



HOW THE NEW BISHOP OF LONDON IS APPOINTED

Many have said that it would be helpful to have information on the appointments process of the new Bishop of London.

Attached is a pdf of PowerPoint slides which were shown at the February 2017 meeting of the Diocesan Synod by the Dean of St Paul's, who chairs the Vacancy in See Committee. These slides give a succinct account of how the process works:

- They provide information on the responsibilities and make-up of the diocese's Vacancy in See Committee, indicating when it will meet, and the work which will take place at the meetings;
- They make reference to the fact that consultations, instigated by the Committee, are currently taking place in the diocese, at parish, deanery and at Area level, and that the outcome of these will be fed into the Vacancy in See Committee meetings and inform the drafting of the Statements on the Diocese, and the desired profile of the new Bishop; and
- They summarise the work of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), which conducts its own consultation of the diocese, and to which the diocese's Vacancy in See Committee elects 6 of its members. In late November, the CNC will deal with 'interviews and appointment', and provide two names, clearly indicating the CNC's preference between the two.

The official Vacancy in See literature states: 'The Archbishop of the Province then writes to the Prime Minister, submitting the two names. The Prime Minister invites the candidate concerned to accept the nomination. Once a candidate has agreed to accept, the Prime Minister advises the Sovereign, who formally nominates him or her to the See.'

For those who would like to read the Vacancy in See Committee's consultation document, and other information, please go to the following link:
www.london.anglican.org/directory/vacancy-in-see-committee/

Questions regarding the appointments process should be forwarded to the Dean of St Paul's, Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee (DeansPA@stpaulscathedral.org.uk).

March 2017

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Tasks

Prepare:

- ✚ a brief description of the diocese
- ✚ a statement setting out the desired profile of the new Bishop

Elect:

- ✚ six diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission.

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Members

- ✝ suffragan bishops, dean & 2 archdeacons (9)
- ✝ General Synod members (11 clergy, 11 laity)
- ✝ Chairs, Diocesan Synod Houses of Clergy and Laity (2 – but Alan Moses is a GS member)
- ✝ elected from archdeaconries (4 clergy, 12 lay)
- ✝ nominated to represent minority groups (4)

TOTAL: 52 + Secretary (Diocesan Registrar)

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Timeline

January – May: PCC/Deanery/Area /individual consultations and responses

25th March: 1st meeting ViSC

6th May: 2nd meeting ViSC

10th June: 3rd meeting ViSC

(Possible 4th meeting to finalise Statement of Needs)

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Work 1

December 2016: Consultation with ViSC members

January 2017: Diocesan consultation paper issued

(January – May: PCC/Deanery/Area /individual consultations and responses)

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Work 2

25th March – Preliminary Meeting:

- ✚ worship & introductions
- ✚ initial consultation
- ✚ appoint drafting group & agree process
- ✚ elect deputy chair

(?drafting group meeting(s))

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Work 3

6th May – Second Meeting:

- ✚ unconscious bias training
 - ✚ outline draft of Statement from drafting group
 - ✚ further consultation material
 - ✚ discussion about nominations for CNC and distribution of nomination forms
- (?drafting group meeting(s))

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE: Work 4

10th June – Main Meeting:

- † discussion with Appointments Secretaries
- † substantial draft of Statement from drafting group
- † agree final draft of Statement (or process for it)
- † election of 6 members for CNC (3 must be lay, only 1 can be a member of Bishop's senior staff)

(?possible further meeting to sign off Statement)

CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

- † June/July: Appointments Secretaries consultations
- † September: agree Job Description for Bishop of London
- † early November: shortlist and agree interview process
- † late November: interviews and appointment
- † health & safeguarding checks
- † announcement: ?January 2018