

James Wilson

Proposed by Fred Jones, Salford and Leigh Deanery Synod, lay chair of Salford deanery synod 1994-2021
Seconded by Jeff Dunkerley, Manchester South and Stretford Deanery Synod, lay chair of Withington deanery synod 2005-21



The next five years are set to be a pivotal time for the Church of England. As we face the challenges of the next few years together, we need to have a big vision for what it means to live out the Gospel in the 21st century.

Lay voices are needed, and it is my belief that they need to be heard in General Synod more clearly than ever. I am ready to contribute my voice to the work of renewal and reform that will help us achieve that vision.

My background and experience

I am 37 and grew up in Hastings in East Sussex. I moved up to Manchester for university and fell in love with the city and so stayed after graduating.

Since then, I have become very active in civic and community life. I have also been active in working with churches and charities to support some of the most disadvantaged in our society. I am

- A councillor on Manchester City Council. I was first elected in 2014 and have chaired taskforces on improving public health and home care in Manchester
- A governor at the Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- A governor at Broad Oak Primary School in East Didsbury and chair of the resources committee
- A volunteer with the Boaz Trust, helping at a night shelter for destitute asylum seekers over the last decade

I was also on the organising committee which helped to set up Burnage Foodbank in partnership with the Trussell Trust.

At present I am a churchwarden of St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury and have held the position for four years. I am also an elected member of the new Manchester South and Stretford Deanery Synod.

My priorities if elected to the General Synod

An inclusive church

I believe in a church for everyone, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. As the General Synod discusses the response to Living in Love and Faith and the work of the Racial Justice Commission, I will endeavour to ensure the church puts inclusion and equality at the heart of all it does.

Social Justice

Jesus prioritised serving the poor and the marginalised throughout all his ministry. Likewise, my conviction is that a crucial part of the church's mission should be to both serve the disadvantaged in our communities but also to campaign for social and economic justice.

Climate change

I fully support General Synod's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. My belief is the church should be at the forefront of the fight against climate change and should be setting an example to wider society. I believe an important part of this is making sure the church is using its investments to further this essential cause.

Parish-based ministry

I don't believe any of us can shy away from the challenge of falling attendance which the church faces and the impact this has on our finances. I believe key to meeting this challenge is supporting and resourcing parish ministry and encouraging local churches to work together to reach out and serve their communities.



Clergy wellbeing

The Church has a duty of care to all its staff. I would advocate for better support for clergy to enable them to better serve their congregations and communities, as a precursor to improving the wellbeing of all God's people.

Finally, if elected, I will be your representative on General Synod. I will be accessible to the laity in all parishes across our diverse diocese and will ensure you are updated of developments and will listen to your views.

The Election

The election runs until October 8th.

Please consider giving me your **first-preference vote**. If you have any questions or would like to talk about what I might bring to the General Synod, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below.

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"I have known James for a number of years and we have worked together as fellow churchwardens at St James and Emmanuel. I believe James would be a real asset on General Synod. He brings a lot of experience of governance of large institutions but also a vision for an inclusive and forward-looking church."

Jeff Dunkerley, Manchester Diocesan Synod, lay chair of Withington Deanery Synod 2005-21