

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION 2026

ROSEMARY J. LYON – LAY CANDIDATE

PROPOSED BY:

Mrs. Susan Leathert, Whalley Deanery Synod

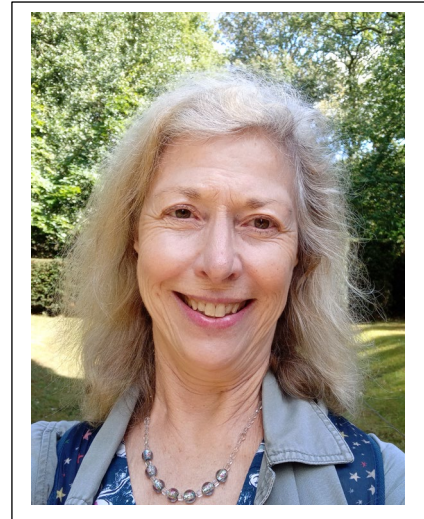
SECONDED BY:

Mrs. Avril Fowler, Chorley Deanery Synod

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Dear Elector,

General Synod is sometimes justifiably criticised, but it is important and is only as good as its collective membership. I have been honoured to serve on behalf of the laity of this diocese for more than a decade. No longer in paid employment, but very active in 'retirement', after prayer I feel called to stand for the next five-year period.

A degree of 'churn' in General Synod membership is good, but it is beneficial to have some members experienced in the workings of Synod who hold the wisdom that comes from 'corporate memory'. I know that I could offer such experience and wisdom in the new Synod.

I worship in a small country parish of Catholic tradition (but with a broad-church congregation). We face the common challenges of a shortage of volunteers and funds and a church building needing costly repairs. I strongly believe in local parishes and realistically-sized incumbencies.

If re-elected I would again seek to be a member for the full range of lay electors and lay people in the diocese. My contact details are always on my election addresses and I would continue to make myself available to local deanery synods to report back on General Synod, bring prayer points in preparation for forthcoming General Synod meetings and to take questions and receive feedback.

At General Synod I deliberately mix with and try to build good relations with and understanding between colleagues of a full range of churchmanship and ideas. General Synod at its worst can justifiably be described as 'tribal'. I seek to be a bridge-builder, an aim which receives a positive response from most people most of the time.

Apart from involvement in debates and asking questions, I have served in several additional roles, including as Vice Chair of the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund. This body provides financial relief to clergy and their families by distributing support through dioceses. As the Synod Observer on the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council, I have arranged related fringe meetings. I also serve as one of the two elected Synod members on the National Society Council. This body negotiates with Government and other national agencies to maintain and develop the contribution of church schools, Further Education colleges and universities to public education in England and Wales.

[PLEASE READ ON OR TURN OVER]

So Who Am I?

- Married with two grown up sons, I worship at St.Mary's, Rufford with Holmeswood, where I serve as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Joint Incumbency Committee member.
- Former USPG voluntary pastoral assistant in the Anglican Diocese of Argentina, working in various capacities, including helping at the diocese's children's nursery and leading a home group. My most recent volunteer visit, supporting Crosslinks missionaries in Mendoza, was earlier this year.
- Supporter of Scripture Union, serving as a leader (and latterly also Safeguarding Officer) on 'Great Dayz' (sic) summer youth camp (2017), Hexham Holiday Club (2018) and 'Edale Adventure' (2019 - present).
- A volunteer now as a school chaplaincy assistant, giving pastoral support to pupils facing a range of challenging personal circumstances. This after a career in education, including teaching in primary and secondary schools and in teacher training college, as well as school governorship.
- Member of PCC, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod, Mothers' Union, Prayer Book Society.
- Member of the Diocesan Board of Patronage.
- Apart from family life, I keep myself sane and in touch with the secular world through active membership of the u3a (Shakespeare, Italian, Canasta) and Silver Swans (IYKYK!).

Issues of Particular Concern for Me

- **MISSION** – I would like to see more and more consistent focus on this in General Synod in the next five years.
- **UNITY** – This is what Jesus wants for His Church and this is what He wants for the Church of England. I see 'mutual flourishing' flourishing in our own diocese but also see future threats to our general unity.
- **EDUCATION** – I have a heart for education and would continue to seek to ensure that the importance of the education of the next generation should not be lost among other topics at Synod. We need to attract and engage with children through engaging with families and schools at parish and diocesan levels. Our ministry with schools must be a key priority as we strive to share our faith with children and families and encourage parents to have confidence and ability in passing on the faith.
- **PARISH, DEANERY AND DIOCESE** – I see the value of and am very keen to support each of these three, including in the forum of General Synod. I know, not least from personal experience, the current threats to parishes, the ways in which deaneries can be beneficial to parishes rather than a burden, and the growing strengths of our own diocese.

You are most welcome to contact me to discuss these or any other relevant issues.

Rosemary J. Lyon

I ask for your **first preference vote** or as high a preference as you feel able to give.