

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2024

SIXTH NOTICE PAPER

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND ANGLICAN COMMUNION AND ECUMENICAL GUESTS

New Members

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

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough, replacing the Rt Revd Donald Allister

The Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston, Suffragan Bishops, replacing the Rt Revd Karowei Dorgu

Mr Paul Hannah, Diocese of Blackburn, replacing Mrs Vivienne Goddard

The Revd Jenny Bridgman, Diocese of Chester, replacing the Ven Ian Bishop

The Revd Mark Wallace, Diocese of Guildford, replacing the Ven Paul Davies

ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Most Revd Brent Harry W. Alawas, Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines

The Most Revd Brent Harry W. Alawas is the 7th Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, installed to this office on 30 July 2021. He is also currently the Chairperson of the Council of the Church in East Asia and elected in

November 2023 as Vice-Chairperson of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

He graduated Bachelor in Theology at St. Andrew's Theological Seminary in March 1980, ordained as Deacon on 22 December of that year and ordained to the Priesthood on 24 August 1987. He was consecrated as Bishop on 23 October 2008 and served as Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines until his installation as Diocesan on 12 April 2009.

Bishop Alawas served in various capacities in local congregations and institutions of the Church and was the Development Officer of EDNP from 1991 to 2008 where he was part of the team that led the journey of the ECP towards full financial autonomy as well as the expansion of the development program from the self-reliance thrust of the church to community-based development that worked with communities in the establishment of water projects, agriculture development facilities, micro-power systems and cooperatives. It was his wealth of experiences in the community development program that led him to be invited to the Advisory Council of the Anglican Alliance in 2013 up to the present.

As Diocesan and later Prime Bishop, Alawas was among the pioneers of the asset-based community and congregational development (ABCD) in the ECP and in the conceptualization of the "uniquely ECP" Receivers to Givers or R2G practice that enabled the community-based development program to voluntarily reduce its dependence on external grants while managing a system of sharing where communities and congregations receive project fund support, utilize the same for developmental purposes and later grant back and pass on the support to others, thereby becoming givers from being erstwhile receivers.

As Prime Bishop, he led the ECP in post-covid 19 pandemic recovery, overseeing the building of churches in numbers that

even doubled annual figures pre-pandemic, most of such church buildings being constructed through ABCD or own resources of congregations. It was under this leadership that lay ministries in the ECP exploded in numbers, following the opening of virtual lay trainings that allowed many lay persons, even those employed full time in secular jobs, to complete these training courses. He has also led the re-framing of the mission of Episcopal schools to become not only institutions of learning but as mission fields for the study and practice of the Five Marks of Mission.

Bishop Alawas was born in the village of Masla, Tadian, Mountain Province, deep in the hinterlands of the Cordillera region, home to the indigenous peoples called the “Igorots”. He is now also leading the ECP, whose membership largely consists of indigenous communities, in engagement with indigenous spirituality and the embrace of its positive expressions into the faith practices of the ECP.

The Right Revd Anthony Poggo is the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, where he leads the staff team at the Anglican Communion Office, the international secretariat, in serving the four “Instruments of Communion”.

Bishop Anthony was born in what is now South Sudan, his family had to move to Uganda to flee the first Sudanese Civil War, returning to South Sudan when he was 9. He was ordained a Deacon in 1995 and a Priest in 1996. In 2007 he was elected Bishop of Kajo-Keji, a position he held until 2016 when he moved to Lambeth Palace to support the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, as his Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs, a position he held until 2022. He was appointed as Secretary General of the Anglican Communion from 1 September 2022.