevant ways of reaching out with the Good News to the nation and the world. Church planting, variety in worship (including the traditional as well as the new) and Fresh Expressions of church can contribute, but there could be other solutions too.

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.

It would be foolish to ignore the issue of sexuality, over which the Anglican Communion is unfortunately becoming fragmented. In this, as in other issues, I should seek to adhere to scripture and the Canons and traditional doctrine of the Church, in a spirit of God's grace and unity rather than judgement and division. On this issue the teaching of resolution 1.10 on Human Sexuality of the 1998 Lambeth Conference "*...upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union*", while committing us "*...to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and ... to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ*".

Other challenges, perhaps in areas such as Medical Ethics, Social Policy and the Environment, will arise over the next few years. 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.

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 your first preference vote or, failing that, your highest available preference.