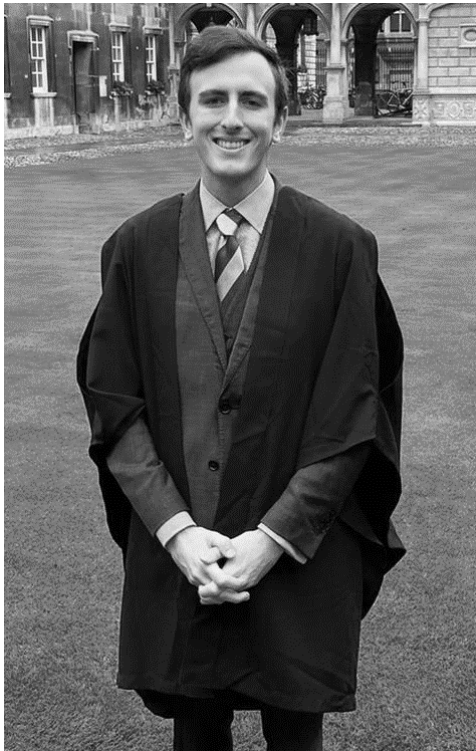


## Election Address – Thomas Brian



### *Youth Representation – Save the Parish*

My name is Thomas Brian, and I am running for the General Synod because I love our church – I love its music, I love the work it does in the community, I love its people, its liturgies, its buildings. But our church is at a crossroads. We are facing one of the biggest demographic challenges in our history, and we need genuine youth involvement and a strong parish system to survive.

- I will listen to your arguments on all issues – I have an open mind and am willing to listen to debate on any matter, as I have done on PCC.
- Have a clear and confident voice for young people on General Synod. I can provide this.
- Place parishes at the front and centre of evangelism.
- Focus financial resources on parishes and parochial clergy. Parishes should be able to keep fees from occasional offices, dioceses should not link payment of shares to provision of clergy, dioceses must give greater transparency demonstrating how they provide value to their parishes.
- Reconsider the settlement between parishes and the

Commissioners – end the 7% additional pensions contribution, change the Commissioners legal spending priorities to favour support for parishes, repeal s. 14 of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976, allowing parishes to develop their own endowments.

- Ensure that the Strategic Development Fund is properly integrated with the parochial system. The SDF must be easily accessible, fairly distributed across traditions, spent on projects which enrich and enhance parochial mission (including church plants which have revitalised parishes).
- Protect the legal rights of parishes and clergy. Scrap the proposed revision to the Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011. This revision would deny churches and communities the power and right to contest plans to close their churches, make priests redundant, and throw priests out of their homes.
- Join the calls for a church-state commission to look into the long-term funding of the maintenance and repair of the architectural treasures that are entrusted to the church.
- Uphold thorough and high-quality theological education for all priests and lay ministers – an essential for equipping our clergy for the challenges of modern-day evangelism and ministry.

I am always happy to hear your concerns as a parishioner and member of Deanery and/or Diocesan Synod. I am committed to representing your concerns as well as my own. I can be contacted:

- On the phone at 07946 358527
- Over email at [t.w.brian02@gmail.com](mailto:t.w.brian02@gmail.com)

### *I am*

- 19 years old
- From Tunbridge Wells
- A History and Politics student and choral scholar at the University of Cambridge
- A member of St Thomas' Church Southborough, where I have sat on the PCC and sing in the choir