

House of Laity of General Synod
Candidate Election Address
Prof Eve Mitleton-Kelly

I joined St Alfege over 30 years ago and was very active being a member of the PCC and fund raising for the organ fund, by organising two art exhibitions in the church as well as a dinner. As my career became more demanding, with a great deal of international travel, I took a back seat, while still attending at St Alfege, being a Reader and a Server and hosting some Zoom meetings during lockdown.

I am now semi-retired, and wish to again become involved in my church community and contribute. I am an academic, was at the LSE for 29 years (1988-2017), and set up a Research Group to look at complex problems using Complexity Theory. My skills therefore include leading a team, fund raising for all its research activities for over 25 years, and developing a methodology to effectively address complex problems in organisations as well as societal issues, such as deforestation and studying decision making in coastal fishing communities for the UN. I have led and co-led large research projects and the last one, funded by the European Commission, had 16 partners from 10 countries, and was looking at evacuation following a major disaster.

For two years I was also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Complex Systems (2012-2014) and initiated a study with King's College London, on pandemics, seen from a complexity theory perspective. Together with King's, we organised a series of seminars with world experts. Some of the issues with the current pandemic were therefore not surprising, as we had already discussed them several years ago!

Before joining academia, I served in the Department of Trade & Industry (1967-1983) where I was involved in the formulation of UK and international policy; including the first report on Computers and Privacy in the 1970s; and in the negotiation of EU Directives, advising Ministers. I joined Cambridge University in 2016 and still teach and tutor on a part-time basis.

Our LSE research partners ranged from SMEs (small and medium enterprises) to large corporates and I also acted as Policy Advisor to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), and to European and USA organisations including Citibank (New York), GlaxoSmithKline, Rolls-Royce, World Bank (Washington) and others; several UK Government Departments and public sector organisations, incl. Defra (Dept. for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), DWP (Dept. for Work and Pensions), HSE (Health and Safety Executive), the NHS (National Health Service, UK), the RBL (Royal British Legion), AXA (Paris), TOTAL (Paris) and the Rabin Medical Centre (Tel Aviv, Israel).

Furthermore, I was invited to be a Scientific Advisor to the Governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Netherlands, Singapore and UK on developing a framework of governance for government using complexity theory.

I have edited, co-edited and co-authored six books and have written extensively on the theory and application of complexity. The latest publication was the *Handbook of Research Methods in Complexity Science: Theory & Application*, with 26 chapters and over 55 international authors, published in 2018 by Edward Elgar.

In addition, especially after retiring from the LSE, I have been active as a Board and Committee Member at the Royal Overseas League, Blackheath Halls, the Fruiterers' Livery Company and Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Board & Committee Memberships

- Central Council Member of the Royal Overseas League (ROSL) (2015-2020).
- Member of the ROSL Buildings and Heritage Sub-Committee.
- Founder member of the ROSL Evelyn Wrench Lecture series. I led and organised several of the lectures, including the first one on the Future of the Arts in the UK with the heads of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Academy and Tate Modern; on Ethics and Professionalism with The Rt Hon Sir Ernest Ryder, Lord Justice of Appeal, and His Honour Judge Cryan on ethical decision-making within the judiciary and other professions; Terrorism in the UK with academic and RUSI experts and the Commissioner of the City of London Police, and many others.
- Initiated and lead several member-led activities, such as the ROSL Book Group with over 50 members worldwide and also set up the Bridge and Backgammon Clubs for ROSL Members.
- Trustee of the Friends of Blackheath Halls (since 2017); a Community and Arts organisation.
- Liveryman in the Fruiterers Livery Company and one of the first women to be appointed to the Livery. Currently Chairman of the Special Merit Awards Sub-Committee, to award fruit growers and distributors for innovative initiatives in addressing climate change in the Fruit Industry and Chairman of the Student Prize Awards.
- As Member of the Friends' Committee of Dulwich Picture Gallery (DPG), I organised a series of visits for 3 years and also organised a fund-raising dinner for 110 in the Gallery. The Friends of DPG contribute an average of £0.5m every year towards the buying of works of art.

In terms of St Alfege and the General Synod, I hope that some of the skills I have developed over my long career such as strategic planning, problem solving and good communication, will be of use and benefit. I am particularly interested in the impact of climate change and how individuals and organisations can contribute at a micro level; at the contributing factors of food poverty; and the inadequate education of many young people.

Personal

I am passionate about the arts and have been a modest collector of paintings and sculpture since my early twenties; I am enthusiastic about the theatre, opera and ballet and contemporary dance and have been a Friend of the RA, Tate and ROH for decades. I have also been an active sailor and competed with my husband in Regattas (especially the Fowey Regatta, Cornwall) for over 30 years, winning many prizes.

During lockdown I set myself three challenges, to learn the piano (when I could not even read music), to learn Latin (I was brought up with 4 languages, but no Latin), and to learn crochet. These challenges as well as my garden and the transfer of a lot of our activities, like the book group discussions, Bridge and Backgammon to Zoom, kept me active during an otherwise very quiet period. I also had to learn how to transfer my very interactive lectures to Zoom.

Eve Mittleton-Kelly

8 September 2021