

The Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee oversees the work of the Pastoral and Closed Churches department of the Church Commissioners, and determines objections to schemes for proposed pastoral reorganisation, settling the future of closed church buildings and certain church property matters.

The Committee is chaired by the [Third Church Estates Commissioner](#), and a full list of its current membership can be found below.

In **2024** the Committee is currently scheduled to meet on the following dates:

- 13th February
- 21st March
- 24th April
- 22nd May
- 17th-19th June
- 24th July
- 1st October
- 6th November
- 11th December

A list of the cases to be heard at the next meeting, with links to the relevant pages for each case, will be posted here nearer the time of each meeting.

Meeting Details

At its meeting on 13th February 2024, the Committee will be considering (in private session) the following matters:

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Details of any considered cases can be found on the relevant page, and decisions will be posted there in due course.

Committee Members

- The Third Church Estates Commissioner, the Revd Canon Flora Winfield (Chair)*
- The Bishop of Sheffield*
- The Bishop of Jarrow
- Morag Ellis KC*
- The Venerable Simon Fisher, Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington
- The Revd Canon Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu
- The Revd Canon Clare MacLaren
- The Revd Christopher Smith*
- The Reverend Sarah Geileskey*
- Dr Cathy Rhodes
- Simon Cawte
- Shane Waddle
- Garth Watkins

Members who are Church Commissioners are indicated by an asterisk *

Committee Member Biographies

The Revd Canon Flora Winfield

Canon Winfield was ordained deacon in 1989 and priest in 1994. She has worked in parish and cathedral ministry, university and military chaplaincy, ecumenical and Anglican Communion relations, and humanitarian diplomacy, representing the Anglican Communion at the United Nations. Most recently, Canon Winfield was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Reconciliation, until her appointment as Third Church Estates Commissioner in 2022.

Member of the Board and Chair of Bishoprics & Cathedrals, and Mission, Pastoral & Church Property, Committees

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Wilcox

Commissioner from January 2024. Graduated Durham University with a BA in History. After ordination training at Ridley Hall Cambridge went on to gain a Doctorate at Oxford studying evangelism in the thought and practice of John Calvin. Ordained for over 30 years, spending most of that time in the north and in urban settings. Served in parish ministry on Teesside, on Tyneside and in the West Midlands, and on the staff of Lichfield Cathedral as a residentiary canon. Spent five years as Dean of Liverpool before becoming Bishop of Sheffield in September 2017. Retains a lively interest in theological education and in formation for ordained ministry, and especially enjoys opportunities to preach and teach the Bible. Passionate about the Bible as a means of God’s grace.

Member of the Board and Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee

Morag Ellis QC

QC Commissioner from 2019. Practicing barrister, based in London, specialising in planning, local government and environment law. Commissary General of the diocese of Canterbury and the Deputy Chancellor of Southwark, and, on occasions, chairs Clergy Discipline Tribunals. Reader in the Church of England with a keen interest in music, especially choral. Morag is married to a parish priest; they have three children and live in Essex.

Member of the Board and member of Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee

The Rev Canon Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu

In Michaelmas this 2021, Amatu will be celebrating 20 years of priesthood. Amatu was one of the first appointed SSM Vicars in the diocese of London and held the post for over 13 years at St Mary’s Harmondsworth. He is currently Priest in Charge of St Mark’s and St Stephen’s Bush Hill Park in the Enfield Deanery and also the Edmonton Episcopal Area Director of Mission and Racial Justice in the diocese of London.

Prior to ordination, Amatu trained as an Electrical Engineer and attained Chartered Engineer and Chartered Manager status about 10 years ago having worked for 25 years as consultant in the Public Sector, the Oil & Gas sector delivering major change projects, including Crossrail, Network Rail-Great Western Electrification projects, CB&I, Shell oil. He holds MBA with distinction from University of Sunderland and merit in MSC Project Management from University of Salford.

Amatu is married to Princess, a Lay Reader and Chartered Accountant heading the technical finance team at the London Fire Service - They are blessed with five children, three boys and two girls.

