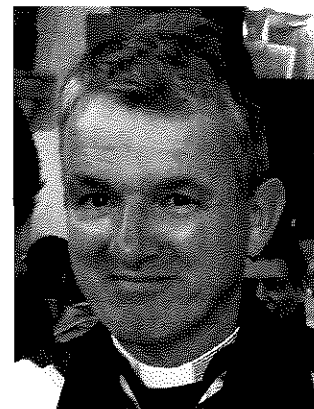


# General Synod Electoral Address



Candidate: Rev Peter Breckwoldt  
(Vicar of St Johns, Wimborne)

Proposer: Rev Chris Strain  
(St Luke's, Parkstone)

Second: Rev Sarah Pix  
(St Mary's, Ferndown)

## Background

- I am 58 years old and enjoying life here in Dorset!
- 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 faith with the un-churched.
- 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 finance experience has helped my contributions to church and diocesan finance policies.
- I enjoy relaxing: playing golf; walking around Dorset, enjoying both the countryside and dramatic coastline; watching films; reading books on history and enjoying the crime writing of Jo Nesbo.
- I serve on a patronage trust and am also a trustee of Latimer Trust, which is a significant Christian publishing trust.
- I was the first Vicar on the web back in 1993 and believe that the information revolution has not finished.
- I am also a fan of Manchester United and looking forward to them playing Bournemouth this season.

## Why me...?

It has been a privilege to have served on Diocesan Synod since I came to Salisbury Diocese. In that time we have had several debates, including clergy terms of service, pensions, parish fees, women's consecration and the Anglican covenant.

I wish to offer my experience and skills to contribute on behalf of the clergy of Salisbury as we face some significant challenges in the coming years. I am passionately committed to being a clear voice for the many clergy who are called first to local parish ministry. I have the energy to seek and promote decisions at General Synod that will help us both renew and reform the Church of England, so that we are better placed to help in mission and ministry across this land. I will undertake this work aiming to uphold biblical principles and I believe a priority should be the care of clergy as we face these times of change and challenge. I hope to support further mission initiatives from General Synod and increase discipleship training.

I would like to offer to serve on the General Synod because I love the Church of England and do not want to let our politics divide or divert us from the urgent call to bring the gospel to our nation.

## What am I hoping for...?

I hope to see the General Synod debating the great issues of the day from a Christian perspective; not just caught up in debating areas of dispute or bureaucracy, but giving a clear biblical direction to the whole Church and the nation, in a way that will support the faithful work being done by so many priests in our parishes across the Diocese.

### Supporting Parish Mission

I believe parochial church-based ministry is most valuable in providing a comprehensive, effective and incarnational context for pastoral care and evangelism.

A local church is a true all-age inclusive community, in contrast to our disjointed society; and a local ministry is the best way to serve, care for, disciple and reach out to that community with God's Word.

## *Responsibilities*

- I have been in the ordained ministry for over 27 years. I have worked in three dioceses; first in Chester where I trained, then in Peterborough diocese as the incumbent of Moulton for 19 years, with rural experience 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'm involved locally with several schools, serving on the Multi-Academy Trust of Wimborne and as a governor. I also helped to re-establish and 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 chair the DEF in Salisbury. I have promoted church planting and links with the churches in Africa
- In a wider sphere, I'm a Trustee and Council member of Latimer Trust. I am also a member of the Church of England Evangelical Council and a member of a patronage trust.

## **A Last Word ...**

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

e-mail:

pjbreckwoldt@o2.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours in Christ,

*Peter*

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

The Church of England is declining in national influence and membership in recent years, but she can be turned around. The national Church needs to address falling numbers and the overstressing of its ministries. It is time to examine our values, mission and priorities. With good leadership, the circumstances facing the Church at present are a great opportunity for us to re-focus on that which is primary.

I will encourage building flexibility in mission initiatives and support the aspiration of spiritual and numerical growth.

I will support enhancement of standards of excellence in ordained ministry and back vocations for biblical ministry.

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

I will support the traditional view of marriage, as we seek to give a clear teaching on human sexuality and as we actively listen to all sides and demonstrate pastoral sensitivity.

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:**

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

General Synod still needs to work on the simplification of Church life and continue the good work on safeguarding. A priority will also be vocations (both young and old) along with support for theological training. I am concerned for the wider Anglican Communion and the steps to build greater unity in the gospel as expressed in our Anglican identity. I believe that those who are elected should work for the glory of God and the unity of God's people.

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 and accordingly, church buildings, rural ministry and recruitment and the deployment of clergy. My concern will be always to represent effectively ALL clergy in the many matters which affect us and our ministry in the Church of England.

### **Please Use Your Vote**

If you care about the Church of England, please use your vote. Those elected to Synod will need your prayerful support as they seek to speak 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 you're second and third also, so that those elected can work for the good of the Church.