GENERAL SYNOD

Appointed member of the Archbishops' Council

1. This paper outlines plans to fill the vacancy on Archbishops' Council (AC) created by the retirement of Philip Fletcher as a member of the Council and also Chair of the Council's Mission & Public Affairs Council (MPAC).

2. We have, with the members of the Archbishops' Council, undertaken a process of discernment to determine how and when to fill the vacancy. This paper sets out the process we have followed to identify a candidate for appointment to the Council and gives details of the candidate we wish to appoint.

The Process

3. The post was advertised for seven weeks in total. The job was advertised initially in October and then re-advertised in November and December owing to what we judged to be an unrepresentative response. It was promoted on the Church of England website and circulated widely within the Church including to all Diocesan Secretaries and Diocesan Bishops.

4. Eleven applications were received by the revised closing date. These had much broader representation in terms of gender, race, background, geography, disability, lay and ordained candidates. We invited a panel chaired by the Rt Revd Nigel Stock to shortlist candidates. The other members of the panel were the Revd Canon Simon Butler (*ex officio* member of the Archbishops' Council), Canon Margaret Swinson (Chair of the Appointments Committee) and William Nye (Secretary General). Hannah Foster, the NCIs' Director of HR acted as advisor. The panel shortlisted candidates against the following criteria:

    - Evidence of work related to mission and passion for Church mission
    - Experience of UK public affairs advocacy at a national level
    - Evidence of an ability to contribute to the strategic life of the Archbishops' Council and experience of governance structures
    - Evidence of being leaders in their own field
    - Evidence of ability to Chair committees

5. Five candidates were shortlisted for interview against the above criteria. The interviewees comprised two women and three men, two of whom were clergy.

6. Two of these candidates were selected for interview by us. We have agreed to appoint Mark Sheard to the Council for a five-year term. We recognise that his professional experience represents some change from previous postholders, but we have concluded that his personal qualities, his professional skills and his voluntary experience across a broad spectrum of organisations, give him a good, if different, basis for this area of work. We would note that the work of MPAC is at least as much about Mission as it is about Public Affairs.

Mark Sheard

7. Mark Sheard has enjoyed a highly successful career in the public affairs and marketing service industry and has served at board level in local, national and international faith-based mission and outreach organisations.

8. Mark was until recently Chair of the Board of World Vision UK having been a trustee since 2007. He is currently a trustee of Ugandan Development Service and served as Executive Chair from 2004 to 2014. He was formerly a trustee of WorkNet (Christian Workplace Ministry), a Governor of Christ Church CofE School, Ealing and provided pro bono consultancy for Premier Christian Radio.

9. Professionally, Mark worked in public affairs and marketing services. He co-founded Sheard Thomson Harris CBH Ltd (STH) which he sold to Mosaic in 1999. In 2001 he left Mosaic to establish a portfolio career mainly working in the field of marketing data and technology.

10. Mark was raised in rural Essex and has lived in Ealing in West London for over thirty years with his wife, Lois, and two dogs. He has four children aged from 17-25. He is a committed Christian. He has worshipped at St John's, Ealing since 1981. Mark is currently in his third year of training as a Licensed Lay Minister at St. Mellitus College.

Recommendation

11. The Synod is invited to approve the appointment of Mark Sheard to the Archbishops' Council for a five-year term ending on 14 February 2022.

✠ Justin Cantuar: ✠ Sentamu Eboracensis

23 January 2017