

GENERAL SYNOD**Appointment of Clerk to the Synod**

1. The Revd David Williams will be retiring as the Director of the Archbishops' Council's Central Secretariat on 28 March. One of David's responsibilities has been as Clerk to the Synod, a role to which he was appointed in November 1998.
2. An open competition has been held to find a successor to David in the reconfigured role of Director: Central Secretariat and Ecumenical Relations. The panel responsible for the selection process consisted of the Bishop of Guildford (Chair of the Council of Christian Unity), the Bishop of Dover (acting Chair of the Business Committee), Mary Chapman (member of the Archbishops' Council), Prebendary David Houlding (Chair of the Appointments Committee), Su Morgan (HR Director) and me. Longlisted candidates underwent a written test and an interview. The shortlisted candidates were then invited for a more extensive final interview.
3. The unanimous recommendation of the panel was that Dr Colin Podmore should be appointed. Under Standing Order 123A the Business Committee has appointed him as Clerk to the Synod and the Synod is now invited to confirm the appointment.
4. Colin Podmore has an Oxford DPhil in Modern History and is a qualified teacher. He was admitted as a reader in the Church of England in 1985. He joined the staff at Church House in 1988, working for the Board for Mission and Unity and the Council for Christian Unity, latterly as Acting General Secretary of CCU. He was Secretary of the Porvoo Conversations and responsible for implementation of the Meissen and Porvoo agreements. In 1999 he moved to the Central Secretariat where he has had a range of responsibilities including as Secretary to the Liturgical Commission, Secretary of the Dioceses Commission, Secretary of the Perry and Pilling reviews of senior appointments and Secretary to the House of Clergy.
5. Colin is an acknowledged expert on Anglican ecclesiology, having produced a number of articles, a book – *Aspects of Anglican Identity* – and a much appreciated synod paper, *The Governance of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion* (GS Misc 910).

WILLIAM FITTALL

4 February 2011

SECRETARY GENERAL