



## **Canon Thomas Woodhouse**

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**Proposed: Canon Andy Perry**  
**Seconded: The Revd Maureen  
Allchin**

During the triennium of the last General Synod momentous and celebrated decisions were taken that are changing our Church's culture. The new Synod will need to balance discerning God's will through these changes with a call to listen continually to the Holy Spirit in new debates. I am excited by the prospect of canvassing your views and reflecting them in the new Synod.

### An introduction

- Before ordination I worked in the hotel management and I remain committed to exercising generous hospitality.
- Ordained in 1995 I came to the Diocese of Salisbury in 2005 to be Vicar of (Royal) Wootton Bassett and Rural Dean of Calne. I have been Team Rector of Dorchester and The Winterbournes since February 2014.
- Kate and I married in 1996 and we have four teenage daughters, so I have current and real experience of the needs and concerns of young people.
- During my training I served as a student minister in the Anglican Church of Canada and in The Churches of North India and South India: I have an on going interest in the worldwide church.
- Working alongside lay and ordained colleagues I serve on the Deanery and Diocesan Synods, The Bishop's Council and the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Council.
- From 2009 I have been a Non-Residentary Canon of Salisbury and I joined the Cathedral Chapter in 2014. The relationship between the diocese and the cathedral is essential and it is a privilege to share in the life of both.
- Since 2013 I have been a member for the Archbishop's Council's Funerals Project.

### Why vote for me?

- I have a pragmatic approach and a sense of perspective that will keep the lines of communication open;
- I am committed to the continuing conversation across the diverse theological traditions of the Church of England and with our worldwide ecumenical sisters and brothers;
- I have an understanding of the responsibility the Church of England holds as the Established Church and our need to always engage with the whole community;

- I will listen to the views of others and expect new insights to inform my contribution to debates;
- I have the enthusiasm to be one of those taking our conversation forward.

Where I will add to the conversation:

- I have the experience to contribute to the debate about some of the challenges we face, among them the future of the rural church, clergy well being, ministry provision, issues of hardship and poverty and engaging with local government.
- Christian discipleship transforms lives and I will contribute to the conversations about growing people's confidence and empowering them to reach out into the community and make a difference.
- In the Diocese of Salisbury we are responding to the call to renew our hope through a process that is asking local communities, *What do you pray for? Whom do you serve? How will you grow?* I believe these are questions that need answering nationally too.
- Talent Management for Future Leaders (the Green Report) is a work in progress and is emerging into the *Learning Community*. We need to engage with the conversation and challenge the process.
- An issue that challenges us to pray and serve and grow is the Environment and Climate Change. I am already involved in this conversation locally and through my work as a member of the Cathedral Chapter.
- The issue of human sexuality is also one that is complex. I will work to find holy ground on which to have one of our most challenging conversations.

I will bring to the conversation:

- a prayer life that sustains my relationship with God;
- a generosity of spirit that respects the views of others;
- an openness to be challenged and to challenge;
- a breadth of parish ministry now spanning twenty years, which has embraced rural, suburban and market town parishes;
- a sense of humour.

I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit works through the synods, councils and committees of the Church and that is why I give time to being a member of them. I am delighted to be standing for election to the General Synod and I hope you will vote for me! If you would like to know more either ring me or email me.

Thomas M. B. Woodhouse  
September 2015