

# Elections to The General Synod of The Church of England 2010

The Diocese of Canterbury : House of Clergy

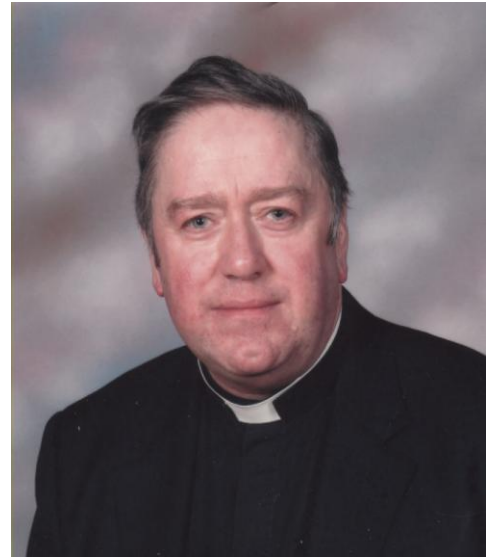
## Mark Roberts

Member of the General Synod since 2003

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Rector of Sandwich since 1991  
Priest in Charge of Worth since 2004  
Hon Canon of Canterbury Cathedral since 2003  
Area Dean of Sandwich 2000-2006  
Chairman of House of Clergy, Diocesan Synod  
since 2006

Member of Archbishop's Council  
Formerly Chairman of Diocesan Pastoral Group  
Member of Diocesan Board of Education  
(16 years)



Ordained in the Diocese of Canterbury:  
Deacon 1977, Priest 1978

Married to Jasmine, non-stipendiary Parish Deacon (1991),  
former Assistant Director of Ordinands and Clerk to the Diocesan Registry

**Proposed by:** The Revd Canon Noelle Hall  
Rector of St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury, Area Dean of Canterbury

**Seconded by:** The Revd John Lewis  
Vicar of Borden, Area Dean of Sittingbourne

Dear Colleague

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Thank you to friends and colleagues who have again encouraged me in putting my name forward for re-election to the General Synod. I have thought long and hard as to whether to re-stand at this election, but have decided to do so because for me there is unfinished business. I now stand hoping that you will vote for me as your first choice.

In 2003 my fellow clergy did me the great honour of electing me to the Synod at a By-Election, since when I was re-elected at the 'General' Election in 2005. I believe that I now have a good understanding of the Synod and the ways in which it works in London and at York. It will be of benefit for the Diocese to elect an experienced Synod practitioner.

*Over/...*

The whole of my Ordained Ministry for thirty three years, has been in this Diocese. I feel that I can continue to credibly represent this Diocese at a National level with a proven track record over the years of working with and affirming people of varying traditions and backgrounds, while being prepared to make the hard decisions. It is a great privilege to lead and represent you as Chairman of the House of Clergy of our Diocesan Synod and I thank all of you who place your confidence in me in that role. Being a member of the General Synod of course sits very well with that role.

General Synod should be more of a listening body, listening to one another. As a distinguished and experienced person in these matters said to me recently, it should be more of a Synod and less the Church's Parliament, and those who go there should take their Dioceses with them.

I am passionate about our parishes and the Parochial System. I will continue to make judgements at the Synod, if elected, which will first and foremost be after having asked the questions:

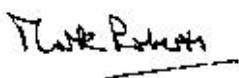
- 'What will this mean to the people of the parishes and for every member nurture and ministry?'
- 'What impact will this have on our grass roots local mission, and on the ability of our structures to deliver, and yes, on our finances?'

I am passionate about support for the clergy and their families and as one of your General Synod representatives you can count on my fearless support. The new Terms of Service about to come into effect need careful and sensitive handling.

This should not be a one-issue election and we should be wary of those who would make it so. However the voting on the final legislation for the Ordination of Women as Bishops will dominate the next five years. I am sure the Church of England will, and should, have Women Bishops. It is a theological nonsense to Ordain Women to two of the orders of ministry but to rule out doing so to the third. However, I believe that those who cannot accept the Ordination of Women should continue to have an honoured place. I believe in the Church of England as a 'big tent'. I am not convinced that a Code of Practice is enough. The Synod's failure in July to accept the Archbishops' amendment to strengthen the legislation, was in my judgment, a mistake. I shall continue to work and vote for the most comprehensive, respecting and diverse Church of England possible. This prize should still be obtainable.

I hope very much that at this Election you can renew the trust that has already been placed in me by giving me your highest or second preference vote.

With warmest good wishes

  
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