

## ANDREW FARLEY

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Candidate for House of Laity

Proposer: Teresa Barsby, Chalk deanery  
Seconder: Richard Chitty, Salisbury deanery



### OPENING STATEMENT

I am committed to the Church of England with all its challenges and difficulties. I long to see it revitalised to become, at all levels, a powerhouse for the proclamation, by word and deed, of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the new life He offers to all.

### PERSONAL

- My faith in Jesus Christ came alive in November 1980 when I was a young solicitor practising in London.
- I married my wife Susie in 1989 and we have four sons, now all in their 20s.
- Susie is a consultant cardiologist at Salisbury District Hospital.
- We moved from London to Salisbury in 2003 when I joined a local law partnership from which I have recently retired. My specialism has been private client work.
- We have been members of St Paul's Church, Salisbury, since 2003. We have led many weekly fellowship groups as well as Alpha course groups. It has been wonderful to see the Kingdom of God growing through parish life in Salisbury.
- Outside church my interests include dinghy sailing and cricket.

### WHY AM I STANDING?

Two particular aspects of Christian ministry are very much on my heart:

*Children and youth:* Our children and teenagers are growing up in a cultural environment which provides little hope or direction. Churches need encouragement and resourcing to be relevant and attractive to them. Young people need opportunities for them to get to know Jesus personally and grow in discipleship and training.

*Lay ministry:* So many people are spiritually hungry and searching for meaning to life, yet it cannot be left only to clergy to spread the Good News of Jesus throughout the nation. Many lay Christians, however, are now reticent about sharing their faith. I would like to see Church leaders, at every level, give a higher priority to equipping and emboldening their congregations to share what they know and have experienced about Jesus with the people they live and work with. Lay Christians, supported and encouraged by the clergy, need to be in the vanguard of outreach to our neighbourhoods.

## **WHAT AM I INTERESTED IN?**

My wife and I have loved running church fellowship groups. Each of these different groups has inevitably presented its own challenges for which I have needed much help from the Lord and from godly friends. What I particularly remember are the joys they have each provided – from the energy and excitement of groups of young people and ex-offenders in London to, now, seeing older people growing in faith in Jesus in later life.

## **FINALLY**

- I fully support Archbishop Justin and his priorities of prayer, reconciliation and evangelism.
- I have a high doctrine of church unity. The words of Psalm 133 and Jesus's prayer for unity in John 17 will be in the forefront of my mind during discussions in Synod on any issues which are potentially divisive.

I would much value your first preference vote.