

The Venerable Bob White

Vicar of St Mary, Portsea and General Synod Member (2004 – 2026)

Proposed by Revd Canon Nick Ralph

Seconded by Revd Clive Gardner

Executive Director CSR and Residentiary Canon Priest in Charge St Cuthbert's Copnor and Area Dean of Portsmouth

I am a very local lad (having grown up in Southsea) and served all my 41 years of ordained ministry in Urban Parishes within the Diocese of Portsmouth. As such I have played an active part in the development of many of the initiatives we have seen in recent years and continue to have a concern for all such parishes in facilitating the LINC network. Many of these challenges are also shared in rural and semi-rural parishes alike. I am also concerned at how we develop our ministry as clergy in support of one another across Parish boundaries and in partnership with the laity. I have been a member of the Diocesan Synod for many years and have always tried to ensure that the voice of the Parish clergy from all traditions are heard in debates. It is clear that the pressures and challenges we face are increasing and we need to be aware of the impact on clergy wellbeing. **I recognise the need for the voice of the parochial clergy to be heard within our Diocese and in the wider Church.**



As Chair of the House of Clergy, and an Archdeacon (and previously an Area Dean), accountability of central structures to the wider body has always been a priority for me. It is also important to seek to ensure that the structures support and 'understand' the Parishes and their mission and ministry alongside that of new initiatives and models of ministry. As we develop our funding models for the national Church it is important for there to be an awareness of how this will affect our ministry and parishes. **An understanding of the issues faced at parish level must be part of the future of planning and resourcing, in enabling the growth, mission and worship of Christ's Church**

I have served on 2 General Synod working groups which has enabled me to express

within them the experience of a Parish priest. The linking of the work of the 'central church' with the mission of the Church in the Parishes and communities is something I enjoyed. **It is this commitment to supporting Parishes and Parish Clergy that I would hope to continue to carry into the work of the next General Synod.**

Throughout my ordained ministry I have been committed to seeking the unity of the Church – both within our own communion and with our ecumenical partners. In more recent years I have also been keen to develop our interfaith networks, especially in the city. Seeking ways of holding together divergent views while maintaining the mission of the Church is a challenge we continue to

face. The last group of sessions showed that General Synod still has to learn how best to address issues which can easily divide us. The failure of the 'Living in Love and Faith' process means we need to find a better way to 'disagree graciously' and to seek mutual 'flourishing'. It will be important as we move forward to ensure we are able to seek to honour and respect each person as a loved child of God. I believe that the living out of the Pastoral Principles and applying them to the work of the General Synod will be crucial in this. **We must constantly find ways of listening to one another and respecting one another's views, ensuring that those views are honoured as far as is possible.**

If you want to know more about me, or why I would like to continue to represent you on General Synod then please give me a call on

07341 569233

or email vicar@portseaparish.co.uk

I hope you will consider voting for me in this election for the General Synod.

Please remember that while you are voting for 3 members of Synod
the order in which you vote for them is important.

If you wish me to represent you
please give me your 'I' preference