

John Oates

John is in his mid-fifties, married to Elaine and has two grown-up children. He has lived in Lepton since 1977, and is a solicitor in private practice, working in Huddersfield. Both he and Elaine came to a real commitment following the baptism of their son, and they spent their formative years at Lepton Parish Church, where John eventually reached the dizzy heights of diocesan synod representative.

John's first step in evangelism was taking part in the Jigsaw Mission to Chester in the 1990s, since when he has been increasingly involved in mission in other parts of the diocese, most recently as a member of the Turn-Around-Teams in Morley and Barnsley. He believes he is an ordinary sort of person, but over the last ten years he has had the privilege of filling various roles, knocking on doors, speaking to congregations, leading nurture groups, making the tea. God has blessed him with a good sense of humour, some wisdom, (though by his own admission not a lot!) and an ability to relate to people and encourage them to take the next step forward.