



# REVD. JACK SHEPHERD

## CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL SYNOD

I would like to offer myself to serve the Diocese of Liverpool, and the wider Church, in standing for election to General Synod. I have recent experience of serving across a breadth of traditions to seek the Kingdom of God. Last year, I moved to the role of missional priest in the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton, which has a liberal catholic tradition, from working as a curate at St Paul's, which is recognised as a charismatic evangelical church. I hope that through this enthusiasm about diversity in the Church of England I would be enabled to help identify connections, and foster a sense of learning between, different voices at General Synod. I also think that, having been recently ordained, I would contribute a perspective that is fresh, young, and full of hope for the future, as well as informed through recent study as part of my PhD about church growth and the Holy Spirit.

The following information and comments will, I hope, provide you with an understanding of how I approach the possibility of being elected / serving. I would be grateful for your prayers and support in the election and especially your first preference vote (and if I am not your first choice candidate I would ask you to consider giving me your 2nd or 3rd vote).

### CONTACT

Please get in touch with any questions



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### POSTS CURRENT

#### Missional Priest

Parish of Up Holland and Dalton

### PREVIOUS

#### Curate

Parish of Skelmersdale

### RECENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Member of Bishop's Council

Member of Diocesan Synod

Chapter Clerk for Ormskirk Deanery

Co-ordinator for northern Bishops

mission in Ormskirk Deanery

PhD Student at Cliff College

Apprentice at St Mary's, Maidenhead

Relay Worker in Edinburgh

Pastoral Assistant at St Thomas', York

Associate for the Joshua Centre

### NOMINATED BY

Revd. Simon Renison

Resource Church Leader,

Christ Church Padgate

### SECONDED BY

Revd. Sandra Jones

Curate in North East Hub Wigan

### WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID



"Working with Jack as missional priest is a privilege and joy. His commitment to all the traditions which make up the Anglican Church is refreshing and encouraging. Jack would bring many gifts and insights to General Synod and he is the sort of person we need, if the C of E really wants to engage with and witness effectively to all in the wider communities we are called to serve." Revd Paul Lock, Parish Priest for Up Holland and Dalton



"Jack has a passion and desire for serving God within the Church of England. He also has a deep concern for supporting and developing the church in all areas of growth, development and mission. Jack has always shown himself to be proactive in striving for change that is needed to make a positive difference. He is committed and hard working and would give 100% commitment if he was elected to General Synod." Revd Sandra Jones, Curate in North East Hub Wigan



"Jack would be a real asset to General Synod. He is a humble priest with a heart to see people come to know Jesus. He has a heart for the Church of England and wants to see her thrive." Revd Simon Renison, Resource Church Leader, Christ Church Padgate



"Jack Shepherd. is confident enough to see who God is calling him to be, visionary enough to lead the church into the future, flexible enough to work and see things from another's point of view, wise enough to seek other's advice. His love of Jesus is apparent and his excitement to be a part of Gods mission, not just in the Church of England but in the world, is inspiring." Revd. Eileen Heaney, Area Dean for Ormskirk Deanery



"Jack is enthusiastic and engaged, thoughtful and committed to the flourishing of the Church of England in all its breadth and diversity. He is passionate about the gospel, church growth, nurturing and equipping disciples, and building community. If elected to General Synod he would be an active and wholehearted participant who would effectively represent Liverpool Diocese to the wider church." Revd. Chris Spittle, Vicar of St Paul's, Skelmersdale



## PASSIONATE ABOUT... THE DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

In the Diocese of Liverpool I have enjoyed getting to know and engage effectively with a wide number of people from different traditions and experiences.

I moved to this Diocese in 2017 from the Diocese of York, who supported me through the process of discernment and training for ordained ministry, after training at Cranmer Hall in Durham. As well as participating in placements around the country, including in the Dioceses of Oxford, Sheffield, Bath & Wells, Newcastle, and Chichester, this reflects an understanding of the issues faced by the Church of England across the country as a whole. I was inspired to explore curacy in the Diocese of Liverpool after hearing stories about Bishop Clifford Martin and Bishop David Sheppard. Bishop Martin's focus on reconciliation, and building churches for new housing developments, at a time of crisis, as well as Bishop Sheppard's commitment to ecumenism and prophetic claim that "there is a divine bias to the poor", seem as relevant today as they ever have been and should be at the heart of what General Synod stands for. I will seek, if elected, that, standing at the crossroads, General Synod would consider the ancient path and how to walk in it (Jeremiah 6:16)



## PASSIONATE ABOUT... CHURCH GROWTH

Throughout coronavirus lockdowns, I found a source of strength and encouragement in Jesus' promise: "I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). I believe that the parish system should continue to be at the heart of the Church of England and strengthened through allocation of resources and high quality

theological education. Through my PhD research, I have attempted to establish foundations for talking about and planning for growth in the Church of England by demonstrating that, in Common Worship, the concept of church growth is rooted in the theme of hope in the liturgical calendar and closely connected to anticipation of transformation at the Eucharist. I have been able to integrate my research in practical ministry and believe that increasingly through my research I will have insights that are useful for General Synod. In recent years, it has been a huge privilege, through working with the Joshua Centre, to get to know people involved in starting new congregations in very different contexts around the Diocese. I have been involved in building up, and strengthening, 'inherited church', as well as church planting, within charismatic evangelical churches, including starting a new congregation at a primary school with St Paul's whose motto was 'come as you are', and liberal catholic churches, including providing online access to regular Eucharistic worship and developing the new 'Fun In Faith' congregation in the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton. Distinctive opportunities for ministry in Skelmersdale include welcoming, and nurturing in faith, asylum seekers and refugees from around the world. Particularly as many people flee from Afghanistan to the UK, and as people migrate from Hong Kong, the Church of England's response to the escalating refugee humanitarian crisis is going to be vital. I think it is also essential for the Church of England to provide faithful witness through achieving our targets for all parts of the church to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. I am committed to striving towards the Church of England being more hospitable and inclusive, fair and safe, with every person heard, loved & respected, and hope that the improvement of clergy well-being, safeguarding, and conversations around Living in Love and Faith, will be steps towards this..



## PASSIONATE ABOUT... WORKING TOGETHER

I believe that God's blessing flows when there is unity in his family, and that our prayer and witness is often weakened by a lack of unity. Hopefully what I have written above demonstrates that I will listen carefully to what others say, welcoming them to contribute their voices, and that, learning from them, I will contribute my own voice within these discussions. I have done this at deanery chapter, raising challenging questions about allocation of stipends. I have done this at diocesan synod, encouraging us to ensure that our views as a Diocese about sexuality are reflected in the liturgy of the Church of England. I have done this at Bishop's Council, convincing people to agree that the 'Five Beautiful Numbers' should continue to be talked about at parish level. I hope I will be able to do so, with your support, as a member of General Synod.

