

# Jeremy Harris

Candidate for General Synod 2021, Macclesfield Area

Email: [Jeremy.j.harris@outlook.com](mailto:Jeremy.j.harris@outlook.com)

Tel: 07510 721638

Address: 16 Westfield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport SK8 6EH

I am writing to ask for your vote in the forthcoming elections to General Synod. I would be most grateful if you could give me your first preference vote, or, failing that, the highest preference vote that you are able to give to me. Please telephone or email me if you have any questions.



## Who am I?

I am aged 57. I was brought up in Frodsham near Runcorn and spent all my school years in Frodsham and Helsby. After graduating from St Peter's College, Oxford with an MA in Law, I qualified originally as a Barrister, but subsequently qualified and have practised as a Solicitor for 31 years. For over 20 years I have been a partner in two different international law firms. My legal experience has been useful in dealing with the volume of paperwork on General Synod and in reviewing draft legislation. Having now been a member of General Synod for the last 6 years, I am now familiar with the processes of Synod.

I have been a member of St Mary's Cheadle since 1992, when I moved up from London, where I first worked. I met my wife, Dina, at St Mary's and we have been married for nearly 27 years. We have 3 sons, aged 24, 20 and 16.

I led a home Bible study group for 15 years before becoming a member of the PCC and was then PCC Secretary for 5 years. I used also to be part of the visiting team in the parish, meeting members of the community. I was a member of Cheadle Deanery Synod for several years before being elected to General Synod in 2015. I have been nominated to stand for General Synod by two members of Chester Diocesan Synod, Graham Lowcock and Fiona Goode.

In my spare time, I enjoy watching and (where possible) playing, cricket and football. I enjoy reading history books and biographies, as well as theology.

## **What do I stand for?**

### **Upholding Traditional Marriage**

In the Bible (Genesis 2) marriage is a lifelong union between a man and a woman. The Church's teaching and practice should reflect that. In accordance with the Pastoral Epistles to Timothy and Titus, Christian ministers must be both sound in theology and upright morally, which means they should be either faithful in Christian marriage or celibate.

### **Supporting Clergy Training**

It is important that high quality residential ordination training is maintained to give our clergy a thorough grounding in the Holy Scriptures, so that they can preach the Bible faithfully, and to communicate effectively to our community and culture.

### **Strengthening Lay Ministry for Church Growth**

It is vital that lay people are encouraged and equipped for evangelism and discipleship. In particular, the Church needs to re-engage explicitly with its mission of evangelism, to preach the Gospel to this nation and to all nations.

### **Reaffirming Biblical Authority**

In a time of change and challenge, with many alternatives proposed for change in the Church, I believe the Church needs to recapture its confidence in the final authority of Scripture – to challenge the nation to a counter-cultural vision of the Kingdom of God that speaks prophetically to our culture. Only then can the Church bear witness to the nation and speak with authority on moral issues.

### **Prioritising Young People's Work**

It is vital to invest energy and effort into new initiatives to bring the Gospel to the younger generation. I support investing in Christian education and discipleship as an urgent priority.

### **Simplifying the Bureaucracy**

As a solicitor, I am aware of the capacity of the law to help or hinder Christian work. I am committed to a simplification agenda that enables future legislation to serve the ministry of the Church more effectively.

### **Importance of the Parish System**

I believe that the parish system is central to the Church's evangelism, giving the Church a presence in every community and opportunities to minister to everyone. It is vital therefore to strengthen parish churches and parish ministry and that the Church should not become too centralised.

I am a Bible-believing Christian and a convinced Anglican. I believe in the Church of England's teaching set out in the 39 Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal. If elected, I will do my utmost to see that the Bible and the Church's teaching are upheld in General Synod.