

Diocese of Carlisle
Election of Lay Representatives to the General Synod 2015



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Dear Deanery Synod Member,

Thank you for your support as one of the elected Lay Members of our Diocese to the General Synod which came to an end in York in July. It has been a privilege for me over the past twenty five years to attend on your behalf, and to report back to my designated Deaneries. Obviously Synod is not perfect and I'm sure that all of us in the laity want to see a Synod more responsive to opinion in the Dioceses, and more outwardly-looking towards the whole nation to meet the need of the present challenges of our secular society. Difficult issues have been faced and will need to be faced in the future. This, I believe, can be achieved by declaring the need for Christian truth based on our historic, Anglican, Biblical faith. This means both laity and clergy being more determined to assist and encourage mission and growth primarily in the parishes.

On a personal note, I am married to Kathleen, with three grown-up married children, two of whom have their own families and who are all active in their own churches. Until taking early retirement I was a Senior Probation Officer, working in a prison with a wide range of offenders, and prior to that responsible for establishing Community Service Orders throughout Lancashire. This brought me into contact with the whole breadth of the community, giving me practical insight into the real needs of those inside and outside the church. I continue to be actively engaged in my own church (St. James' Burton-in-Kendal /Holy Trinity Holme) as a Reader, where I am Leader of the 1st Burton-in-Kendal Company of The Boys' Brigade. It was a great privilege to be awarded the MBE for services to young people in Cumbria.

I am a Bishops' Advisor (formerly known as Bishops' Selector) which involves the selection of those seeking ordination within the Church of England, and am a member of the Carlisle Diocese Board of Education.

During the present General Synod I was elected as one of the two lay members to the Clergy Discipline Commission which is responsible for the legislation and implementation of dealing with misconduct, including safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults. It is chaired by two High Court Appeal Judges.

I am a Governor of a Church of England Aided School and am a member of the Cumbria Education Appeals Committee which deals with appeals from parents regarding non-admission and exclusion from Cumbria schools.

I am committed to mission, and after serving my term as Chairman of the Anglican mission agency Crosslinks (formerly BCMS), I was elected as President. Crosslinks has over 150 mission partners across the world.

Finally, if you believe that I should continue to serve our Diocese as your representative on the General Synod, I would be grateful for your first preference vote, or such other vote as you may feel right to give me. I will continue to be ready to discuss any matter with you or your PCC or Deanery Synod. May I ask for your continued prayers for those elected to the Synod, that they may rightly and wisely fulfil their responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

David J. Mills

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