

Extraordinary Meeting of the House of Laity of Sonning Deanery
Thursday the 15th of July at 7.15pm, over Zoom

Present: 29 lay members of Synod and the Area Dean as Acting Secretary

Chaired by David Horrocks, Member of Deanery Standing Committee

Minutes

- 1) There was an incredibly impressive attempt to gather enough people to hold the meeting and we were all very grateful to those who came along at the start of the meeting, and to those who left what they were doing to ensure the meeting could go ahead, joining the meeting from restaurants and country lanes.
- 2) John Sutton (St Paul, Wokingham) spoke briefly to introduce himself, referring people to his personal statement (circulated with the Agenda and reproduced below) and highlighting the fact that he considers the breadth of the Church of England to be its beauty, that he has been part of Churches in very different traditions over his adult life and that part of his love for the Deanery is because of its diversity of worship and practice.
- 3) David then invited questions for John. There were none, so he moved to a vote.
- 4) The vote was unanimous- all 29 members of the House of Laity voted to make John Sutton the Lay Chair of Sonning Deanery.
- 5) David Horrocks finished the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Richard Lamey
Acting Secretary
15.7.21

Dear Synod,

I am writing in order to put myself forward for election the position of Lay Chair.

My name is John Sutton and I am a member of St. Paul's Church Wokingham, where I have been a member of the PCC for the past three years and have been a member of the Deanery Synod for two years.

In my childhood, I worshipped at an independent Evangelical Church in Rotherham.

While living in London for a number of years, I attended services and events organised by St. Peter's Barge, West India Quay, and St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. I was baptised and confirmed, at my then parish church, on All Saint's Day 2012 at All Saint's Church, Blackheath.

I am currently a teacher at a local Church of England Primary School where I am responsible for leading regular staff meetings and liaising with staff to implement initiatives across the school.

Though I am from the same Parish Church as our Area Dean, Richard, the differences in our thinking have led to interesting and fruitful discussions in the past.

I value the broad range of practices and viewpoints I have experienced in my journey with our Church, and that are present in our Deanery. I feel strongly that our breadth is our strength.

I look forward to our next meeting, and kindly ask for your approval.

John Sutton