

GENERAL SYNOD ADDRESS 2026

I am Canon Falak Sher, serving in the Diocese of Manchester and living in Salford. For over two decades I have served as parish priest, chaplain, and Canon, with a heart for urban ministry, interfaith friendship, and serving communities where the Church is most needed. For the last four years I have served in General Synod as a UKME Co- opted member.

I offer again myself for General Synod at a critical time for our Church. I love the Church of England - its parochial heart, its catholic and reformed breadth, and its calling to be present in every community.

If elected, I will bring:

A voice for the parishes of the North. I understand the realities of ministry in diverse, working-class, and resource-stretched contexts. I will argue for fairer funding, clergy wellbeing, and practical support for parochial ministry.

A commitment to mission and growth. We must become younger and more diverse, not as a slogan but as reality. As someone of Pakistani heritage who has ministered across cultures, I want to help our Church better reflect the nation, welcome Global Majority Anglicans, and equip churches for evangelism.

A bridge-builder. In Salford I work daily with people of other faiths and none. I believe we can hold our differences on contested issues with grace, good listening, and fidelity to Scripture, reason and tradition. We need a Synod that listens prayerfully and speaks with unity.

A pastor's perspective. I care deeply about safeguarding done well, about supporting stipendiary and self-supporting clergy, and about making Synod's decisions understandable and workable in the parish.

With regard to the most contentious issues of the day I will always listen to others, pray carefully, and speak honestly from within my basically conservative worldview.

I would be honoured to have your support and your prayers.

Thanks

Fr Falak Sher