

## The Revd Adam J Beaumont

Associate Archdeacon of Bristol and Malmesbury



### General Synod Nomination Supporting Statement

Thank you for taking the time to consider who you would like to be your next General Synod representative. You know, as I do, that the decisions and discussions that happen at Synod really do affect our individual parishes and are discussed under the public gaze.

We must have the right people representing us – those who are called, committed, and competent in attending to the mission of the church and I hope you might consider that to be me.

My deep **commitment** is to the *flourishing of every parish* in the Diocese of Bristol (Jn 10.10). That is what gets me out of bed each morning, it's the motivator in my 'day job'. In all my responsibilities this fundamental principle underlies my decision making, and my support of clergy, ministers, parish officers, and congregations. I will apply the same principle just as fervently in my advocacy for this diocese at General Synod. Any policy or governance is inadequate unless it is primarily for the flourishing of what is our superpower – the local church... this is the place from which transformation happens, and this is where I see the hope of Christ each day as I serve across every corner of our diocese.

Alongside this I have a particular passion in speaking up for the flourishing of Children and Young People. The audacious vision of the national church to double the number of young active disciples by 2030 really, really excites me (*cf.* Ps 145.4). This is our future in more ways than one. It is both about the life of our church (under 18s are the fastest declining demographic in the church nationally), and more importantly, it is about real lives – the lives of your and my children and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews. The ones who will shape God's world into the future.

The experience I have gained means that I am more than **competent** to serve you really well. In the last two years, I have had the privilege of getting to know each benefice across the diocese. Prior to this I had lived or worked (either for the church or in my previous career as a teacher) in all but one of the deaneries, including leading large evangelical, suburban catholic, market town, and multi-parish rural churches. I know what it feels like to be in the variety of churches we have across the parishes we serve, and so I am privileged to have a deep, personal understanding of the diocese and its concerns in an (almost) unrivalled way.

My experience also underpins my ability to understand the detailed and complex work of General Synod. I am a member of Bishop's Staff and I sit on Bishop's Council. I have been a member of Diocesan Synod for a decade, and a member of the Diocesan Board of Education for a similar length of time. I chaired the DBE for a season and now sit in the vice chair. Additionally, I have been involved in school governance at every level (primary, secondary, special school, and chairing the board). I chair one of the TC.T Project Boards and sit on the Programme Board. I am deeply experienced and embedded in the processes of good governance and strategy development in this diocese, and I would bring this to bear on my work for you nationally.

General Synod is facing important work in the coming years, particularly:

- *Speaking into a fractured society.* We must shape the church and its structures to offer something different, "something quieter but stronger: shared history held in tension, shaped by prayer and lit from within by the glory of Christ", to quote our new Archbishop. I long to see our unity in diversity, our hope rather than fear, our *love for each other* as the thing which makes the headlines (Jn 13.35).

- *Safeguarding*. Particularly the continued implementation of recommendations. I was part of the process of our (outstanding) independent diocesan safeguarding review, and I sit on the Diocesan Safeguarding Steering Group which governs implementation. I have the insight from this to bring to General Synod.
- *The implementation of the recently agreed Church Governance Measure*. We must continue to ensure that the reshaping of the national church is fit for purpose and serving the local. The experience I bring comes from recent involvement in a national vision and strategy conference for Children and Young People, and from many years have been regionally and nationally involved in CofE Education (I am meeting the Secretary of State in January). Equally, through diocesan programme and project boards, I have insight into the benefits and challenges of national strategic funding programmes and how they shape our mission for better or worse.
- *Wellbeing of clergy*. Work continues following the agreed Clergy Wellbeing Covenant, the replacement of the Clergy Discipline Measure, and the anticipated PCC Code of Conduct to support clergy in their flourishing. I am part of a small team which had recently concluded a nine-month review of clergy wellbeing in this diocese, has developed recommendations, and is now beginning to implement them  
- I know what you say affects your wellbeing what you say supports it.
- *Next steps in relation to LLF and PLF*. Consultation nationally will decide what the House of Bishops will bring to Synod so I cannot say how I will vote until the proposal is made. However, I wish to reassure you that my fundamental motive of wanting to see every church in the diocese flourish is no less important here. I understand the tensions the church feels with respect to doctrine and mission and continue to consider them, to listen and learn from others, and to be transformed and grow in my understanding of Jesus. Notwithstanding my own journey so far, I am also absolutely committed to the flourishing of those who may feel excluded by any decision that the synod may make.

I hope it goes without saying that, in each of these issues, or any others, I would be happy to speak further with you if that would be helpful – indeed I would pledge to do so before the next Synod meets if you asked that of me.

My passion, commitment, experience, and competencies point me towards knowing that I am **called** to serve the church as a member of General Synod. But equally I have not taken putting myself forward lightly, this has been a discernment over ten years, with prayer, and alongside reflection with my spiritual director. Over that time the whisper of God's voice has become stronger, irresistible even. As I continue to follow my first calling: to know Jesus better, that I might love him better, that I might serve him better, in *this* moment I hear him calling me to serve as your representative at General Synod.

I hope you recognise this too and that know that I would serve you diligently and with integrity at General Synod. I would be humbly grateful if you would consider giving me your support. Thank you



*The Revd Adam Beaumont is married to Sheona, an artist and academic. They have two secondary age children, a musician and a dancer. They are each the servants of a black lab called Gus. Adam loves a bit of cooking (and eating), DIY (he is attempting to restore a wooden sailing dinghy), and wishes he was a rock drummer with a motorcycle (both used to be true).*