



Please vote for **Gavin Oldham** for General Synod

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Proposed by: Gareth Beynon
Seconded by: Heather Llewellyn

Age:	66
Family:	Married for 40 years to Virginia, with 4 daughters
Church Activities:	<i>Current:</i> Member of St. Leonards PCC, Wendover Deanery (Lay Chair), Oxford Diocesan & General Synods, Church Commissioner (re-elected by General Synod, September 2015) <i>From 1999 to 2013:</i> Church Commissioner (Assets Committee (deputy Chair), Securities Group (Chair)& Ethical Investment Advisory Group) Chairman, Share plc/The Share Centre; Managing Director, Share Radio
Occupation:	The Securities Institute, Institute of Directors, Leander
Prof./Memberships:	
Charities:	Chair of The Share Foundation,

Objectives:

To help carry the love of God by the grace of Christ more effectively to the un-churched, especially young people, and to work for financial results to match our plans for evangelism.

If re-elected, I will:

1. Be an active member of General Synod to assist in improving the church's ability to carry the love of God in Christ to those who don't know or understand His message of salvation.
2. Seek to maintain strong financial performance, and to improve the prospects for diocesan and parochial finances.
3. Keep in touch with the active church throughout the diocese, supporting initiatives which help the Holy Spirit touch our lives.

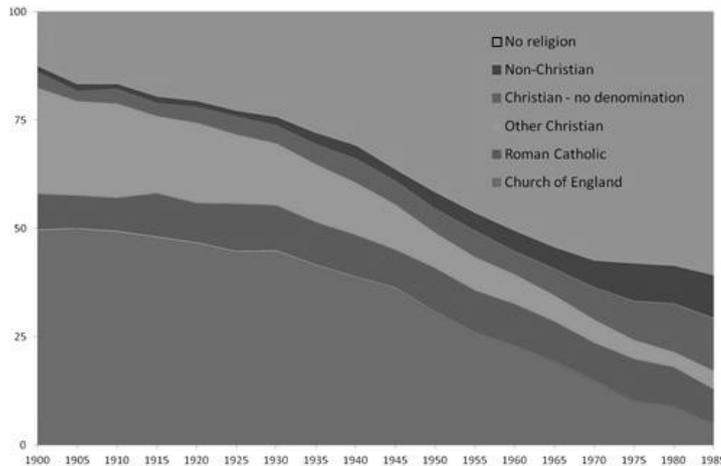
The unconditional love of God in action

My faith is grounded in St. John's clear assertion in his first epistle that 'God is Love': this understanding explains why the two great commandments stand at the centre of our faith. So many people have no experience of this unconditional love, and that's why community action presents a great opportunity to show that love in action.

At the beginning of the last General Synod I successfully moved a following motion to the debate on the 'Big Society' to launch a project called 'Resourcing Christian Community Action': you can find the result on www.how2help.net. This project celebrates the huge amount of voluntary work throughout the Church, and provides many links to help those at local level.

My energy will continue to be focused on looking confidently outwards, so that many more will come to Christ as a result of witnessing that love in action at first hand.

Engaging with young people



One of the most serious problems facing the Church of England, however, is the sharp drop in affiliation of those aged under 30. This graph from David Voas (Essex University) shows CofE affiliation by year of birth in the lowest band. Whereas in the past many would return to the Christian faith familiar from their childhood, the fact that so many children now grow up in secular households means that this will not be the case in future. My greatest priority in the next 5 years is to address this challenge.

Financial Performance

We continue to be faced by a period of financial stringency, and many parishes are finding it hard to maintain their Parish Share. As a Church Commissioner serving previously on the Assets Committee as Deputy Chair and its Securities Group as Chair, our challenge has been to do everything possible to ease that burden. I am pleased that over all time periods stretching back over 30 years we have outperformed similar funds. As a result the Commissioners plan to commit a significant sum to support the 'Intentional Evangelism' put forward by Archbishop Justin.

In these challenging times I will continue to contribute my experience of over 30 years in stockmarket investment now that I have been re-elected as a Church Commissioner.

I have also contributed significantly to the Ethical Investment Advisory Group, and was responsible for initiating the Climate Change policy review approved by the July General Synod, and the review of the Alcohol policy which has resulted in major changes in marketing behaviour in some supermarkets.

Keeping in Touch

Having lived in various corners of the Diocese for most of my life, I know it well! I am keenly aware of my representative role as a member of General Synod, and keep closely in touch with local opinion and activities. I have attended all Groups of Sessions over the past 5 years.

Finally

Our society suffers greatly from a widespread deficit of love, that love which only God can bring through the grace of Christ. Full understanding of the Christian way is restricted to such a small proportion of our population and we are challenged to carry His message to our neighbours.

If you believe that the church should be moving forward and building momentum, please vote for me, preferably with your number 1 vote. **Please be sure to vote!** And however the results work out, may the grace of God be with us all.

Gavin Oldham