

## GENERAL SYNOD

### Appointment of the Chair of the Dioceses Commission

1. In April 2021 the General Synod approved the appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission for term expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This means that Synod needs to consider the appointment of the Chair for the next five year term.
2. The terms of Commission members are set by statute and run until 30 April 2022. This gives the opportunity for the Chair to work with a new Commission to take forward the considerable work which is scheduled over the next few years.
3. Although this is an appointment made jointly by the two archbishops, the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014 provided that the General Synod should also approve the appointment, given that the person appointed serves as an ex-officio member of the relevant House of the Synod.
4. The Archbishops propose that **Dame Caroline Spelman** be re-appointed to this role. Members of Synod may recall that she served as Second Church Estates Commission from May 2015 until January 2020 (during which time she was an ex-officio member of the House of Laity), having decided to stand down as an MP at the end of 2019. Dame Caroline had a distinguished parliamentary career for over 20 years, and served as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the Cameron administration from 2010-12. Her wide political experience, and knowledge and understanding of the Church of England, make her well suited to the role of Commission chair as it potentially embarks on fresh strategic role. She has indicated that she is willing to serve.

### Synod Motion

5. One of the Presidents will move a motion inviting the Synod to approve its appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission for a term starting on 1 May 2022.

William Nye  
Secretary General  
January 2022