



Ed Shaw

Son, brother, uncle, Godfather
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Reader & Writer

Proposer: Dr Phoebe Copus
Seconder: Canon Peter Robottom

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my election address. It has been a huge privilege to serve you as a member of the House of Laity from the Diocese of Bristol during the:

General Synod of 2015-21

Over the last six years I have, amongst other things:

- Spoken in debates on evangelism, sexuality and, having been born there, the Channel Islands! I've also sought to speak in many others.
- Voted for an end to funeral and marriage fees, for the 2017 House of Bishops' report on sexuality, and in favour of the Church ending investments in fossil fuels.
- Supported Private Member's Motions calling for pension increases for clergy, for co-ordinated care for the homeless, and an end to deferential titles in the church.
- Proposed a Private Members' Motion articulating a Biblical understanding of marriage and sexual relationships.
- Served on the Archbishops' Pastoral Advisory Group (PAG) that drew up the *Pastoral Principles for living well together* which seek to better facilitate our continuing conversations around identity, relationships, sex and marriage.
- Attended Deanery and Diocesan Synods and served on the Vacancy-in-See committee.

“Particular highlights for me have included an incredibly moving debate on protecting the rights of those with Down's Syndrome, learning from people I profoundly disagree with in the continuing conversations around identity and sexuality, and experiencing the united desire there is to better include those who have often been cruelly excluded from our churches and wider society.”

General Synod of 2021-26

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 ring me on 0117 951 3556 or e-mail me at: ed@emmanuelbristol.org.uk

"Post-COVID the challenges and opportunities for the Church of England are huge as we seek be both faithful to our apostolic inheritance and reach new generations. With strains on our finances, relationships, and structures, we are going to need the powerful help of God's Holy Spirit to remain united in God's Son Jesus. Please do vote in this election but, most of all, please be praying for those who'll serve us all on General Synod going forward."

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