

**ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
AND GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**Appointment of members to the Archbishops' Council**

This paper describes the recruitment process for the appointment of a new AC member to hold office for an initial period of five years from 1st January 2005 and recommends to the General Synod the successful candidate for approval.

**1. Background**

In November 2001, Synod approved the appointment of Jayne Ozanne for a further three years which means that she stepped down on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004. Jayne had been with the Council since its inception in January 1999.

**2. Recruitment process for the vacancy**

Members may remember that in GS 1479 (November 2002), a small advisory group was set up comprising four members of the Council and two elected members of the Appointments Committee to assist the Archbishops with their proposals for new appointments.

In the summer of 2004, the Archbishops agreed that a similar format should be used to assist them with this appointment and a paper outlining this was considered by the Appointments Committee in September.

The group, chaired by the Bishop of Chelmsford, was established. It comprised Canon Dr Christina Baxter, The Revd Canon Glyn Webster, Katherine McPherson, Anthony Archer and Shirley-Ann Williams assisted by Su Morgan.

At the beginning of September the vacancy was advertised in the *Church Times*, the *Church of England Newspaper*, *The Voice* with a closing date for receipt of applications of 27<sup>th</sup> September . A copy of the advertisement and a covering note were emailed to all Diocesan Bishops inviting them to nominate suitable people. The advertisement was also emailed to Diocesan Secretaries asking them to pass it to DBF Chairs.

### **3. Applicants**

Over 70 people asked for information packs (which comprised the Council's annual report for 2003, the National Institutions Measure, the role specification and application form and guidance notes for completing the application form).

24 firm applications were received, out of which 23 returned equal opportunities monitoring forms. These showed the following:

- 14 men and 10 women (determined through the application forms)
- 21 of the applicants described themselves as UK white, 1 as white other, 1 as African and 1 did not complete the form
- 3 were aged between 16-25, 6 between 26-35, 5 between 36-45 and 9 were 46 or over

#### 4. Shortlist

Four people were shortlisted and interviewed by the group on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The unanimous decision of the panel was to recommend **Mark Russell** to the Archbishops for appointment. Both Archbishops have met Mark and wish to appoint him.

#### 5. Mark Russell

Mark is a Bachelor of Laws from The Queen's University of Belfast and is currently Youth Minister at Christ Church, Chorleywood. He is 30 years old and was admitted as a fully accredited local preacher in the Methodist Church in Ireland in 1996 and as a reader in the Church of England in 2002. He is committed to finding new ways to reach out to young people, and to involve them fully in the life of the Church, at local and national level. He has travelled across England, and internationally, as a Christian speaker to young people.

Following graduation, he was a Project Executive with a company in Portadown where he was involved in planning, strategy and training and development. He left a business career to become Youth Pastor of the Methodist Church in Lurgan.

Prior to coming to England, in July 1999 he was awarded the Daily Express/British Gas 'Tomorrow's People' award for his involvement with young people in the process leading to the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland and in drawing Protestant and Catholic young people together. He led and spoke at a series of cross community youth conferences encouraging peace and reconciliation. The most significant of these was with 150 teenagers in Omagh, just a few months after the 1998 bomb.

Mark was also a regular contributor to BBC Northern Ireland's "Talk Back", "Straight Up" and "Straight Talking" programmes. He is a member of the Christian Socialist Movement and is currently in discussions about increasing the involvement of young people in politics.

He is interested in cinema, travel, reading, U2 ( the Irish rock band ), Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and going to the gym.

## **6. Term**

In GS 1432, the Archbishops gave an undertaking that, under normal circumstances, no new appointment to the Council would be made for less than three years. It is proposed that this appointment should be made for a term of five years to run until 31 December 2009.

## **7. Recommendations**

The Archbishops wish to recommend **Mark Russell** for appointment to the Council for an initial period of five years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

Synod is asked to note the background to this appointment to the Council and give its approval.

Published by the General Synod of the Church of England and on sale at the Church House Bookshop, 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN

---