

Election 2010

The candidates of the three main parties In Ealing North have been asked to write for Magna.

I am grateful to the editor for allowing me to set out my stall and hope that I can go some way towards convincing Parishioners to give me your endorsement at the ballot box on May 6th. By now I would hope that most of you would have either met me locally or at Church functions or even at the annual embarrassment of my appearance in the pantomime put on by the Holy Cross Players. As the only major party candidate who lives in the Ealing North constituency I value my local links rather more highly than some MPs and I happen to believe that living and working in Ealing North allows me to represent you and your views far better than would otherwise have been the case.



One of the reasons that I never claimed for the second home allowance – apart from the fact that it was just plain wrong – was my determination to keep it local and although this focus may be in part responsible for my utter failure to climb the greasy pole towards Ministerial office I feel that there is still a place today for someone rooted and grounded in the local community. However I'm not just asking you to vote for me but for a Labour government and a continuation of the policies that have brought us out of the global recession and are restoring stability to the economy.

I'm asking you to vote for a Labour Government that introduced the minimum wage, ended the hunting of stags and foxes with hounds, ended the war in the North of Ireland, introduced Sure Start, rebuilt all our schools, brought in the winter fuel allowance, free TV licences for the over 75s and increased the pension more than any government in history. A government that has reduced waiting lists and increased investment in the NHS to unprecedented levels as well as bringing in children's and working families tax credits and the Child Trust Fund.

Above all this has been a government that has broken the chain of debt that shackled the third world and – working with Jubilee 2000 and the Holy Cross community – done more for international development than anyone has ever done before. The Fair Trade has been an example of the churches prompting government and Labour responding.

I was personally delighted to see legislation taken through the House on the last week of the last Parliament to end the foul practice of western financial institutions buying up the debt of third world countries and bleeding them dry with extortionate interest rates and demands. These "vulture funds" were an international disgrace and it was a Labour government that ended them.

I wouldn't even try to pretend that all has been perfect and I chose to resign as a junior Minister in order to vote against the absurd and indefensible proposal to renew Trident and later I did the same in respect of Gurkha settlement rights.

If we knew then what we know now about Iraq the vote would have been very different and I'll bear my share of the blame for that as long as I live but on our very worst day the Labour government has been better than any alternative on offer and I still believe that now. I don't ask for your vote lightly and I still believe that to represent you is the highest honour I could know. Thank you for your friendship in the past and for the example of an active Christian community that you so actively demonstrate.

Steve Pound

The Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate



I have lived in Ealing for nearly 25 years and have served on Ealing Council for 18 years. For the last four years I have been Deputy Leader of the successful Conservative Council. I am a practicing Anglican, worshipping at St John's Church in West Ealing, where I married Louise back in 1990. We have two children who both attend local state faith schools.

I am a civil engineer and have worked in the construction industry since graduating from university. The construction industry has been severely hit by the credit crunch and I have seen at firsthand how Gordon Brown's economic mismanagement has cost many people their jobs. After nearly 13 years of Labour Government almost five million people are on out of work benefits; Government debt is growing by nearly £20 million every hour; the Government is spending more on debt interest than on educating our children; over 1 million violent crimes were recorded last year and the poorest families are paying

a higher share of their income in tax than anyone else. Even our local A&E services at Ealing Hospital are threatened with closure.

Do we want another 5 years of a tired and discredited government that has failed to control our economy? A government that has; failed to control the bankers; failed to control immigration and allowed Members of Parliament to abuse their expenses in such a horrific way.

Or do we want change? A new Conservative Government led by David Cameron will:

- **Back the NHS** by increasing spending on health every year, and stop Labour's plans to close the local A&E unit at our hospital.
- **Get the economy moving** by tackling the debt and scrapping Labour's jobs tax.
- **Clamp down on crime** by getting bobbies back on the beat and away from paperwork
- **Bring immigration under control** by introducing a new border police force and an annual cap on numbers
- **Change politics** by reducing the number of MPs, cut Ministers' salaries and stop MPs voting on their own pay, pensions and expenses.

As Deputy Leader of Conservative controlled Ealing Council, I have played a key role in transforming Greenford after years of Labour neglect. I have been responsible for our ambition to deliver a new high school for Greenford. We have acquired the Glaxo Sports and Social club as a site for the new school, which will open in September 2014. The success of Good for Greenford, the revamped Greenford Library and our plans to regenerate Greenford Hall show what a good Conservative administration can achieve for Greenford. We have shown that you can cut waste and inefficiency, improve services and not increase taxes. Now it is time for the Conservatives to sort out Britain.

When you go to vote on 6th May you have two choices. You can vote for me and vote for change or, by voting for any other party, you can vote for 5 more years of Gordon Brown. A simple choice, but for the future of our great country, a vitally important decision.

Ian Gibb

The Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate

If there's one thing growing up on RAF bases teaches you is the preparedness to fight for what you believe in. This has stuck with me throughout my life and helped me become the man I am today.



So when the government took us in to an illegal war in Iraq against the will of the people, I knew I had to do something. When they tried to bring in ID cards that would unfairly target and polarise communities, I had to speak up. And when I saw the growing disparity between the richest and the poorest and the emergence of both a super elite and a dispossessed underclass devoid of any aspiration or ambition, I knew I had to do something to address this. So I started looking for those who shared my views and my values and I happened upon the Liberal Democrats.

"The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity."*

As soon as I read this, I knew I had found the party for me.

Fairness is at the core of our policies and drives our manifesto commitments to the British people.

- A fair deal on taxes – making sure no one pays tax on the first £10,000 they earn, ensuring the lowest earners and pensioners come out of income tax altogether. We will also ensure the richest pay their fair share.
- A fair start for children – The Liberal Democrats would allocate an extra £2.5b into schools, enabling us to cut class sizes, provide more teachers, and provide catch-up classes so children get the individual attention they need. The Liberal Democrats will also phase out tuition fees over the course of 6 years allowing a university education to be open to all members of society, not just the wealthy.
- A fair government – the current mechanics of government are outdated, expensive and open to abuse. The Liberal Democrats aim to change our system of government to ensure the democratic process is open and free.
- A fair economy – for too long our country has relied on the City of London to drive our economy. Recent events have shown that this approach is flawed and fraught with dangers that can wreck our economy. The Liberal Democrats intend to limit our reliance on one narrow sector and develop alternative industries to sustain us in the future.

As the Liberal Democrat MP for Ealing North I will:

- Fight against Heathrow expansion
- Fight to prevent the A&E closure at Ealing Hospital
- Fight for an extra secondary school within the area

The time has come for a change in Ealing North and the country as a whole, so if you believe in fairness, please vote for me and help me change the community and the country for good.

* - Preamble to the Liberal Democrat Constitution

Chris Lucas

The Liberal Democrat Party Parliamentary Candidate