

Elis Bebb

Nominated by Jurat David Robilliard
Seconded by Celia Allen MBE



Having served the church when elected as a deputy by successfully reversing the most egregious proposals of the States to confiscate church property, and ensured the continuation of the island's Rectors place in the States of Election, I'm once again seeking to serve the church, but this time as a member of the Church of England Synod.

The next term of the Synod has already laid out two of its most contentious proposals to be debated during the next term, first is the issue of human sexuality and the second is the proposals on future pastoral organisation. Both will be contentious with the ability to generate more heat than light, this is where I would suggest that my work on same sex marriage and the compromise position of legally recognising them, whilst not forcing churches to conduct them demonstrates my ability to seek a position that accommodates various views and steers a middle path that will bring people together.

Who am I

My journey of faith started as a child when I was brought up in the Calvinist tradition of the Methodist Church, attending chapel twice on a Sunday and receiving a good grounding in a Sunday school of around 300 children. But it is fair to say that whilst I was brought up a Methodist, I never was a Methodist, choosing not to be confirmed into that faith.

Many years later, in my late twenties, I started to attend the Town church here in Guernsey, singing in the choir, and it was there that I attended confirmation classes under Rev. John Elliston. Given his churchmanship, it is surprising that I have always been on the more Catholic side of the Church of England and now serve as a churchwarden at St Stephen's.

Whilst my style of worship is on the Catholic side of the spectrum, I would hope my nominator and seconder would demonstrate that I have always respected all forms of worship within the Church of England, and believe this to be our greatest strength. Other Anglican Communion churches are far more narrow in the style of worship, with those who prefer a different style turning to other denominations, if we are to keep the strength of a diverse community we must learn to disagree with respect and kindness. I would hope that I have always shown this in my spiritual life and shown due deference to those whose views I disagree with.

Living in Love and Faith

You may not have heard of this, but it is the Church's work in understanding the issues around human sexuality and what our reaction should be. Many of you know that I was one of the lead deputies on the proposal for same sex marriage, but key within the legislation was a guarantee that no religious institution would be forced to conduct such service. There is a big difference between legal protections afforded by the States to those who are legally married and religious views on the sacrament of marriage. Whilst both church and state use the same word "marriage" I don't believe any of us would view the contract of marriage in the Greffe to be of the same spiritual kind as church matrimony.

I hold a personal view that the sacrament of marriage is the covenant between a man and a woman based on their sex, not gender, as conferred by the holy spirit. Having said this, it is incumbent on all of us to view every other person as being in the image of God, therefore the church must seek to welcome everyone who seeks a deeper relationship with God regardless of the sexuality or gender. Holding to one truth does not excuse poor behaviour and we must look to be a welcoming harbour for all who are buffeted by the storms of daily living.

Vision and Strategy

I'm sure that for many of you, the above words would cause your heart to sink, and I regret to inform you that mine also sank when I read the Church of England's Vision and Strategy for cost cutting post pandemic. The proposals are for 10,000 new churches that are lay led, and whilst that may sound like a fantastic target for increasing the faithful, one doesn't have to start scratching hard at the surface to see how this is flawed when it comes to those of us that have a Eucharistic centred approach to our worship. Priests are described as "key limiting factors" which is a bizarre statement given our investment and trust in these people who have served us well.

In the recent trend for Bishops to be good managers rather than spiritual leaders, we have dismissed the importance of theological training and spiritual guidance in favour of people management and financial prudence.

The latest proposals for the merging of national governance bodies to a Bishops Council is a further step down this path of believing Bishops to be managers and does not bode well for the future spiritual direction of the church.

As one who believes the Eucharist is central to my life and worship, I cannot support further proposals that would seek to emulate the free churches and diminish the spiritual role our Bishops should have. As an example, it was with dismay that I read arguments for and against the latest bill on Euthanasia being made by two former Archbishops of Canterbury, but a telling silence from current Archbishops and Bishops.

I believe that we need to refocus the church mission within the existing structures of parishes that have served us well for over a millennium.

For these issues I write of, the questions are difficult, the answers will necessitate nuance and that is what I believe I have done in the past and will strive to do again if elected.

As decisions are taken that will shape the direction of the Church of England for the remainder of this century, it is important that the Synod has people elected to it that can effectively challenge, test and sometimes contest proposals that come before it. If I am elected, I promise to be one of those people, and given my experience of working within parliamentary rules and procedures, I believe I have the experience to do so immediately.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss any of these points or anything else, please do so on the following details:

Email: elis.bebb@gmail.com

Phone: 07911 732032

Mail : Roseneath, Foote's Lane, St Peter Port, GY1 2UF



GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION 2021

RUTH ABERNETHY



Belfort, 33 Les Canichers, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2LS
email: ruth_abernethy@hotmail.com
telephone: 07781 181 281



Proposer: Sir de Vic Carey
Secunder: Mrs Angela Willis

About Me

I was born in London into a Christian family and have attended Anglican churches for my entire life. I am a qualified lawyer and practice corporate law at Carey Olsen.

I moved to Guernsey nearly 12 years ago and quickly fell in love with my new Island home.

