

Ven Martin Breadmore**Candidate for General Synod**

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Dear Guildford Clergy Colleagues,

I am willing to offer myself to serve you, the Diocese of Guildford and the wider Church of England by standing for election to the General Synod. I am writing therefore to ask if you would be willing to entrust me with your first-preference vote.

Having been ordained for 33 years this October, 17 of which have been in a parish context, with the remaining 16 in senior clergy roles, I sense that I would bring a particularly beneficial perspective to General Synod. With the experience I have gained over the years, it feels right now to seek to represent you at a national level.

I firmly believe that the parish is where frontline mission and ministry takes place and that any Diocese and the central Church exists solely to support gospel ministry at grass roots level. I am committed to ensuring that:

- church structures are simplified
- the historic resources of the Church are used for clear mission and ministry purposes
- clergy well-being is taken more seriously
- the most appropriate way forward is identified to enable our churches to be places of genuine safety
- we find creative ways to reverse the decline in attendance, especially amongst families, children and young people

Although feeling rather daunted by it, it would be an enormous honour and privilege to serve you on General Synod and if elected, I commit myself to being a prayerful, present and faithful member. I would work hard to build unity and consensus whenever possible and would seek to represent all clergy and laity. I am committed to engaging in any debate in a way that respects those whose views differ from my own.

Please do prayerfully consider giving me your first-preference vote. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Martin

My Story

I grew up in Tiptree, Essex, before moving to Fetcham, Surrey, with my parents and younger sister when I was 12. After school I studied for a University of London external law degree in Bath, having realised that an acting career was not to be. It was during those years that an early sense of God's call to ordained ministry, first felt before my A levels, became clearer. After graduating, I spent a year as a pastoral assistant before beginning ordination training.

It was through Scripture Union holiday clubs that I first encountered Jesus, and I remain deeply grateful to the many people who patiently nurtured my faith and helped me discover the love of Christ. Monica and I married during my training, and our ministry has taken us to Kent, Camberley, Wallington and London before I became Archdeacon of Dorking in 2019. We have one son, Joshua. Away from ministry, I enjoy theatre, gardening, good food and walking our much-loved cockapoo, Jessie J.

My hopes for the future

My sense is that there is a widespread view that 'business as usual' for us as a church will only lead to further denominational decline. The Lord is clearly at work in new and exciting ways across our Diocese and nation and we need to listen to and discern what the Spirit is saying and where he is leading. General Synod must act in a way that extends the mission of the Church and enables every local parish to focus on sharing the good news of Jesus through word and deed.

In my role as Archdeacon I recognise many of the challenges that clergy face today, which include parish finances, an ever increasing administrative burden and concerns around their own health and well-being.

I understand that the next quinquennium will continue to work on the Governance Review that Bishop Andrew chaired, as well as addressing the questions about how money from the Church Commissioners is allocated. Significant work has been achieved on practice, oversight, and governance in safeguarding but that there is more work to be done on identifying the most appropriate arrangements for independent scrutiny and governance arrangements. Some significant decisions have been thankfully taken with regards to clergy stipends and pensions, but there is more work to be done in improving how complaints and allegations against clergy are handled.

If elected I will seek to ensure that the most appropriate decisions are made in each of these, and other areas, to enable clergy to keep evangelism and growing disciples central to their ministry; to keep the main thing the main thing!

Please vote for Ven Martin Breadmore for General Synod

Nominated by The Revd David Uffindell, Rector of St. Andrew's Farnham and Chair of the House of Clergy

Seconded by The Revd Jackie Richardson, Vicar of St. Peter's Hersham and Area Dean of Emly