

GENERAL SYNOD

Appointment of new Chaplain to General Synod

1. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd Michael Gisbourne, Vicar of Scotforth St Paul in the Diocese of Blackburn as Chaplain to the General Synod for the new Quinquennium.
2. Due to the growing duties of the role, this is now an honorary post for a non-Synod member who is able to devote sufficient time to design and oversee the delivery of all aspects of worship at General Synod.
3. The new Chaplain will co-ordinate a team of volunteers drawn from Synod members and others to assist with the delivery of Synod worship. He will report into a small sub-group for Synod worship appointed by the Archbishops and chaired by the Rt Revd Robert Paterson, Bishop of Sodor and Man and Vice-Chair of the Liturgical Commission.
4. The Bishop of Sodor and Man writes:

'I am delighted to welcome Michael as Chaplain to the new General Synod. This role has expanded in recent years under the auspices of Canon Gavin Kirk, the current Chaplain, and now includes the Continuous Praying Presence at each General Synod as well as Synod worship conducted in a range of styles. Appointing a non-member of General Synod to coordinate Synod worship will enable more time to be devoted to building on these initiatives. Michael brings a great deal of commitment and a variety of locally-based experience to the role. At his interview, he displayed an enthusiasm for offering Synod a range of styles of worship, prayer and music which reflect the richness of Anglican traditions and will support the work of Synod in the new Quinquennium'.

5. The Revd Michael Gisbourne writes:

'I am very excited and humbled to be supporting the work of Synod through helping to coordinate worship and prayer. I have over 22 years of experience as a parish priest leading people in worship, over 15 years involved in liturgical education at a diocesan and regional level and over 11 involved in constructing and leading worship at a variety of Diocesan events. I look forward to playing my part to enable Synod to transact its business in the context of Anglican worship'.

6. Mr Gisbourne will attend part of the July 2015 General Synod meeting in order to shadow Canon Gavin Kirk and will take up his duties at the Inaugural session of General Synod in November 2015.
7. Any queries from Synod members should be directed to the Archbishops through me as Clerk to the Synod on jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org

Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Philips
Clerk to the Synod

REVD MICHAEL GISBOURNE BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Michael Gisbourne graduated from Leeds University with a degree in Geography. He was awarded a Bachelor in Theology at St John's College Nottingham and an MA in Theology at the University of Cumbria.

He served curacy posts with the Gateacre Team Ministry in Liverpool and at Marton St Paul's Church in Blackpool. After two posts as an incumbent in the Blackburn Diocese he became Coordinating Chaplain at the University of Cumbria. He was appointed as Vicar of Lancaster St Paul in Scotforth in September 2011.

Mr Gisbourne is Secretary to the Blackburn Diocesan Liturgical Committee and Chair of Praxis North West.