

**PEN PICTURES OF THE CENTRAL MEMBERS OF
THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION
2022 - 2027**

Pair I – Reverend Canon Claire Lording and The Reverend Jo Stobart

The Reverend Canon Claire Lording



Claire Lording was born in Germany, as part of a Forces family, and early years were spent in Germany, Lincolnshire and Herefordshire before going to Whitelands College, Roehampton Institute in London, to study English Literature. In 1996 Claire was recommended for ordination training and studied at Ripon College Cuddesdon, and was ordained in 1999. She served her title in the Diocese of Hereford in the Ledbury Team Ministry, before moving within the diocese to serve as Team Vicar, and later Team Rector, in the Tenbury Team Ministry. Claire was also Rural Dean for Ludlow Deanery for several years before moving in 2015 to the Diocese of Worcester to serve as Vicar of the Pershore Benefice. Since 2018 she has also been Diocesan Chair of the House of

Clergy, serving on various diocesan committees, including those with a focus on diocesan strategy, the transformation and change agenda, and clergy wellbeing. Claire enjoys rural living, travel, long distance walking, reading, greyhounds and real ale.

The Reverend Jo Stobart

Jo Stobart grew up in west London but spent five years in Yorkshire - first studying medieval history at Leeds University and then training to be a primary school teacher at Ripon and York St John in York. Jo taught for three years in junior schools in the south-east before taking up the post of Southwark Cathedral's first Education Officer - a job she found hugely enjoyable. After two and a half years, Jo left the role to become a mum and spent the next ten years caring for her (now grown-up) three sons. Having moved to the west country in 2006, Jo returned to paid work in the role of lay chaplain at the Kings of Wessex School in Cheddar. During this time, she began to explore a call to ordained ministry. Jo trained for ministry part-time at Sarum College, juggling study with two part-time jobs. She was ordained deacon in 2016 and is now an incumbent in the south of Somerset. Jo enjoys time spent with the family, walking the Vicarage dogs, reading and sea-swimming.



Pair 2 – The Reverend Lis Goddard and The Reverend Esther Prior

The Reverend Lis Goddard



Lis grew up in a clergy home in the East End of London. She studied theology at Oxford and took some time out in Botswana to teach in a maximum-Security Prison and to work in famine relief. She worked as Research Assistant, then Lay Assistant Chaplain to Dr NT Wright at Worcester College, Oxford, then went to train at Cranmer Hall with her husband and 2 small children. She did a job-share curacy with her husband, during which she led a church plant, then was chaplain of Jesus College, Oxford. After this she was Tutor for Ministerial Formation at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, whilst also being Assistant Minister at St Andrew's, North Oxford. She was then on the staff of St Mary's Stoke Bishop in Bristol in a consultancy role, helping the church to transition from a 'pastoral' model of leadership to the more appropriate corporate model for a church of 500. She is now vicar of

St James the Less, Westminster which is an estate church working with those who are extremely vulnerable.

She is also currently Cochair of CEEC (the Church of England Evangelical Council). She was previously Chair of the Junia Network for ordained evangelical women for 17 years, and consequently on the Transformations Steering Group and TRIG. She is also now on Ministry Council.

She has contributed to several books and co-authored 'The Gender Agenda' (IVP 2010) with Clare Hendry.

The Reverend Esther Prior

Esther is married to Matt, who is also ordained, and they have two children. She is the vicar of St John's Egham, vice-chair of Church Pastoral Aid Society Patronage Trustees, and serves on General Synod as Pro-Prolocutor. Esther came to England from Zimbabwe for Theological Education in 1999. After two curacies, she served as a School Chaplain, a young offenders Prison Chaplain and a team vicar in Farnborough. Esther is passionate about the local church being a loving and growing community where God's people are empowered and released to follow Jesus in their everyday lives, proclaiming and demonstrating the good news of Christ. She also has a special interest in fostering partnerships in the wider community for the common good. She loves cooking, reading, writing, body combat, travel and time with family.



Pair 3 – The Reverend Paul Benfield and Canon Andrew Cornes

The Reverend Paul Benfield



Paul grew up in a village in Cambridgeshire where he attended the local Church of England primary school and the Cambridge Grammar School for Boys. After graduating in law from Newcastle University he spent a year in London reading for the Bar. He returned to Newcastle for pupillage and practiced at the Chancery Bar there until leaving to train for the priesthood at Chichester Theological College. After two curacies in the Newcastle diocese he served as a team vicar and incumbent in Chichester Diocese before becoming Vicar of St Nicholas, Fleetwood in the Diocese of Blackburn in 2000. He served as Blackburn Diocesan Registrar from 2018 to 2020 and is now an assistant priest in Burnley and a direct access barrister. Elected to General Synod in 2005 he has been much involved with legislation and served on the Steering Committee which drafted the package which resulted in the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and the measure and canon allowing women bishops to be consecrated. He served as Vice-Chair of the Dioceses Commission from 2014 to 2022 where he acquired a good knowledge of all the dioceses.

