

James Wilson

Proposed by Jeff Dunkerley, Lay Chair of Manchester South and Stretford Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod.

Seconded by Sue Stonestreet, Diocesan Synod, Bury and Rossendale Deanery Synod.



It has been an honour to serve as one of the representatives for the laity of Manchester Diocese on General Synod for the last five years. I am asking for your vote to allow me to continue this service.

The Church of England faces new challenges to navigate over the coming years as it seeks to offer hope in an increasingly polarised society. I believe I have the experience and vision to contribute to General Synod and support the Church in this work.

My background and experience

I grew up in East Sussex before moving to Manchester for university when I fell in love with the city and I have lived there ever since.

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 served as a councillor on Manchester City Council for ten years and chaired taskforces on improving public health and home care in the city.
- I was on the organising committee which helped set up Burnage Foodbank in partnership with the Trussell Trust.
- I helped run at a night shelter for destitute asylum seekers in partnership with the Boaz Trust.

I have attended St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury for the last twelve years. I am an Authorised Lay Minister and I am training to become a reader.

Representing Manchester Diocese

Many parishes in our diocese face stark challenges – finances are tight and clergy are overstretched. If re-elected, I will be a representative who will fight our corner in debates about finances and resources.

I have supported, and would continue to support, maintaining Low-Income Communities Funding for areas with high levels of deprivation, which has been a lifeline for ministry in parts of Manchester diocese.

More widely, I would be your representative on General Synod. I will be accessible to the laity in all parishes across our diverse diocese, I will make myself available to report back about the work of Synod and I will listen to your views.

My priorities if re-elected

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.

An inclusive church

If re-elected to General Synod, I would be 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. During the last 5 years, I voted for the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith and supported measures to promote racial justice and, if re-elected, I will continue to work for a church where everyone is welcomed and included.

Safeguarding

The church should be a safe place for everyone, especially for children and for vulnerable adults. Unfortunately, this has not always been true, and historic failures such as the cases of John Smyth and Mike Pilivachi have undermined trust in the church. I believe we need to do better on safeguarding and, if re-elected, I will continue to push for concrete action.

Social Justice

Jesus prioritised serving the poor and the marginalised throughout his ministry. Likewise, my conviction is that a crucial part of the church's mission should be to serve the disadvantaged in our communities, campaign for social and economic justice and lead by example on combatting climate change.

Equipping lay ministry and supporting clergy

As an Authorised Lay Minister who is in training to become a reader, I am passionate about supporting lay ministry. However, this should supplement the ministry of the clergy, not replace it. The Church has a duty of care to all its staff and I would advocate for better support for clergy to enable them to better serve their congregations and communities.



The Election

The election runs until October 13th. 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 following contact details:

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