

## **Questions for House of Laity Hustings July 2025**

**Paul Brewster**

**1- How would your election to General Synod enhance the representation of the diocese as a whole?**

*I live in a Rural part of the Diocese which covers around 160 Churches. By having a knowledge and experience of this area it complements those who live in the more Urban areas.*

**2- How best do you think the National Church could use its significant financial resources to further the 5-marks of mission?**

*Investing in sustainable based projects, supporting those parishes which are growing with additional facilities to make the Churches more accessible and usable in a community context*

**3- Can you provide an example of the last time you advocated for a position that was not your own?**

*In my working life, I regularly had to deliver a message from the organisation I worked for, which as a Manager I had to support, but which in a personal capacity I would not have supported in the same way.*

**4- What is your position regarding those of a different sexuality seeking acceptance within a Church Community and do you agree with same sex couples having a Service of Blessing in church?**

The Church of England is a Broad Church which should be accessible to all. We are all made in Gods image and should all be treated equally regardless of sexuality. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we need to move with the times with respect and courage and we should allow Same sex blessings

**5- What do you recognise as the challenges for improving diversity within the Church of England?**

*Rural communities are challenged more as groups are less represented, but equal treatment of all regardless should be a basic expectation.*

**6- What is the main issue that General Synod needs to address over the next 6-years?**

*Living in Love and Faith still needs considerable work and all sides need to realise that co operation and conversations will ensure the future of the Church. I have Gen Z children, some of whom believe the Church to be so backward in its outlook.*