

GENERAL SYNOD**Appointment of the Secretary General**

1. The Archbishops' Council is delighted to announce William Nye has been selected to be its next Secretary-General and Secretary General of the General Synod of the Church of England. He will succeed William Fittall who is retiring at the end of November after thirteen years in this post.
2. William Nye was selected unanimously by a panel comprising both Archbishops, seven other members of the Council (including two officers of the General Synod) and Margaret Swinson, Chair of the Appointments Committee. The recommendation of the panel was unanimously endorsed by a meeting of the full Council in May.
3. William Nye brings 25 years of experience from the Civil Service and Whitehall. His roles and departments have included National Security at the Cabinet Office, Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defence at HM Treasury and Arts at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. For the last four years he has worked as the Principal Private Secretary to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall where he has led on matters of significant public sensitivity and organisational effectiveness.
4. Mr. Nye, 49, is a long serving and active member of the Church of England where he has served as a PCC member for nearly 20 years and a Churchwarden for around 10 years. He has also served as a Deanery Synod representative.
5. The selection process for the new Secretary General was both extensive and thorough. A wide selection of candidates from inside and outside the Church was sought and a field of around 30 candidates was attracted. The Council was supported in its search by a leading recruitment agency. The Shortlist comprised 5 applicants drawn from public, private and third sectors. There were many strong applications, in the end the panel selected the candidate who was best able to fulfil the broad scope of the role and would be best able to serve in the priority areas.
6. In his interviews William Nye demonstrated great commitment to the vision of a Church which will support future generations. He brought great insight and demonstrated great sensitivity to the needs of the dioceses. He impressed the panel with his understanding of the challenges that the church faces and the depth of thinking as to how those challenges can be met and opportunities exploited. William pointed out that after 25 years of public service he wishes now to help the Church to thrive on behalf of the whole of our country.
7. William Nye is due to start work at Church House at the beginning of November in preparation for taking up his new responsibilities on 1 December. Under Standing Order 123 of the Synod's Standing Orders, the person appointed by the Archbishops' Council as its Secretary General is also, subject to the approval of the Synod, Secretary General of the Synod. In accordance with the Standing Order that approval will be deemed to be given unless, by midnight on Wednesday 24 June 40 or more members have given notice to the Clerk of the Synod (jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org) in accordance with Standing Order 12 that they wish the appointment to be debated by the Synod.

8. If you have questions around the process or candidate these should be sent to me, the officer responsible for the process (hannah.foster@churchofengland.org).

Hannah Foster

10 June 2015

Human Resources Director

Archbishops' Council

William Nye – Biographical details

Mr Nye was born in 1966 and educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham. He has a BA in Economics from Cambridge University and an MA in Economics from Yale University, in the United States.

He joined the Civil Service after university, starting in the Treasury. His subsequent senior appointments include:

1998-2000: Head of Arts policy at the Department of Culture Media and Sport

2001-2002: Head of Defence, Diplomacy and Intelligence at the Treasury

2002-2005: Director of Performance and Finance at the Home Office

2005-2007: Director of Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence at the Home Office

2007-2008: Director, Law, Security and International at the Home Office

2008-2011: Director in the National Security Secretariat at the Cabinet Office

2011-2015: Principal Private Secretary to The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall