

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DIOCESE OF SALISBURY  
AND THE DEANERIES OF GUERNSEY AND JERSEY**

1. On 9 October 2019 the Report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on the Relationship of the Channel Islands to the wider Church of England was published. The Commission proposed that the Deaneries of Guernsey and Jersey should be attached to the Diocese of Salisbury, with the Bishop of Salisbury taking over the episcopal responsibility for the Islands from the Bishop of Winchester.
2. The proposal was welcomed warmly by the Deanery Synods in Guernsey and Jersey and by Salisbury Diocesan Synod at meetings held later in 2019.
3. The legal process to effect the change is necessarily complicated, as it needs to respect both the independent jurisdictions of the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey and the role of the Church of England's General Synod.
4. The General Synod completed all the stages of the Channel Islands Measure 2020 at the group of sessions held at Westminster in February 2020.
5. Following the usual procedures, the Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament and was found expedient; it was subsequently approved by the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
6. Royal Assent to the Measure was given on 22 July 2020.
7. The Measure made the necessary changes in English law to allow the Bishop of Salisbury to assume episcopal responsibility for the Channel Islands. However, legislation is required in all of the Islands' legislatures to effect the change in the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey. Sadly, this process has been delayed both by the pressures on all the legislatures, and the need for changes to the Canons in Jersey and for new Canons in Guernsey.
8. It is expected that the necessary legislation will be brought before the States of Guernsey and the States of Jersey early in 2021. Subject to their agreement and the consent, in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, of the States of Alderney and Chief Pleas in Sark, it is hoped that the Privy Council will allow the necessary Orders in Council to be made later in 2021.
9. The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott has continued to exercise episcopal responsibility for the Channel Islands as an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Winchester.
10. However, it has been agreed, and without prejudice to the consideration to such matters that will be given by the States of Guernsey and the States of Jersey, that it is appropriate for the day-to-day pastoral responsibility for the Channel Islands to be transferred to the Bishop of Salisbury with effect from 1 January 2021.
11. Bishop Willmott will retain final legal responsibility for certain aspects of the governance of the Church of England in the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey until the final legal transfer of jurisdiction is completed.

Tim Barker  
Dean of Guernsey  
16 December 2020