

Commission Members

Chair

(Vacant from 1 August 2018)

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. Formerly Vicar of St Nicholas Fleetwood in the Diocese of Blackburn, Paul has served as Registrar to the Diocese since February 2018. 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 received Royal Assent in 2014 and being a member of the Steering Committee for the final phase of the Women Bishops Legislation. He is also Synodal Secretary of the Province of York.

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 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 chairs the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee, and the Churches Funerals Group and is Co-Chair of the English Anglican Roman Catholic Committee, which he combines with membership of the Council for Christian Unity. He continues his educational interests by involvement with schools, colleges and as a university governor.

The Rt Hon and Right Revd Dame Sarah Mullally is the Bishop of London. 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. Prior to her appointment as Bishop of London, she served a parish priest in the Diocese of Southwark, as a Residentiary Canon at Salisbury Cathedral, and as suffragan Bishop of Crediton.

Ruth Martin has served as Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Southwark since January 2015. Prior to that she was Managing Director of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment. She has extensive experience in professional employment, regulation and education sectors, from policy making in Government and strategic planning, to building relationships in universities, regulators and firms, as well as directly managing organisations and learning programmes. Ruth is Member of the Diocese of Southwark Multi Academy Trust and a Lay Canon at Southwark Cathedral. Ruth is also a Lay Reader in the Diocese of Southwark (Richmond Team Ministry) and a Street Pastor.

[One vacancy]

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 served as a Lay Canon of Guildford Cathedral from 2002-17. He combines this role with other responsibilities in the Central Secretariat at Church House.