The Reverend Canon Andrew Cornes

My three brothers were born in Jerusalem. I was born in somewhere much more romantic: Woking. Raised in Winchester, my Christian faith as a teenager was real but confused. I came to a clearer and more personal faith at university where I studied Modern Languages (French and Russian), and then Theology. I served a Curacy in York and was then Director of Training at a large London church. At the same time, for twelve years, I led a Christian camp work for teenagers which operated in all three school holidays.



Marrying in my mid thirties, we moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where I was the Rector of a church in the city centre near two universities. Returning to the UK, I was Vicar of the small Sussex town of Crowborough for 26 years. Now officially retired, I am on the staff of a church in the poorest and most multinational part of Eastbourne. I am a writer, and also involved in listening to, and offering support to, other clergy. I love our family – my wife and five children – the theatre, history, foreign travel and good conversation.

Pair 4 – Ms Christina Baron and Miss Vee Pinto (resigned her membership in April 2023)

Ms Christina Baron



Christina is a retired university lecturer, having taught courses on British History and Modern Britain to overseas students at SOAS and, latterly, at the University of Bath. She has chaired two local NHS Trusts, was a lay reviewer for the Commission for Health Improvement and a member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council and now sits on tribunals for the Medical Practitioners' Tribunal Service. From 2004-21 she was an independent member of the Judicial Appointments Commission's selection panels for judges. Christina lives in Wells, and is a former mayor of the city and a former Liberal parliamentary candidate. She worships at and lives next door to her parish church, St. Thomas', which hit the international

news in February 2022 when record winds brought down the top of its spire. (It has now been restored.) Christina used to lead St. Thomas' Sunday school; from 2009-15 she was diocesan Lay Chair. She has been a member of General Synod since 2013 and was elected to the CNC in 2017. She also sits on Clergy Disciplinary Tribunals. She is married to the only tenor in the church choir; she is sometimes busy with granny duties, which makes her very typical of those in the Church of England's pews.

Pair 5 – Miss Debbie Buggs and Miss Prudence Dailey

Miss Debbie Buggs



Debbie Buggs grew up near Tonbridge, Kent, and studied Computer Science with Management Science at the University of Kent at Canterbury. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, she spent some 25 years working in the financial services industry, latterly in the City with a company providing aviation insurance where she was responsible for management accounting, financial reporting including accounting for pensions, tax, budgeting and regulatory compliance. In 2020 she moved into the charity sector and leads the finance function for a charity running residential care homes and independent living schemes for older Christians.

Debbie lives in Bow and cycles to work in central London. She enjoys being an auntie to her siblings' offspring, ranging from 1 to 21 years old. Since 2017, she has been a trustee of the Church Pastoral Aid Society which runs summer holidays for teenagers and does clergy training and patronage work. Debbie was elected on to General Synod in 2015, and the CNC in 2022.

Miss Prudence Dailey

Prudence Dailey grew up in East Kent, and has a degree in PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). She was a National Health Service General Management Trainee, and worked for a few years in the NHS in various administrative roles, before moving into IT as a Business Systems Analyst in the health and retail sectors. She was a member of Oxford City Council between 1992 and 1996, and a Parliamentary candidate in 2001.



Having previously held various positions with the Prayer Book Society, from 2006 to 2020 she was its National Chairman, overseeing a period of change and transition in the life of the Society (for which she was awarded an MBE in the The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours List 2022). She attends St Michael at the North Gate, a BCP church in central Oxford, where she served as Churchwarden from 2012 to 2020. Since 2014, she has been Lay Chairman of the Oxford Deanery.

She is an enthusiastic seamstress, and enjoys textile crafts in general, as well as jewellery making.

Pair 6 – Mr Clive Scowen and Mr Temitope Taiwo

Mr Clive Scowen



Clive Scowen was born in London in 1958 and attended The John Lyon School in Harrow. He read Law at Bristol University and was called to the Bar in 1981. He spent most of his professional life as a law reporter and editor of law reports, becoming The Editor of the Law Reports and The Weekly Law Reports in 2008. He is now semi-retired, rejoicing in the title of Consultant Editor of The Law Reports. From 1990 to 2002 he was a member of Harrow London Borough Council. He is a licensed lay minister at Christ Church Roxeth in Harrow in London Diocese, where he has worshipped all his life. Involved in the synodical life of the diocese for 40 years, he has represented its laity on General Synod since 2005 and is currently a member of the Business Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Scrutiny Committee, the Dioceses Commission and the Crown Nominations Commission. He is a member of the Committee of the Evangelical Group on General Synod and a former member of the Church of England Evangelical Council.

Mr Temitope Taiwo

Temitope is one of four children in his beautiful and multifaceted family; he was born and grew up in London. His mother raised him going to Pentecostal churches, where he was initially introduced to Jesus. Yet, through his teenage years, this foundation was shaken as he attempted to navigate challenging social environments in his locale. But all was not lost. It was in 2016, whilst he studied Business Management at the University of Derby, that he re-discovered his faith in Jesus. This set him on an unexpected trajectory where he found himself on a mission's trip in Bangladesh. On returning, he was fully inspired to continue ministry as a Youth Worker for Christ Church Roxeth. After doing that role for 3 years, he was invited to join the leadership team at SAINT church in East London in 2020, where he now a second-year ordinand. When not studying or with family, you can find him exploring London, cycling, listening to historical podcasts & smiling – perhaps all at the same time.

