

Election Address 2026 – Revd Jude Padfield

I am standing for General Synod because I love the Church of England and want to see our Communion and our Churches flourishing together. I will contend for these things. I believe the Church of England has a great role to play in God's future, for our nation and the world, and I want to serve our Synod to help realise that potential. We can be diverse, compassionate, Godly and great, all at the same time, and I will seek the collective wisdom and action required to help navigate the narrow path to a more unified future.

Indeed, because of our peculiar history and national identity as the Church of England, we have been forced to wrestle with the challenge of unity amidst diversity; and I believe this is a prophetic reality that we are called to model and share with the world around us. Indeed, unity amidst diversity is of great theological importance and given significant priority in Jesus' prayer for oneness in the Church in John 17. It should be a source of joy and confidence, pursued with earnestness, and I hope we can recapture that together in our regional and national Church.

I believe we are in a missionary context, with tremendous opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. I want to see the Church equipped to share our faith with friends, family and in the public square. I am particularly motivated to help our Churches hand on the baton of faith to those coming after us. Investing in children and young people has an urgency which I want to support. Resourcing the Next Generation is the tagline of one of the Churches I help to lead, it's something I have invested a large part of my ordained ministry prayerfully pursuing, and something I want to contend for more broadly.

Equally, I want to see every Church given the chance to re-imagine itself for the 21st century and beyond. There is much inherited good that we should cherish and hold onto, and there is much we need to adapt and find new expressions for. I will be supportive of Churches across our breadth of tradition, and especially where there is a desire to adapt to our changing missional landscape. Helping Churches collaborate, learn from each other, embrace missional change, and become more able to share their faith and impact their community is vital for our cultural moment, and vital to preserve our important diversity. I am also an advocate of facilitating Church Revitalisations across our diocese where PCCs decide they need help to make a step change in mission and ministry. As with St Mary's Wavertree, one of the Churches I help to lead, the process of Revitalisation needs to be highly relational, collaborative and shaped by and for the people involved. I will be encouraging the wider Church to prayerfully imagine a flourishing future and take the steps towards that in faith together.

Prayer is at the centre of our faith and the centre of our Church expressions. I want to advocate for more collective prayer across our diocese. We will only realise our dreams of unity, mission and creative Church renewal if we contend together in prayer. I will endeavour to ensure that planning and decision-making is birthed out of and wrapped in corporate prayer, and that we find new ways to pray together more regularly.

Healthy, collaborative and missional leadership is vital for our Church. As a published author on Christian leadership (*Hopeful Influence*, SCM Press) I want to see lay and ordained leaders supported and equipped to fulfil the ministries to which they are called. I think we should be dialoguing together on how we support and develop our leadership, and this would include investment in clergy housing, peer to peer reflection, safeguarding, and improving frameworks for chapter and shared learning.

I am currently Vicar of St James in the City, one of our diocesan resource Churches, and priest-in-charge at St Mary's Wavertree, our first revitalisation. I have always been part of Churches where people are regularly coming to faith and growing in faith and have a rich and fruitful experience of Church planting in different contexts. I hope to share something of that learning and spiritual optimism through Synod. I have led a successful SDF (Strategic Development Fund) project in our diocese focused on the Missing Generations of 11-30 year olds.

I am on the Membership Board of All Saints MAT (multi-academy trust). I served on the Grove Leadership Editorial Board overseeing a variety of publications. I spent a year with Pioneers working with the local Church in central Nigeria. I have two degrees in Theology, a degree in Physics and a masters in Maths. I worked for 7 years as a consultant for a FTSE 100 company based in the city of London before becoming ordained. In my

twenties I served as a Special Constable in our city and ran a football team in the Merseyside Christian league. I have two adopted children and a wonderful wife Hannah – whose gifts, love and support I value enormously – who works for the diocese as Anglican Chaplain to Liverpool University and John Moores University. I still play football, run marathons, cycle as much as possible and thoroughly enjoy family holidays, despite my teenage kids showing increasing reluctance for them. I'm not a big fan of committees but am happy to serve if elected. I am very conscious of my weaknesses and failures and came to faith in my early twenties off the back of some quite broken personal circumstances. I love the Lord Jesus Christ and if unity, mission, creative renewal, prayer and leadership are important to you, then I would value your vote.