

THE REV'D ANDY BAWTREE – GENERAL SYNOD CANDIDATE

A pocket biography –

Andy Bawtree – ordained in St Albans Abbey, 1996/7 served in SS Catherine & Paul, Hoddesdon, Herts.; Trinity, South Boston, Virginia; SS Peter & Paul, River, Kent.

Married to Vicki, four children at local schools, one dog & one gerbil



If we are to continue as a faithful and credible Church of England we need to make some brave and courageous decisions over the course of the next General Synod. I believe we can draw from the past and look to the future as we step out in faith. If elected I will endeavour to steer a line between George Herbert and Adam Smallbone. The answer to the question Jesus poses, 'Who do you say that I am?' colours all we do as Christians and we have a duty and joy to share that with the people we serve each day here in Kent.

The following may be part of what comes up:

The development of new structures to aid the mission of the Church, PCC's, Deanery synods and possible diocesan mergers; bishops and how many; the breadth of the Broad Church, financial responsibility and responsibilities, the Worldwide Communion, ecumenical relationships; the place of Establishment and liturgical developments.

But even the day to day business, the regular standing orders of any parliamentary system (or parish/benefice) need to be prayerfully considered and acted upon. As we explore new wineskins to place the new wine into we can still be mindful of the great responsibility placed on us as leaders in our communities, and also as cities on hills and how we live and love will bear witness to who we are as part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, the Body of Christ.

'One who cannot draw on three thousand years is living from hand to mouth' - Goethe