

**GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES**  
**FOR VACANCY IN SEE CONSULTATIONS**  
**IN THE DIOCESE OF LONDON**  
**JANUARY 2017**

Following the retirement of The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres, the Diocese of London Vacancy in See Committee has the responsibility of turning a large number of diocesan documents and consultation responses into 'a brief description of the diocese and a statement setting out the desired profile of the new Bishop'.

As part of fulfilling this responsibility with prayerful discernment, the Committee is glad to consult with deaneries, parishes, area councils, and other interested parties as well as individuals, and in its own consultation has identified questions to guide that consultation.

The three documents included in this paper are essential resources to inform your discussion: the Capital Vision 2020 for the Diocese, the Diocesan Values adopted at Bishop's Council in September 2016, and an abridged and adapted extract on the role of a bishop from the Briefing Document for Vacancy in See Committee members at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/aaad/senappt/dbnom.aspx>

To help us take account of your views effectively, please send us your feedback making your important points simply and clearly: a few bullet points will communicate better than a long paragraph. If you can use the format over the page, that will also help us pull the many responses together into a coherent whole.

The names of members of the Committee with their archdeaconry location can be downloaded from the diocesan website at: [www.london.anglican.org/directory/vacancy-in-see-committee/](http://www.london.anglican.org/directory/vacancy-in-see-committee/)

Do invite one or more local members of the Committee to your consultation meeting; contact details can be given on request by the synodical secretary, email: [Monica.Bolley@london.anglican.org](mailto:Monica.Bolley@london.anglican.org)

Please give your feedback to a member of the Vacancy in See Committee, or email to: [deanspa@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:deanspa@stpaulscathedral.org.uk) using on the Subject line the word: ViSC

As far as possible, we would appreciate responses in time for our first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March, but will need them to be submitted by no later than 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you for taking the time to assist us in this process of prayer and discernment, and please do continue to pray for the appointment of the new bishop, a process which will not finish until the end of 2017.

*The Very Revd Dr David Ison*  
*Chair, London Diocese Vacancy in See Committee*

## Vacancy in See Consultation London 2017

Feedback from: name of person/body...

1. What are the challenges that you all face, which you need the new Bishop of London to help you with?

2. Which of these challenges aren't addressed sufficiently in the Diocese's Capital Vision priorities?

3. What leadership characteristics, qualities and skills in Bishop Richard's ministry have helped you all to grow in being Christ-centred and outward looking?

4. What in addition to those characteristics, qualities and skills will his successor require to help you all to grow?

5. What particular characteristics, qualities and skills will the new Bishop of London need to fulfil the regional, national and international responsibilities of the role?

Are there any other important points for the Vacancy in See Committee to know?

## The 2020 Capital Vision priorities for the Diocese of London:

**We share a vision of a Church for London that is Christ-centred and outward looking.**

**- We will be more confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ:**

- Communicate the Gospel more effectively, using the opportunities offered by new media
- Equip and commission 100,000 ambassadors representing Jesus Christ in daily life
- Invest in leadership and increase the number of ordinands by 50%

**- We will be more compassionate in serving communities with the love of God the Father:**

- Enable new initiatives to fight poverty, inequality and injustice in London and worldwide, including our joint venture with the Church Urban Fund
- Open up our church buildings to the wider community
- Strengthen links between schools and their local Christian community

**- We will be more creative in reaching new people and places with the Good News in the power of the Spirit:**

- Double the number of young people involved in local Christian community
- Create or renew 100 worshipping communities
- Engage more closely with sport and the creative arts
- Each pray for at least seven people that we may share with them the story of our faith

## The Diocese of London's Values:

### **Generous Orthodoxy**

*The way in which we inhabit and live the story of God in the scriptures, the creeds and the tradition will make room for the whole spectrum of the Christian Church who wholeheartedly affirm that story.*

### **Gospel Proclamation**

*Our conviction is that the Church is called upon to proclaim and live the historic and eternal gospel in a changing world and society.*

