

PAUL BOYD-LEE

Continuous General Synod service since 1990

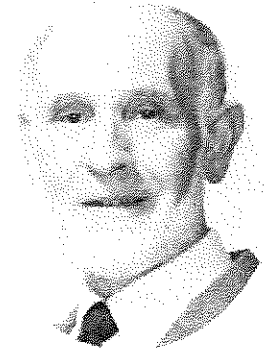
Member of the Archbishops' Council since 2005
Represent the Council on the Audit Cmte &
Ethical Investment Advisory Group

Member of the Church Army Mission Community,
& Investment Cmte

Degrees in Environmental Ecology & Theology

Married to Jean, school academy governor & retired headteacher of C of E school

Career in business management, banking, farming - Currently, publisher of Christian material.



Dear Elector,

Again, I would like to thank all who voted for me 5 years ago, it has enabled much to be done both in furthering diocesan needs as well as the wider Church. Though the new millennium offered great opportunity to renew commitment to the Christian faith, it turned out to be a time of increasing challenges. Even so, it is remarkable how resilient the Gospel has been in the light of rising hostility against it, particularly on a global basis but the Church urgently needs to re-establish its position in society.

In addition to questions and speaking in debates, past experience has allowed me to help colleagues draft their material in a more effective way. My Archbishops' Council position has permitted me to exchange information directly with officers concerned so enabling a more productive use of time.

Standing firm on plainly stated Bible principles and my evangelical approach continue to be my guiding principles and served me well for the demanding Church tasks tackled of late. Another continuing principle is to value the whole 'Body of Christ'; sometimes in ecclesiastical terms that means working alongside differing views and churchmanships. Often in recent years one wrestled with holding firm to Bible teaching whilst seeing how this can be expressed in different forms of church. Incidentally, there have been a good number of church forums - Synods, committees and so on - where I have articulated the cries of various groupings because they simply had no one present to express their view.

Not least amongst these challenges has been Women and the Episcopate. It brings me to a priority for the next quinquennium. Members might remember that in a recent Diocesan Synod speech I emphasised that the future will be a great opportunity to see all congregations flourishing, whether they rejoice over women clergy or are of the integrity that sees otherwise; this is what General Synod has agreed to do. Many have said that now the episcopate is settled we can get on with serious mission; I sincerely hope so and will do my part to encourage that to happen.

My second priority is to further the Reform and Renewal programme that is being rolled out to dioceses desiring to participate. In short, this is Going for Growth of the Church, and how that can be facilitated. I have been closely involved with launching this enterprise since its early days and have a great desire to continue to be one who helps it happen; there is yet some way to go! In recent months I have been part of the Archbishops' Council team that has visited several dioceses presenting to their mission teams what the plan is about, and more importantly to listen to diocesan responses. A major and common issue to arise has been, how to help the laity?

Continued overleaf

So, helping the laity in a realistic way is a third priority, not only because of diocesan feedback but also due to a major piece of work that the General Synod House of Laity accomplished during this last quinquennium. The Laity House on several occasions worked on a project headed 'Making a Difference'. As a member of the Standing Committee I was involved in assimilating the House's feedback which highlighted good forms of outreach around the country but also showed what the laity saw as their needs. A prime one being a desire to strengthen their faith, and guidance on how to share it within a culture they felt was largely alien to them.

This insight to what Laity wants, has allowed me to discuss with the Ministry Division and the Advisor for Mission what sort of strategy would accommodate the aspirations of the diverse laity that we have. Might there be training given, and if so, could it be both by electronic means or through an educational centre according to whether people are retired or not, and so on?

I have mentioned three priorities but other issues will arise, some having particular relevance to Salisbury Diocese; these need to be teased out early on so that our interests can be secured in good time. For example, the notable forms of outreach happening around the diocese might benefit by resourcing under the current central church 'Funding the Future' initiative; there will also be openings to share our Salisbury diocesan mission work more widely to the advantage of the whole church.

I am so grateful for the chance, and by the grace of God being able, to pursue these things in recent years. If you would like to support me in continuing likewise, I would value your **First Preference Vote** or failing that, the highest you are able to give me. I hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as I did in writing it and if you would like further information feel free to contact me by one of the means below.

Paul Boyd-Lee
September 2015

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Some of my highlights of the last 5 years

- 2011 - Crown Nominations Commission for current Bishop of Salisbury.
- 2011 - Submitting considerations for the proposed Centre of Church History at Auckland Castle (recent residence of the Bishop of Durham).
- 2012 - Church Conservation Trust meeting at Salisbury Cathedral.
- 2012 - National Ethical Investment Week reception, House of Commons.
- 2012 - Inauguration of Church Army Mission Community, St Pauls Cathedral.
- 2013 - Delegate at Global Anglican Futures Conference, Nairobi.
- 2014 - Part of the Christian site visits' teams in South Africa and Chile investigating impact of mining operations on surrounding communities and their sustainability, as a precursor to the Lambeth Palace Day of Reflection on Mining last October.
- 2014 - As an Ethical Investment Advisory Gp member, had a significant hand in drafting the C of E's National Investing bodies' policy on Climate Change.
- 2010-15 - Raised questions and spoke in debates including Education (school assemblies & OFSTED inspections), Finance (urging caution on the new rules permitting funds to be invested on a Total Return basis).