

Commission Members

Chair

Canon Prof Michael Clarke retired as Vice-Principal of the University of Birmingham in 2008. As a member of the Panel of Chairs of General Synod, he has taken part in various reviews of strategic organisational and governance issues. He has extensive experience of local government, was Deputy Chairman of the former Local Government Commission and then a member of its successor, the Local Government Boundary Committee for England. He is chairman/member of a number of public bodies in the West Midlands and was a lay member of Worcester Cathedral Chapter.

Vice-Chair

The Revd Paul Benfield practised at the chancery bar in Newcastle before ordination. After curacies in the Diocese of Newcastle he served as a team vicar and incumbent in the Diocese of Chichester. He is now Vicar of St Nicholas Fleetwood in the Diocese of Blackburn. As a member of the General Synod since 2005, he has been much involved with legislative matters, including chairing the Steering Committee for the Miscellaneous Provisions Measure which will receive Royal Assent in 2014 and being a member of the Steering Committee for the latest Women Bishops Legislation.

Elected Members:

Mr Anthony Archer was first elected to General Synod in 1993. He served continuously until 2010 when he stood down to train for Reader ministry in the Diocese of St Albans, where he is Chair of the Council for Discipleship and Ministry. He is a central member of the Crown Nominations Commission and a former member of the General Synod's Panel of Chairs, also serving on the Councils of Oak Hill College and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He is a management consultant advising on senior appointments and governance. He is also Governor of the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Malcolm Halliday served in the Inland Revenue in the London area for over 20 years before moving North in 1985. He then became Bradford Diocesan Secretary and held that post for nearly 25 years until his retirement. For 5 of those years he also acted as Diocesan Director of Education. A lifelong Anglican, he has served on a PCC (in his teens), Epsom Deanery Synod and the Guildford Diocesan Synod. In 1979 he was admitted as a Reader and has served in 4 different parishes. Since retirement he has been a lay member of the General Synod, lately for the Diocese of Leeds.

The Revd Canon Geoffrey Harbord has served for some 30 years in the Diocese of Sheffield. He has been an incumbent in Doncaster and Rotherham and is now the Bishop's domestic chaplain. Elected to the General Synod in 2000, he has served on the Clergy Discipline Commission and the Legal Aid Commission as well as the Steering Committee for the 2014

Miscellaneous Provisions Measure. He has particular interests on canon law and the interface between law and religion generally.

The Revd Dr Rob Munro is Rector of a large parish in the Chester Diocese, South of Manchester. He has been a member of the General Synod since 2003, and serves as Chair of the Diocesan House of Clergy. He is also a member of the Bishop's Council, & Finance and Scrutiny and Staff Review Committee. He trained as a teacher of Maths and PE at secondary level. Since ordination he has served in 3 Chester parishes over 23 years of ministry. In wider church, he chairs the Fellowship of Word and Spirit, Concordia Group and Manchester Bible School. He also chairs the Cheadle Village Partnership and local Sure Start Advisory Board.

Appointed Members:

The Rt Revd Christopher Foster is diocesan Bishop of Portsmouth. After a short career teaching economics in universities he has served in six posts in five dioceses since ordination, in parishes, chaplaincy and cathedral before becoming a suffragan bishop in 2001. He currently is the Convenor and Chair of Churches Together in England and continues his educational interests by involvement with schools, colleges and as a university governor.

The Right Revd Dame Sarah Mullally is the suffragan Bishop of Crediton. She has over 30 years experience in healthcare where she has been involved in the change and reorganisation of both small and large scale organisations at both a local and national level. She is a non-executive Director of the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust and an independent governor of the London South Bank University.

Ruth Martin is Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Southwark [further details to follow]

Canon Prof Hilary Russell is Emeritus Professor of Urban Policy at Liverpool John Moores University. She has wide experience of evaluating urban regeneration. She is a lay canon of Liverpool Cathedral, is a member of the Management Council of Churches Together in Merseyside, and of the Governing Council of Liverpool Hope University. She has considerable voluntary sector involvement.

Staff

The Secretary

Mr Jonathan Neil-Smith has worked for the National Church Institutions in a range of capacities since 1981. His posts included responsibility for clergy stipends policy, parsonage houses and bishops' housing. From 1998 to 2011 he served as Secretary to the House of Bishops. The son of a parish priest, Jonathan has served on a number of PCCs and has since 2002 been a Lay Canon of Guildford Cathedral. He combines this role with other responsibilities in the Central Secretariat at Church House.

The Assistant Secretary

Vacant