

# General Synod Electoral Address 2021



## Background

- I have lived in Dorset for 10 years and enjoyed both the life and people of the county!
- I am married to Joy, with three children, who all deeply encourage me in my ministry
- I came to faith during my teens through a local parish church youth holiday; I'm still very committed to working creatively to share my faith with the un-churched and across all ages.
- I began my working life in the clothing industry after a degree in economics. I worked for the National Audit Office and Ministry of Defence as an auditor. My financial experience has helped my contributions to the church and the church debates in General Synod
- I enjoy relaxing; playing golf, walking around Dorset, enjoying both the countryside and dramatic coastline, watching films, reading books such as the crime writing of Jo Nesbo.
- I have served on a patronage trust, am trustee of Latimer Trust, and recently helped to write a report on the work of CNC for General Synod. In addition, I teach regularly in Kenya in East Africa.
- I was the first Vicar on the web back in 1993 and believe that the ITech revolution has not finished. The Pandemic continues to see changes in the way we work
- I am also a fan of Manchester United and Bournemouth.

Candidate: Rev Peter Breckwoltd  
(Vicar of St John's, Wimborne)

Proposer: Rev Sarah Pix  
(St Mary's Ferndown)

Seconded: Rev Canon Andrew Rowland  
(The Rector, Wimborne Minster)

## Why Me?

It has been a privilege to have served both Diocesan Synod, and on General Synod for the last six years. On behalf of the clergy, I have spoken in some of the major debates and asked questions over a range of issues such as clergy pay and the pastoral ministry. The Well-Being of clergy will remain a high priority. I have asked questions across several areas and spoken in debates, including clergy terms of service, pensions, parish fees, the Anglican covenant and human sexuality, climate change and more.

I wish to offer my experience and skills to contribute on behalf of the clergy of Salisbury, as we face many significant challenges. I am passionately committed to being a clear voice for the clergy who are called first to local parish ministry. I have the energy to seek for both renewal and reform the Church of England, so that we are better placed to help in mission and ministry across the diocese. I will undertake this work aiming to uphold Biblical principles. I believe a priority should be the care of clergy, listening carefully to my colleagues in uncertain times. I hope to support further mission initiatives from General Synod and increase discipleship training.

## What am I hoping for...?

I hope to see the General Synod exercising **FAITH** around the great issues of the day from a Christian perspective. Defending and supporting clergy in this new era following lockdown offering **HOPE**, not just debating bureaucracy. The Church is well placed to give clear Biblical direction to the wider Nation, and helping the those in local ministry to offer God's **LOVE**. On General Synod I will support the faithful work being done by so many priests across the Diocese. My aim is to back your work.

## Supporting Parish Mission

There are important lessons to learn from Covid-19, such as taking time to build back better. Giving greater support to local church-based ministry. Seeking to back incarnational ministry and nurture pastoral care and evangelism.

To encourage the National Church to aid the local church to be an inclusive community, in contrast to our disjointed society. I believe ministry offers the way to serve, care, disciple the local community in the power of Holy Spirit with God's word.

## Responsibilities

- I have broad track record in the ordained ministry. I have worked in three dioceses. Chester, where I trained, then in Peterborough Diocese as the incumbent of Moulton with rural experience of ministry and seeing substantial growth, and now at St John's Wimborne as Vicar in a market town. I truly love and appreciate local parish ministry.
- I am involved locally with several schools, serving as a Trustee of Wimborne Academy Trust with over 6,000 pupils in the area. I also helped to re-establish and at first lead the local ecumenical group in Wimborne.
- In recent years, I have taught in Kenya at Carlile College. I have also served on Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and previously chaired the DEF in Salisbury.
- In a wider sphere I am also a member of the Church of England Evangelical Council .

## A last Word ...

If you would like to talk through any of the issues with me at any time, please ring me: 01202 886551 or

Email:

Pjbreckwoldt@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this paper.

Yours in Christ,

*Peter Breckwoldt*

**FAITH:** I think **Fresh Expressions** and **Bishop's Mission Orders** are a significant positive supplement to parish ministry. It is important to increase the level of care for clergy as they work in the community on the front line. We need to think sensibly about pension provision and not undervalue clergy.

**HOPE:** The Church of England maybe declining in national influence and membership in recent years. But, Jesus longs to build his Church. The National Church needs to address falling numbers, finances, moral and the overstretching of its ministry. It is time to examine our values, mission and priorities. With the right leadership, the circumstances facing the church are an opportunity for us to re-focus on our primary tasks.

**LOVE:** I will encourage building flexibility into our mission initiatives and support the aspiration of spiritual and numerical growth.

I will support investment to raise standards of excellence in ordained ministry and back vocations for the pastoral ministry.

I will promote the need to communicate what the Church is about, both to our own household of faith and into the wider community.

I will back the traditional view of marriage as we report back on Living in Love and Faith. I will continue to listen to all sides of the human sexuality debate continuing to demonstrate pastoral sensitivity and love.

I will back the imaginative deployment of clergy so as to allow local mission and ministry to flourish in town and country.

## The Big Challenges:

### Money, Staffing, Sexuality, Mission & Unity

General Synod will need **Faith, Hope and Love** as we face the massive challenges over how we finance ministry into the next decade. The Synod still needs to work on the simplification of Church life and continue the good work of safeguarding and the five guiding principles. A priority will also be vocations (both young and old) along with support for good theological training. I am concerned for the wider Anglican Communion and our links with South Sudan. Our aim should be to build greater unity in the gospel as expressed in our Anglican identity. I believe those elected should work for unity as we seek the glory of God.

During the next five years, major decisions will be made on the priority of mission and ministry, human sexuality, balancing the need between ministry and financial resources. I will speak up for the ordinary clergy of the diocese whether in the town or county. I will support the new Bishop to find resources to help the work of ministry in the diocese. My concern will be to represent ALL clergy in the many matters which impact us and our ministry in the Church.

## Please Use Your Vote

If you care about the Church Of England, please use your vote. Those elected to the Synod will need your prayerful support as they serve on your behalf. The STV system is helpful in redirecting your vote if your preferred candidate has already been elected or excluded; please be willing to express not just your first preference, but your second and third also, so that those elected can work for the good of the Church. **I am asking for your first preference vote please.**

