

GENERAL SYNOD

JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2023

FIFTH NOTICE PAPER

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND ANGLICAN COMMUNION AND ECUMENICAL GUESTS

New Members

The following people have become Members of General Synod since February 2023:

The Rt Revd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of Stepney, Suffragan Bishops, replacing The Rt Revd John Perumbalath

The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead, Suffragan Bishops, replacing The Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley

The Rt Revd Stephen Race, Suffragan Bishops, replacing The Rt Revd Philip North

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Deans, replacing The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Mrs Christiana Olomolaiye, Diocese of Bristol, replacing Miss Abigail Scott

The Revd Simon Drew, Diocese of Chester, replacing The Revd Dr Rob Munroe

Mr Peter Kelsey, Diocese of Derby, replacing Mrs Sian Kellogg

Mr Nathan Obokoh, Diocese of Leicester, replacing Miss Venessa Pinto

Dr Rosemary Gomes, Diocese of London, replacing Dr Liz Brutus

The Ven Jonathan Chaffey, Diocese of Oxford, replacing The Revd Tim Norwood

The Ven Sally Gaze, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, replacing The Revd Leslie Siu

Sister Beverley CSF, Religious Communities, replacing Sister Anita Cook CSC

ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Most Revd Dr Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith was born on 21st February 1964 to Venerable Andrew and Mrs. Augustina Ben-Smith (both of blessed memory).

He holds a Licentiate in Theology from St. Nicholas Seminary in Cape Coast – Ghana; a Master of Arts in Religion from Asia United Theological University in Seoul; a Master of Arts in Philosophy Research from the University of Wales in Cardiff – UK; and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Manchester University in the UK.

He was ordained into the Diaconate and Priesthood on 18th December 1988 and 13th August 1989 respectively by then Bishop of Kumasi - Ghana, the late Rt. Rev'd. Edmund Kojo Yeboah. He was ordained and consecrated as a Bishop on 22nd May 2011 and enthroned as the first Diocesan Bishop of Asante Mampong - Ghana on 30th November 2014.

On 27th February 2021, he was enthroned as the second Metropolitan Archbishop of Ghana and finally installed as the current Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa on 3rd June 2022.

The Most Rev'd Dr. Cyril is married to Mrs. Christiana Ben-Smith and they have been blessed with three children; Cyrila, Paula, and Robert.

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez was ordained on July 16, 2016, as the 16th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the second oldest and fourth largest in the Episcopal Church. He says “Jesus is not simply a priority, He is my center, and everything else in life must flow from Him. I do not want to get Him off my mind or out of my heart. I know Jesus is always with me, guiding, correcting, teaching, listening, and loving.”

Gutiérrez does not see the role of the Episcopacy as “leading” but rather “following Jesus.” He uses the imagery of a shepherd as the model of his journey with God’s beloved in Pennsylvania. He often says, “a shepherd should smell like the sheep.”

He has called his diocese to be different. A place where no one should have to “fit in” at church. Where the church is led by the Spirit to the heart of Jesus. Where everyone finds a place not of only welcome, but a home where they belong. Where faith is the encounter with God and the sacred connection with one another. A different community.

He has called his diocese to be the Church of the poor, compassionate and the loving. To be that gritty and messy Church. Not afraid to take risks. Not afraid to fail. Not afraid to open their hearts. Not afraid to outlove everyone else. A different, counter-cultural and revolutionary church, where all can flourish rather than fade.

Aside from Jesus, Gutiérrez counts as his most important role and greatest responsibility a position he assumed on June 26, 1998, when he became the extremely proud father of his son Jude, a graduate from the University of New Mexico with a degree in criminology. It is a joy he shares with his wife, best friend, and partner of 35 years, Suzanne Fletcher Gutiérrez. The family shares this joy with a household of dogs, turtles,

pheasants, foxes, rabbits, owls, and the other miscellaneous “pets” that wander through their lives.

ECUMENICAL GUESTS

The Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones LVO OBE has been Dean of St Davids since 2018. After reading mathematics, Sarah was a British diplomat for 15 years with postings to Jordan and Hungary before ordination in the Church in Wales in 1999. Since 2000 she has served on international Anglican ecumenical and doctrinal bodies, and so met her first, late, husband, a South African Bishop. This led to her spending a decade as researcher to successive Archbishops of Cape Town, returning home to Wales in 2013.

She has been a member of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order since 2009, and also serves on the Anglican-Orthodox international dialogue. Sarah broadcasts regularly, and writes on spirituality (she is a trained spiritual director), public theology and ecumenism, including being a long-standing contributor to Reflections for Daily Prayer (Church House Publishing) and Radio 4's Prayer for the Day.

The Rt Revd Dr Erik Eckerdal is the bishop of the diocese of Visby and the Church of Sweden abroad, with parishes and congregations in Sweden, Europe, North- and South America, Asia and Australia. Before taking on episcopal ministry in January 2023 Bishop Erik served as a parish priest for many years in the Archdiocese of Uppsala, as the CEO of St Mary of Alsike, and later as the CEO of the House of the Good Samaritan, a diaconal foundation in the Church of Sweden managing elderly care, education, social enterprises, and real estates.

Bishop Erik wrote his doctoral thesis in ecclesiology and ecumenism at the University of Uppsala and at the Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo in Rome. For three semesters he was a resident at the Benedictine Collegio Sant'Anselmo. He defended his thesis in 2017 in Uppsala. Since then, he has published works covering ecumenism, ecclesiology, and canon law.

Bishop Ralf Meister is the Landesbischof of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Hanover, which is one of the largest Landeskirchen of the Evangelical Church in Germany. Previously he served as the General Superintendent (or regional bishop) in Berlin. He has also worked in the Department of Practical Theology at the University of Hamburg, and has been a longstanding contributor to religious broadcasting on German radio.

He is the co-chair of the Meissen Commission, which is responsible for developing the commitments between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany under the Meissen Agreement.