The Rev Canon Clare MacLaren

Has held clerical posts in the dioceses of Manchester, the then Ripon and Leeds, Bradford, Leeds prior to becoming a Residentiary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

The Rev Christopher Smith

On General Synod from 2015, and elected to the Commissioners in 2017. New College, Oxford, and St Stephen's House. Ordained 1995 to a curacy in Wantage, then chaplain to the Bishop of Horsham. Vicar of St Michael's Beckenham for ten years. Vicar of St Alban's Holborn since 2011. Degrees in Music, Theology and Law; called to the Bar 2010. Trustee of the London Diocesan Fund and the London Diocesan Board for Schools. Contributor to an Ashgate/Routledge volume on Religion and Legal Pluralism, and author of a monthly column in the journal New Directions.

Member of the Board, member of the Assets Committee and member of Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee.

The Rev Sarah Geileskey

Commissioner from 2024. Ordained Priest in 2020: Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's Church, Ipswich since April 2023. Trained for ministry with the Eastern Region Ministry Course - title served at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Previously worked as a qualified and registered Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CIPFA) with experience in local government, the courts' service and schools. First degree in European Economics from the University of Nantes, France. Presently studying for an MA in Theology & Human Culture.

Member of the Board and Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee

The Right Rev Bishop of Jarrow
The Rt Revd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow

Sarah was formally consecrated as Bishop by the Archbishop of York on 27th February 2019 in York Minster as Bishop of Jarrow.

She has particular responsibilities:

The Sponsoring Bishop with responsibility for those who are exploring vocations, training for ordination and also for those who are serving their curacy within Durham Diocese.

The leadership of the Diocesan Priority of Challenging Poverty

As the Episcopal lead for the Growing Hope SDF funded ‘Communities of Hope’.

As the Chair of the national Ministry Experience Scheme

Ordained Ministry

Sarah brings significant parish and diocesan experience to her role. She served as

Archdeacon of Nottingham from 2014-2019

Dean of Women’s Ministry & Hon Canon of Southwell Minister 2010-2014

Team Rector of the Clifton Team Ministry, Nottingham 2009 – 2014.

Rector of Carlton-in-Lindrick 2002 until 2009 and Area Dean of Worksop 2006-2009

She was made a deacon in 1998 and ordained priest in 1999 at St Mark’s, Woodthorpe after training for ordained ministry at St John’s College, Nottingham.

Prior to training for ordination, Sarah was a career Civil Servant in the Department for Employment, having been through their graduate training program in the West Midlands.

Dr Cathy Rhodes

Commissioner from 2024. Childhood in Iran as parents were CMS missionaries. Career in Medicine as a Consultant Obstetrician with interests in bereavement care, training, clinical governance and management including as clinical director. After early retirement, volunteered as Sheffield Diocesan Environment Officer in 2020, including gaining a Bronze Eco Diocese award and initial work towards the national Net Zero Carbon by 2030 target. Elected to General Synod in 2021, chair of General Synod Environment Group. Passionate about our calling as Christians to work for climate justice and a holistic approach to the climate and nature crisis. Married to a parish priest, have enjoyed leading music and children’s work with him and developing vicarage gardens for wildlife.

(Board, Mission Pastoral & Church Property Committee and Assets Committee)

Garth Watkins

Member of Mission Pastoral and Church Property Committee since 2017.

Member of Commissioners’ Strategic Buildings Support Group.

Member of local church PCC, lay chair of Deanery Synod and lay member of Kensington Area Council.
Board member of the Bishop of London Mission Fund.

Retired Chartered Engineer after a career in the manufacturing industry.

Chair of a charity called Room For Work, which helps unemployed people to get back into employment.

Lay chair of charity called Activate, which seeks to enhance wellbeing and faith in the Hampton deanery churches through fitness, health and community activities.

Married with 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Simon Cawte

Appointed in September 2023, Simon has spent the last ten years working in regeneration and redevelopment and now focuses on the provision and management of specialist housing for older people. Prior to that Simon worked in Government as a Special Advisor having spent time as a researcher for a Member of Parliament and a Member of the European Parliament. Practising Member of the Church of England and former Trustee of charity which helped support Christians and internally displaced people in Iraq.

Committee Documents

- [Your Views Count -2020](#) (133.06 KB)
- [Flowchart of Representation Porcedure - 2020](#) (89.33 KB)
- [MPCPC Terms of Reference](#) (172.77 KB)

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