



ROB CHILTON

Standing for the House of Laity of the General Synod

Dear Elector,

I would greatly value your support and vote in the forthcoming elections to the General Synod. I hope that I may work with the other members to represent our whole Diocese at that level of the Church's deliberations.

I am 40 years old and have been involved in the ministry and witness of the Church of England all my adult life, wherever I have been living at the time. In both Manchester and Chester Dioceses, I have served as a sidesman, church officer, PCC member, Deanery Synod member, Diocesan Synod member, and general volunteer.

Now living in Heywood, I worship at St Luke's, which is a cheerful and vibrant parish. Although we are a small core team, we are always trying something new, whilst maintaining our own traditions and strong presence in the local community. I serve as an ALM, supporting our Vicar and Wardens with some of the administrative work of the parish. I also help to deliver the annual Parish Admin ALM course.

Throughout my career, I have held numerous roles, one of the main highlights of which was a 12-year stint as a Trafford Councillor, a role I fulfilled with great joy and enthusiasm. Through this, and my long experience as a Rotarian, school governor and community volunteer, I have acquired a commitment to finding solutions to the problems that confront us, and a conviction that we all have 'more in common' than that which divides us.

Over the page, I detail some of the reasons why I am standing for the General Synod, and I submit them to you for your kind consideration.

Should you have any questions, I am happy to be contacted via email at chiltonrobert18@gmail.com.

Every blessing,

Rob Chilton

MY VALUES

- I believe we are called upon to serve God and make him known in the various communities and situations in which we find ourselves.
- There is no substitute for calm, rational and courteous discussion and debate. This often leads to greater understanding between individuals, and an appreciation of everyone's point of view.
- We are all also called upon to help one-another, and to treat others as Jesus would have us treat them. Even if, like everyone, I don't always succeed at this, scripture demands that we keep trying.
- The Church must be a place where all feel safe, with no exceptions.
- It is vital that our present parish system is retained and appropriately resourced for mission.
- I am a long-standing advocate for the continued use of the Book of Common Prayer, where appropriate and advantageous to do so
- The variety and traditions of the Church of England are what make it great, both liturgically and in our church buildings. This is a precious aid to our ministry, and we should treasure this heritage.
- I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the Church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

WHY I AM STANDING

- We are living in unprecedented times, at a critical juncture for our Church. The outcomes from General Synod will determine how we, as followers of Jesus, respond to the challenges we face. The stress on lay people to maintain a Christian presence in our cities, towns and villages is enormous, and we must be able to do so with the confidence that our efforts will be endorsed and supported.
- Church buildings, church halls and churchyards, whilst a blessing to our witness across the Diocese, can be very difficult to maintain. Rising utility bills and repair costs feel increasingly burdensome to hard-pressed laity and clergy. It is vital that the General Synod remains cognisant of these challenges, and that we receive appropriate support and funding to enable us to maintain these built declarations of our faith.
- We must ensure that we work together with other denominations, and other churches throughout the Anglican Communion, to help build up God's Kingdom in our present time, to stand up for peace and justice, and to encourage civility and integrity in public life.
- Inspired by the example of my late grandparents, and inheriting an enthusiasm for ecclesiastical architecture, I am committed to using my skills to give practical support to the wider Diocese in our collective ministry.