



Ed Shaw

Son, brother, uncle, godfather
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Ministry Director, www.livingout.org
Co-Chair & Trustee, Church of England Evangelical Council
Council Member, The Evangelical Alliance
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Reader & Writer

Proposer: Julia Childerhouse (St.Paul's, Chippenham)
Seconder: Julian Rivers (St. Mary's, Stoke Bishop)

It has been a huge privilege to represent the laity of the Diocese of Bristol on General Synod, since 2015: thanks to all who have supported me in the past.

I have spoken up most in debates on sexuality and safeguarding. Both are contexts in which the Church of England has failed to speak the truth in love in ways that have damaged too many people. This is how the *Church Times* has reported some of my contributions to recent debates:

On the Prayers of Love and Faith (I've been involved in many of the different working groups):

Ed Shaw (Bristol) moved an amendment to acknowledge that "some of the issues raised are not matters on which they can simply agree to disagree." He said that it was important to be "honest about the present", and to avoid deeply held differences' being "smoothed over". Not everyone in a "sexual minority" supported the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith. His amendment sought to be "honest about the depth of our current divisions". Moves to stop paying into diocesan common funds, and to delay or seek alternative ordination, demonstrated how deeply held the divisions were, he said.

On Bishop's Mission Orders (I'm part of one in central Bristol):

Ed Shaw (Bristol), the leader of what he believed to be the second ever BMO in the country, said that he had learned to pay attention to the power that he had as the founding leader of his church. He welcomed the extra levels of accountability and support being put in place for BMOs. He said that being a BMO increased the amount of vulnerability. Also, his church had no funding or buildings from the diocese, and its place in the diocese was up for review every five years. There had been scandals involving BMOs, but not enough attention had been given to how many BMO leaders had been burned out by the experience, Mr Shaw said. He questioned whether archdeacons were the best people to act as Visitors, given that they were often very busy.

But I have also supported efforts to increase clergy pensions, better understand the needs of those who grow up in care, and improve our digital communications as we seek to reach younger generations.

The Next General Synod

If re-elected I would hope, amongst other things, to continue to share my passion for:

Jesus Christ. I believe the Church of England has made the biggest impact on our country when we have talked most about the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus. Our greatest challenge is to do this effectively with the generations under 40 and I would both like to share my experiences of doing this – and gain from other perspectives too.

Anglican Theology. Our Church's foundational documents (Book of Common Prayer, 39 Articles and Ordinal) remain the best expressions of biblically balanced theology and practice. I want us to have the confidence to remain rooted in this historic tradition - at the same time as finding new ways of engaging contemporary society (and especially young people) with it.

Church Growth. All the churches I have been part of have been growing churches and this reflects the wider growth that other churches in our Diocese are experiencing. I fully support efforts to better resource any local churches (*both* traditional parish churches and “Fresh Expressions”) that are trailblazing effective ways of being church and doing mission today.

Lay Leadership. The New Testament Epistles set out a vision of churches in which *all* are encouraged and equipped to use their God-given gifts to build the church. We need to face up to the serious crisis of leadership in view of clergy retirement patterns, invest in the best forms of training for *all* leaders, and enable clergy to better facilitate this lay involvement.

Biblical Sexuality. The marriage of a man and a woman is the Bible's greatest unchanging picture of Christ and his love for the church and is not something we are at liberty to redefine. But we need to do better at graciously articulating this truth and lovingly caring for the many gay people (like me) for whom this is a personally painful thing to hear.

Your Concerns. I am standing to be *your* representative on General Synod. So I want to listen and learn from your experiences and passions too. Please do e-mail me at: ed@emmanuelbristol.org.uk

There are so many challenges for the Church of England around sexuality, safeguarding, finances and demographics. But there are also so many opportunities due to our parish system, inherited assets, liturgical tradition and, most of all, committed people like you. Thank you for all do.

I would be very grateful if you felt able to support me in this election – especially in giving me your 1st preference vote.

Your friend and brother in Jesus,

Ed