

Nigel Orchard



Proposed by Rob Cook of St Michael's Stanwix, and Irene Roberts-Green of St Cuthbert's, Nigel is married to Nina who is curate at St James Denton Holme and the Two Rivers Mission Community, Carlisle; they have three teenage children and moved from London last year. During the week Nigel runs a software business in energy and sustainability. He is saddened by Church decline and the loss of reverence for God in our society, and if elected will use inspirational skills gained in music to help reverse this trend.

Nigel started work in Church over 50 years ago as a choir boy and has since been Church Warden, children's worker, home group leader, overseas mission sponsor, Alpha Course leader and team in Marriage Encounter. As a musician he has worked as organist, director of music and worship leader in both classic and contemporary styles. He has given organ recitals in Cathedrals across the country, and he and Nina take his family to New Wine every year. Nigel has worked positively with most expressions in the Church of England, liberal, anglo catholic, charismatic and conservative and was a volunteer organist before he made his commitment to Christ.

He believes many more like him can be attracted with gifts that can make a difference to Church and community life together. Acceptance of the possibility that a single, distinct, good, all-powerful creator and Lord of all exists is all that is needed; the rest is uncompromised Gospel, discipleship, compassion, fellowship, grace, humility and all the other spiritual gifts we know so well in Church.

Nigel was a boy-scout and holds on to the motto Do Your Best; that's what God wants from each one of us, and all who we influence. People who excel in professions, work and life skills must be cherished and relationships developed to substantial co-operation and trust. That way parishes will become more relevant¹, because more local people will be seen to be making a contribution. All of this visionary integrated community work must be backed by a robust and effective reporting structure both to protect those in need of our best care², but also to instruct, challenge and encourage our leadership.

If elected, Nigel would spend time networking and helping to implement the vision on behalf of Church leaders who share it; throughout the year, with listening and feeding back at the formal meetings. He would encourage a renewed passion for our established Church and how it could again be the centre of our communities and society.