

Simon Gallagher, Director of Planning at the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, has been appointed Director of the Archbishops' Council Central Secretariat.



Simon has been in his current role since June 2016, responsible for advising ministers on planning policy and practice. He has been a civil servant since 1993 in a range of economic and financial policy roles in a number of departments, most recently as Deputy Director for Welfare Spending and Reform at HM Treasury and as Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Berlin.

In his new role, Simon will lead a team of nine. The Central Secretariat oversees policy work on how the Church organises and governs itself and provides governance support and event management to the Archbishops' Council and other Church governance bodies including the General Synod and the House of Bishops.

Simon will also work closely with Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Governance Project, the secretariat of the Church Commissioners, and other parts of the NCIs to support the implementation of the outcomes of the review into how the national Church institutions are governed.

Simon takes over from Becky Clark, Director of Churches and Cathedrals who has been Acting Director of the Archbishops' Council Central Secretariat since Jacqui Philips' departure earlier this year. Becky leaves the NCIs later this month to start a new role with the Falkland Islands Government.

Commenting on his appointment, Simon Gallagher said:

"I am excited to be joining the NCIs at this time as Director of Central Secretariat. The mission of the church in this country is critical and I look forward to supporting it professionally."

William Nye, Secretary General for the Archbishops' Council, said:

"I am delighted to welcome someone of Simon's experience of policy and mission to the NCIs. We have an exciting agenda ahead of us, supporting the Church's ambitious Vision and Strategy for the 2020s and work on proposals for reforming the governance of the national Church institutions. In addition, Simon will play a vital role in delivering the work essential to the smooth running of governing bodies such as that we saw at General Synod in York.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Jacqui Philips for her splendid service as Director of the Central Secretariat, and Becky Clark for graciously taking on the role recently in parallel to her job as Director of Churches and Cathedrals, and Jenny Jacobs who has been Acting Clerk to the Synod. We wish Jacqui and Becky well for all their future endeavours."

Simon starts his new role in the autumn.

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