

## THE REVD. JOHN HAWTHORNE

Proposed by:

The Revd. Alison Morley

St. John's and St Mary's, Devizes

Seconded by:

The Revd. Richard Harper

St. Paul's, Weymouth

***"It is not our task to conquer or convert the world or enforce uniformity of beliefs. It is our task to be a blessing to the world."***

**(Not In God's Name – Jonathan Sacks)**

- It is with these words and that imperative before me that I offer myself as your candidate, and seek your first, or certainly high, preference vote in this forthcoming Election.
- For almost the whole of my ordained ministry I have fought in the trenches! At long last, the first women bishops have been appointed and those long tiresome years of, sometimes bitter, debate are over and the Church of England can at last begin to become again that which it should be, a Church united; a pilgrim Church serving God and open to all. I write as one who, for sound theological conviction, cannot accept the **sacramental** ministry of women as either priests or bishops. But I rejoice in what I hope and believe will be a new found sense of unity within the Church of England wherein we can all work together in a spirit of mutual respect.
- I will work within and beyond Synod to ensure that ***The Five Guiding Principles of the House of Bishops' Declaration on The Ministry of Bishops and Priests***, are fully and unequivocally upheld and respected on **all sides**.
- As a retired priest, I will seek to provide a voice in the deliberations of Synod for retired clergy. It is anomalous that retired clergy, with PTO, are almost all disenfranchised. Despite the claim on the Salisbury diocesan website that the disenfranchised are "but a few", there are almost as many disenfranchised, retired clergy with PTO in the Devizes Deanery as there are licensed clergy with full voting rites!

- Without the assistance of retired clergy many parishes would have collapsed, and churches closed, long ago. And remember, my brothers and sisters, that many of **you** will have yourselves retired and become disenfranchised during, or just after, the lifetime of the forthcoming Synod.
- Synod has a duty to explore and debate the major social and political issues of the day from a Christian perspective. And it must do so without fear. Its recommendations must be clear and vigorous without straying into overt party politics. I would wholeheartedly support such debate.
- So, who am I? I entered the ordained ministry after twenty years in business, mainly in the media. I progressed through marketing into senior management. I am currently a director of a large national charity supporting adults with learning disabilities. I served ten years in the TA, where I commanded an RHA Parachute Battery. I am married to Rosemary, an actress, fashion historian and writer. We have seven children and fourteen grandchildren. My other love is cricket! I have held incumbencies in the dioceses of Canterbury, Salisbury and Gloucester, My last was a fourteen year stint in Tetbury.

**Recommendation: The Revd. Alison Morley writes:** *"I would like to propose The Revd John Hawthorne for General Synod. He holds theological views on the ordination of women that are different from mine, but that reflect a section of the Church that needs representation at Synod. At this particular time when the vote has been taken to accept women to the episcopate there is a need for reflection, reconciliation and mutual respect and this is what John can offer. He is a rare individual who can hold strong views while at the same time responding with genuine openness and love towards those who differ from him and I believe this to be the God given fruit of a long and intimate journey of discipleship. This has been my experience, and from this I offer this recommendation."*

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