



## **Synod Delegates told of Far Right's Real Agenda.**

A former mole in the British National Party, Ray Hill, gave an insider's view of the threat that right-wing extremism poses in the upcoming elections in an address to members of the Church of England General Synod on Wednesday. From first hand experience Mr Hill said that no one should be left in any doubt about the true nature of the Far Right in the UK. Describing their work as evil he said that the bottom line was antisemitism and that we can only look forward to an increasing presence in local and national government of the extremist right parties.

Noted historian Professor David Cesarani, outlining the origins of the Far Right in Britain stressed that media coverage of the Far Right will increase because of the economic and market imperatives on the media not necessarily because they support such extremist politics.

Vivian Wineman, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, spoke about the dedicated campaigns that the Board of Deputies had run against the Far Right in the last couple of years.

The session was Chaired by the Bishop of Manchester and CCJ Chair, Rt. Rev Nigel McCulloch, who has been particularly active in his opposition to this malign force in politics in the North West England.

David Gifford, Chief Executive of CCJ said, "It was hugely important for us to keep the Far Right high on the Church of England's agenda in this election year. Professor Cesarani's analytical overview was sobering enough but Mr Hill's emphatic delivery of the horrors

he had experienced and the true motivation of the Far Right touched everyone in the room.”

All speakers warned that a resurgence of right-wing extremism posed a real threat at the next election, and that it was incumbent on all our communities to take steps and act against the politics of hate.

The popular event, which left standing-room only, took place on 10 February at a fringe meeting of the Church of England’s General Synod. The General Synod is a twice-yearly meeting of bishops, clergy and lay leaders, which decides the Church’s spiritual direction and policy.