

John Hobson

Member of Oldham Parish Church.

Nominated by Joan Howard (Salford & Leigh Deanery).

Seconded by Paul Tyler (Oldham & Ashton Deanery).



Why I am standing for General Synod (House of Laity)

- I have been involved for over 22 years in parish life in Manchester, serving as a PCC member and previously as a churchwarden for 6 years [St Clement's, Chorlton, M21].
- In November 2025 I was elected to Synod by way of a casual vacancy. Having now attended two General Synods, I have learned a great deal about the commitment and responsibility of elected membership, including feeding back to Diocesan and Deanery Synods and personally.
- I have an understanding of the various traditions in the Anglican Church - I came to faith as a child in an evangelical church but have long felt at home in a liberal-catholic context. I consider myself to a good listener who seeks resolution where possible by way of patient consensus-building.
- If re-elected to Synod I will endeavour to represent the Diocese as a lay-mandated member to the best of my experience and ability, working with others from Manchester who are elected.

Background

Resident of Oldham, aged 58. I was brought up in the evangelical Open Brethren movement, baptised by full immersion aged 12 and absorbing the doctrines of the 'Priesthood of all Believers' and the 'Breaking of Bread'.

In adulthood, I was theologically up-ended, struggling to reconcile life experiences with faith alongside a growing political consciousness and sat on the margins of organised church life for many years, if I attended church at all.

Having worked in Higher Education I re-trained as a legal-aid barrister, a commitment to social justice having deepened and moved to Manchester for work in 2002. Like many, I am privileged to work in a role that continually reminds me of the lived difficulties faced by so many, working daily in frontline housing rights and the inquest/coronial system.

Upon being absorbed into parish life I eventually became a PCC member and then a churchwarden. In 2016/2017 I volunteered with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel (World Council of Churches) residing in the

Northern West Bank, working alongside Israeli and Palestinian human rights' organisations/communities on a daily basis.

I'm currently involved with Fairtrade activities and Taize services at Oldham Parish Church. I also help to facilitate prayer and quiet spaces, such as at the Chorlton Beer Festival and within the Greenbelt Festival.

General Synod

- **I support the progress made by General Synod on all matters towards full inclusion** because it reflects the outlook and heart I believe the Church should have. It matters pastorally within parish and community life and furthermore if the Anglican Church is to speak credibly, both locally and nationally.
- **I have been very encouraged** by the Church's leadership and focus regarding **Adult Social Care provision** through the '**Re-imagining Care**' report. Momentum must not be lost and we must ensure that the Archbishop of Canterbury and wider church leadership continue to be supported in speaking into this crucial national conversation.
- **I firmly believe** that **local parishes** can be the site of **real spiritual growth, journeying, care, meaning and community**. But parishes and clergy need to be supported with **resources that are fairly allocated**. There are real questions and meaningful discussions to be had about equitable distribution of resources as translated into Diocesan outlook and parish life.
- **I will continue** to ensure that the concerns of the Palestinian Christian community are raised in, moreover acted upon, by Synod. The worldwide Church has a particular responsibility to speak prophetically about justice and peace for a common future for all living in the land in which Jesus walked.
- **I support** the initiatives and decisions taken by General Synod towards **environmental sustainability** and an **ethical lens** towards the Anglican Church's substantial financial and land/property resources.
- I believe that **a strong voice from Manchester Diocese** within General Synod is as important as ever as our region gains further national prominence and as we discern what the future voice and church presence here may look like.



Thank you for taking the time to read. Please consider voting for me with your 1st preference, or otherwise with the highest preference following a vote for another candidate.

If you have any questions in respect of my candidacy, please do not hesitate to contact me via jshobson70@gmail.com

