

An invitation to vote for

STEPHEN HOFMEYR

- *passionate Christian witness and disciple-maker*
- *heart for the poor*
- *anti-apartheid activist*
- *international peacemaker, judge and mediator*



to represent Guildford Diocese on General Synod

The Church of England is currently facing two crises: *declining numbers* and *plausibility*.

How might we respond?

Whilst it is God who calls people to Himself and, by His Spirit, gives us the confidence and strength necessary to live authentic Christian lives, astonishingly he uses ordinary, flawed people to build His church. This means that if the Church of England is to turn the corner and to flourish, it will be the result of a **grassroots** movement. Growth will not come (and confidence and credibility will not build) unless, at the local level, we all play our part. It is people at the **grassroots** that really matter.

My primary purpose in standing for election to General Synod as a representative of the Diocese of Guildford is to do all that I can to empower individuals in local churches to play a part in God's holistic Mission. I would like to see every decision made by General Synod and every initiative started in the Church of England tested against this measure: ***will it inspire and empower individuals and communities to build God's church from the ground up?***

Am I playing my part?

I am inspired by the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission:

- ***To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom***

This is the primary focus of my life. On my front lines (i.e. at work and in my leisure time) I endeavour, by my actions and my words, to point people to Jesus so that they can experience abundant life in relationship with Him. I am also involved in running Alpha, Christianity Explored and "Any Questions" courses and helping with youth camps. It has been a humbling experience to see unchurched people come to Jesus. I have also been involved in planting three new churches.

- ***To teach, baptise and nurture new believers***

I do not baptise! I do have the privilege of teaching regularly, both in my local church and in small groups. I also help run a weekly bible-study and seasonal seminars on topical issues for about 20 young adults (age range roughly 18-30). They (and my young adult triplet offspring – all members of their local churches) constantly tell me that young people like the challenges which a relationship with Jesus brings. From time to time I run Discipleship Explored for new believers. Previously, I have served as chair of our parish Discipleship Action Team, coordinating biblical and theological teaching at all levels.

- ***To respond to human need by loving service***

Our parish has a Service Action Team which I chair. With others I participate in local service projects like Besom and Ready-4-Action. We also provide practical and financial support to local agencies, some

started by our parish church. In the next year we will be sending teams out to Africa to build long-term service relationships. I will be leading one such expedition. In my twenties, as chair of fund-raising and board member, I helped establish the first hospice in Cape Town.

- ***To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation***

Growing up in apartheid South Africa, attending an Anglican school, I learned from an early age to engage in transformation. As a student, I campaigned to end conscription and the use of the military to quell internal protest and was the first formally recognized Anglican conscientious objector. Now, as a part-time judge (predominantly in the Guildford Crown Court and the High Court) I am concerned with sentencing and, on judicial seminars, with seeking to influence sentencing policy. I am also on the International Board of Reference of a charity acting as a catalyst for peacemaking where minorities are persecuted, justice is denied, human rights suppressed and reconciliation needed.

- ***To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth***

Our first mandate from God was not only to populate the earth, but also to manage the resources God has given us. This mandate has been too long forgotten, but a re-awakening is in progress. To play my part I am a Trustee of two trusts dedicated to restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment. I have also helped launch a local A Rocha project in South Africa.

Do I have the necessary experience?

I am a life-long Anglican. Over the years I have served as Sacristan, Bell-ringer, member of PCC and Church Warden. For the last 17 years I have lived in Guildford and, with my wife and children, have attended my parish church. I have been a member of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship for 15 years, of Deanery and Diocesan Synod for 12 years and the Vacancy-in-See Committee for 5 years. I was appointed by the previous Bishop of Guildford as a member of the "Listening Group" in the Diocese, a group which met bi-monthly for 3 years.

At national church level I am a member of the Ecclesiastical Law Society and an officer of the Church of England Evangelical Council serving alongside our former Archdeacon, Bishop Julian Henderson.

My paid work is as a barrister (Queen's Counsel) specializing in international commercial disputes, as an international arbitrator and as a Deputy High Court Judge.

Your vote is important in this election. If you share my vision, please vote to give me the opportunity to represent you on General Synod.

STEPHEN HOFMEYR

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Proposer: Canon Peter Bruinvels, member of General Synod, Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council, Vacancy-in-See Committee and Dorking Deanery Synod; member of St Martin's Dorking

Secunder: Mrs. Margaret Hobbs, Lay Chair of Epsom Deanery Synod, member of St Paul's Howell Hill