



The Diocese of
Southwark

Diocesan Secretary

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To: Members of Diocesan Synod

Cc: Clergy in the Diocese, Lay Chairs,

PCC Secretaries

8 November 2024

Nominations to the Vacancy in See Committee

Dear Colleagues,

Following the end of the previous triennium, we are required to open an election process to form a new Vacancy in See Committee.

The Vacancy-in-See (ViS) Committee is established, in the event that there is a vacancy in the role of Diocesan Bishop, to act as Diocesan representatives and provide key roles in the selection of a new bishop. It is a statutory committee and is not intended to be used unless a vacancy arises. The Committee prepares a brief description of the Diocese and a statement setting out the desired profile of the new bishop and elects the Diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission. The Committee meets at least twice during a vacancy and its Code of Practice and regulations can be found on the Church of England website. The table at Appendix 1 shows the current membership of the Committee. Additional background information can also be found at Appendix 2.

The following are to be elected to the ViS Committee by the Diocesan Synod:

- Two CLERKS IN HOLY ORDERS licensed or beneficed clergy proposed and seconded by a member of Diocesan Synod, elected by the Diocesan Synod
- Eight LAY PERSONS whose name appears on the electoral roll, across the Diocese and who are 16 and over, proposed and seconded by a member of Diocesan Synod, elected by the Diocesan Synod.

We would particularly welcome nominations for representatives from the Croydon and Woolwich areas as they are currently underrepresented on the Committee through ex-officio membership. Nominees do not need to be Diocesan Synod members. We welcome and encourage members from a wide range of church traditions, age and experience and we want to ensure that we represent the communities that we serve. As we continue to implement our Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter, we're particularly seeking to increase representation of Global Majority Heritage/United Kingdom Minority Ethnic (GMH/UKME) peoples as ViS members.

Nomination forms are included in this communication (one for clergy and one for laity) which will need to be sent to [Charles Hudson-Beddows](#) no later than **12 noon on Friday 29 November 2024**.

Nomination forms must be signed, proposed, and seconded by a member of Diocesan Synod. Nominations should also include a brief election address of no more than 200 words giving background information and indicating why you are interested to serve on this Committee.

In the event of an election contest (where more nominations are received than there are places to be filled) an online voting system will be used to conduct the election via Single Transferable Vote. The whole of Diocesan Synod are the electorate for both clergy and lay elections.

The timeline for the election is as follows:

Friday 8 November 2024	Nominations open
Friday 29 November 2024	Nominations close at 12 noon
Monday 2 December 2024	Vote opens
Monday 16 December 2024	Vote closes at 12 noon

The term of office of the elected members begins on 1st January 2025 and ends on 31 December following the next Diocesan Synod elections in 2027. Please circulate this to anyone you think may be interested

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Thomas
Diocesan Secretary

Appendix 1

Ex-Officio Membership and vacancies for 2024-2027

<p>Bishops The Rt Revd Alastair Cutting The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett</p>	<p>Elected Archdeacons <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chairs of the House of Laity & Clergy The Chairs of the Houses of Laity and Clergy appear under the elected members of General Synod in this instance.</p>	
<p>Elected & Co-opted Proctors in Convocation of the General Synod The Revd Jonathan Macy The Revd Andrew Moughtin-Mumby The Revd Sandra Schloss The Revd Aneal Appadoo The Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker The Revd Mae Christie The Revd Jago Wynne The Revd Captain Nicholas Lebey The Revd Dr Charlie Bell</p>	<p>Elected & Co-opted Laity of the General Synod Paul Waddell Helen Ainsworth Rebecca Chapman Alianore Smith Matthew Parkes Rosemarie Wilson Adrian Greenwood Carl Hughes</p>
<p>Elected Clergy <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i></p>	<p>Elected Laity <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i></p>
<p>Ex-Officio The Dean of Southwark - The Very Reverend Dr Mark Oakley</p>	<p>Bishop's Council Nominations <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i> <i>Sit Vacant</i></p>

Background

The Vacancy-in-See (ViS) Committee is one of the committees which requires election following triennial Diocesan Synod elections, by the Diocesan Synod. It is established, in the event that there is a vacancy in the role of Diocesan Bishop, to act as Diocesan representatives and provide key roles in the selection of a new bishop. It is a statutory committee and is not intended to be used unless a vacancy arises. The Committee prepares a brief description of the Diocese and a statement setting out the desired profile of the new bishop and elect the diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission. The Committee meets at least twice during a vacancy and its Code of Practice and regulations can be found on the Church of England website. The Committee comprises ex-officio, elected, and nominated (by the DCT - Bishop's Council) members.

Ex-Officio members

Ex-officio members of the Committee comprise:

1. The Area Bishops
2. The Dean of the Cathedral
3. Two Archdeacons (elected by and from the Archdeacons)
4. The Proctors elected by the Diocese to the Lower House of Convocation
5. The members elected by the Diocese to the House of Laity of the General Synod
6. The Chair of the House of Clergy and the Chair of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod.

Nominated Members

Following the election of members to the ViS Committee, the Diocesan Council of Trustees may nominate not more than four additional persons who reflect a special interest in the Diocese or whose nomination is appropriate in order to secure a better reflection of the Diocese as a whole (this includes the spread and mix of membership across lay/clergy among other factors).

Elected Members

The number of elected members depends on the balance of clergy/lay and Archdeaconry/Area representation of the ex-officio members. The electorate are the members of the House of Laity and House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod. Nominations (which are to be proposed and seconded) will then be formally elected via Single Transferable Vote (STV). Candidates who are nominated do not have to be members of Diocesan Synod, but must be proposed and seconded by members of Diocesan Synod.