I have been a member of the Town Church since my arrival in Guernsey. Being a member of a town centre church has taught me a great deal about the role of the parish church in its community and in particular its work to support its own congregation as well as the lonely, vulnerable and excluded in the wider community.

My voluntary work within the Deanery and my parish and professional experience mean that I am familiar with the Church of England as an institution and many of its policies and strategies. My experience also means that I am very familiar with the intricacies of the Guernsey Deanery, its strengths and its challenges. Consequently, I am well placed to properly consider and vote upon matters brought before the General Synod and to represent the church in Guernsey at the national level.

My experience includes:

- Being a church warden of the Town Church since 2014.
- Acting as the Town Church safeguarding officer and recently serving as the lay Guernsey representative on the second Past Cases Review, a review of safeguarding cases involving clergy or other church officers in the Channel Islands.
- Elected member of the Guernsey Deanery Synod since 2012.
- Member of the Standing Committee of the Guernsey Deanery Synod.

- Company secretary of the Deanery Fund LBG since 2014.
- Company secretary of the Guernsey Deanery Board of Finance LBG since 2018.
- Guernsey representative on the Diocesan Synod (although due to the move of the Deanery from Winchester to Salisbury the Guernsey representatives are not yet able to attend Diocesan Synod meetings).

Hopes for the next General Synod

- Parish churches are greatly valued not only by those who attend them but by the wider community. The buildings themselves are a sign of God's presence among us. The Church of England is called to be a Christian presence in every community. The proclamation of the Good News to all people, in all places, is best achieved at a local level, primarily through parish churches and their related Fresh Expressions and outreach projects. The parochial system should be protected and resources re-allocated from the central church to parishes, laity, and clergy across the Church to support our mission to serve Christ in our communities.
- The Church must be relevant to the society in which it operates, striving to fulfil the obligation placed upon all followers of Jesus Christ to work for peace, justice and equality, to be good stewards of God's gift of creation and to protect and support the poor, vulnerable and the marginalised. The Church of England is at a crossroads and it is the role of the next General Synod to prayerfully discern the route that God wants the Church to take. This Synod must help the Church to overcome its internal disputes and differences so that, working together, we may go forward as a beacon of God's love in the world.
- I believe that all human beings are created in the image of, and are loved by, God. I am therefore committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles in the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. The Living in Love and Faith process will be voted on during the life of this Synod. As our Archbishops have called for, the way forward needs to be about love, joy and celebration of our humanity; of our creation in the image of God, of our belonging to Christ – all of us, without exception, without exclusion.
- I understand that I am the only Guernsey candidate for the House of Laity that fully supports women's ministry. I consider that all orders of ministry should be equally open to men and women. Appointments should be based on merit to ensure the best person is placed in each role.

If I am elected as a member of the General Synod I will use my vote to support motions that further the above hopes and beliefs.

Please vote for me

It would be my great privilege to represent Guernsey at the next General Synod. I think it is important to bring "Guernsey to the Synod and the Synod to Guernsey" and would report back to interested people in Guernsey matters discussed at Synod.

I hope that you share my vision for the next General Synod and will use your first vote to vote for me.

I welcome any questions from you about my position on any issue facing the Church of England. I look forward to answering those questions at the candidates' meeting or by email or telephone using the details above. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Manifesto of William Mason for Elections to the Synod



A candidate committed to strengthening the Church of England through an unashamed defence of the Lordship of Christ which enables us to respond to the generosity of God in creation.

E-mail: WilliamEDMason@gmail.com

A little bit about me

I work regulating financial services. I have been involved with the Church from an early age. I was a server for a number of years at St Mary's, Sidlesham during my teens helping the Vicar with communion on a regular rota alongside other teenagers in the Parish. I studied theology at Oxford in my late 20s. I supported my eldest son through his seven years as a chorister at Sherborne Abbey and most recently helped facilitate St Peter's 2021 Alpha Course.

I served in London as a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Police, as a primary school governor and I chaired the Cabinet Office's disability network. Later, when living in West Sussex, I served as a parish and district councillor. I have also authored a number of policy papers including *Freedom for Public Services*; *The Costs of Regulation*; *Regulation – Less is More – a report to the Prime Minister* and *Better Regulation for Civil Society*.

Why am I standing ?

I saw the Church encouraging people to stand and thought that you, might like the opportunity to vote for someone who believes in reaffirming, preserving and growing the Church both in our islands and in England in the face of our secular disbelieving age. I would stand up for the Parish as the fundamental pastoral unit of our Church, for the classical wisdom of our Church as set out in the catechism given to me after my confirmation and for friendly missionary and pastoral outreach to all.

Should our Church remain erudite, musical and have an unfinished theological agenda? Of course it should for as mere men and women our understanding of the divine can only ever be partially complete.

Our society and fellow citizens are immeasurably weaker in consequence of our fellow citizens' lack of comprehension of Jesus's words, life, death and resurrection. We need more unapologetic mission or next to nothing of our Church may remain five years hence. We need to pray for the courage to aspire to live up to the standards of the apostles and martyrs of the Universal Church. Let the cock not crow three times on our watch: rather let us grow the holy fellowship of God's Son Jesus Christ into which all are called.