

# Brendan Clover

## Candidate for General Synod



### Dear Elector,

I need to be honest. From your perspective, it is not immediately obvious why you would vote for me.

I am an unknown quantity in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. And I have avoided General Synod for 39 years of ordained life. Further, I have been outside diocesan structures and parochial life since 1999.

But maybe this confession has excited your curiosity!

### Background

I was ordained in the Diocese of London and served two curacies there. My next appointment was as Chaplain and then Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, **which strengthened my belief in chaplaincy.**

I returned to parish life in London for five years (St Pancras, Euston Road and Holy Cross, Cromer Street); two fascinating parishes essentially populated by students, homeless people, and sex workers. **I believe in social justice to my core.**

From there, I went on to Bristol Cathedral to be Canon Precentor and Canon Pastor for seven years.

For the next fourteen years, I was Senior Provost of Woodard Schools, which is one of the largest education providers in the country. **As one of three executives, I helped this top 20 national charity steer its way through both the challenges of growing successfully and of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

In April of this year, I arrived at St John the Evangelist, Clevedon, as an interim parish priest, **to grow the worshipping community of that parish.**

### So why would you vote for me?

- For my ability as a strategic thinker.
- For my commitment to ministry in the Church of England in all its forms.
- For my cathedral experience, which is not too wonderfully represented on Synod.

- For my particular experience of chaplaincy which now, thanks to the work we have done over the past decade, is at last receiving the profile it deserves as an instrument of mission and evangelism in the life of the nation.
- For my ability to think outside of the box. Times are tough and they are destined to get tougher over the life of the next Synod. Innovative thinking will be essential.

## **Proposer and seconder**

My proposer and seconder do have established reputations in our Diocese, and, with their permission, this is what they say about me.

**Rosey Lunn**, my proposer, says:

*“I am supporting Brendan’s nomination to serve as a representative to General Synod because I believe that at this critical and difficult time in the Church’s life, we desperately need to hear voices of passion and eloquence from people such as Brendan, inviting us all to re-discover the richness of our sacramental life, which nurtures and renews God’s people, equipping them to live out the joy of the gospel. And in a Church which seems, in some ways, to have become one-dimensional, we need the breadth of perspective which a truly catholic outlook can offer.”*

**Mike Haslam**, my seconder, says:

*“His experience of cathedrals, national school chaplaincy and parish life, where he is currently leading a growing church, give him a wide and deep experience of the Church of England. **He is a sentinel who can scan the horizon, and simultaneously understand the detail.** He is prayerful, compassionate, wise, and a lover of good company, good food, wine and gin!”*

## **Conclusion**

I am grateful that you have taken the time to read this address.

If you have any questions on its contents, then please do not hesitate to email me via [parishpriest@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk](mailto:parishpriest@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk) or to call me on **07968 505643**.

**I hope that you feel able to award me your first vote or a high preference vote.**

My prayers are with all the candidates standing for election.

Thank you,

**Brendan Clover**