Appointment to the Archbishops’ Council

Process

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Institutions Measure 1998, the approval of the General Synod is required for appointments to the Archbishops’ Council.

2. Canon John Spence was re-appointed to the Archbishops’ Council on 1st October 2018 for three years until 30th September 2021 (which in turn appointed him as Chair of the Finance Committee for the full duration of his current term), following the end of his first term of office on 30th September 2018. This was his first five-year term as one of the six members of the Council appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, acting jointly.

3. Appointed members are eligible to serve for a maximum of ten years. The Archbishops have been consulted and wish to propose that Canon Spence’s appointment is extended to the maximum term until 30th September 2023. This will provide continuity of financial leadership as the Emerging Church of England work progresses and as the Church continues to respond to the challenges of the pandemic.

4. At its meeting of the 22nd March 2021, the Archbishops’ Council endorsed the proposed re-appointment of Canon John Spence to the Archbishops' Council for a further two years and, assuming that the General Synod makes the appointment, has invited him to continue to chair its Finance Committee until 30th September 2023.

Canon John Spence

5. Canon John Spence worked for Lloyds Bank for 32 years, leaving in 2005. Subsequently he has undertaken a number of non-executive roles. He was Finance Chair of Business in the Community from 2014 to 2016, and has been president or chairman of numerous disability charities including Action for Blind People and Revitalise. He is the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care on Essex County Council, and is a governor of Anglia Ruskin University. John was a Church Commissioner from 2005 until 2013, where he also chaired their Audit Committee. John is also chair of the Council’s Strategic Investment Board and the Church of England Central Services Board. John’s invigorating leadership of the Finance Committee, contribution to the full range of the Council’s work, and his passionate commitment to church growth, has made a significant impact on the national life of the Church of England.

Recommendation

6. The Synod is invited to approve the appointment of Canon John Spence as a member of the Archbishops’ Council from 30th September 2021 until 30th September 2023.

William Nye
Secretary General
June 2021