### **Christ Encounter**

*We are expressly about enabling people to come to Christ – by whatever means he may choose – to receive his grace, forgiveness and love.*

### **Deep Church**

*We affirm CS Lewis' phrase describing how the Church of Jesus Christ is embodied in and needs intentionally to embrace catholic, evangelical and orthodox insights in order truly to be the Church.*

### **Intentional Discipleship**

*Beyond encounter and conversion, there is a necessity for the Church to be a place of catechesis and discipleship, where the people of God are equipped through scripture and the sacraments, in the power of the Spirit, to be ambassadors for Christ in his world.*

### **Urban Spirituality**

*We aim to be learners in prayer as the foundation of all we are and do, knowing our dependence upon God, and to teach people to pray and to develop a pattern of life and spirituality that is real and nourishing in our world city.*

### **Kingdom Justice**

*To live and proclaim the Kingdom is to seek to see the Kingdom of God and its values established in our society, country and world. We gladly embrace the cultural, ethnic and national diversity that is the reality of London and we seek through hospitality, welcome, generosity and acts of mercy to show and live the love of God for all.*

### **Mission Focus**

*The missio Dei is not only our Great Commission and Great Commandment, but is also our challenge in all we undertake, and to the way in which we operate as churches and as a Diocese, and as we serve our communities, our neighbours and those in need.*

### **Global Partnership**

*We never forget our context as a World City – and our partnership with the worldwide Church. The context in which God has placed us calls us to be servants to all, always facing outwards towards the world for which Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again.*

## The Role of the Bishop of London

*Below are set out the major responsibilities for the Bishop of London. There are some other roles and many tasks which the Bishop has to fulfil; all involved in the process should bear in mind not just the role of the Bishop in the Diocese, but also the ministry which the Bishop will exercise nationally and internationally.*

The service of ordination for **every bishop** says they are:

- to be shepherds of Christ's flock and guardians of the faith of the apostles
- to proclaim the gospel of God's kingdom and lead his people in mission
- to gather God's people and celebrate with them the sacraments of the new covenant
- to serve and care for the flock of Christ, to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people and being known by them
- to preside at the Lord's table and to lead the offering of prayer and praise
- to feed God's pilgrim people, and so build up the Body of Christ
- to baptise and confirm, nurturing God's people in the life of the Spirit and leading them in the way of holiness

- to discern and foster the gifts of the Spirit in all who follow Christ, commissioning them to minister in his name
- to share with their fellow presbyters the oversight of the Church, speaking in the name of God and expounding the gospel of salvation
- with the Shepherd's love, to be merciful, but with firmness; to minister discipline, but with compassion
- to have a special care for the poor, the outcast and those who are in need
- to seek out those who are lost and lead them home with rejoicing, declaring the absolution and forgiveness of sins to those who turn to Christ
- following the example of the prophets and the teaching of the apostles, to proclaim the gospel boldly, confront injustice and work for righteousness and peace in all the world.

In the **Diocese** the Bishop of London is:

- the chief pastor of all that are within the diocese, as well laity as clergy, and their father in God, including leading a team of six other area and suffragan bishops, six archdeacons, dean and cathedral and diocesan staff, nearly 400 parishes and many other institutions
- to teach and to uphold sound and wholesome doctrine, and to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange opinions
- as an example of righteous and godly living, to set forward and maintain quietness, love, and peace among all people
- to celebrate at ordinations and confirmations, conduct, order, control and authorise all services
- to be president of the diocesan synod and chair Bishop's Council and many other meetings
- to make appointments and administer disciplinary processes when required
- to act as patron, president, trustee etc of many charities, trusts and institutions
- to engage with civic and civil institutions, business and commerce, law and state at the highest level in London

**Beyond the Diocese** the Bishop of London shares with fellow bishops the 'special responsibility to maintain and further the unity of the Church, to uphold its discipline, and to guard its faith', and is to promote the mission of the Church 'throughout the world', by:

- being a member of the College of Bishops at provincial and national levels
- attending the Lambeth Conference of all the bishops in the Anglican Communion
- being a member of the House of Bishops of the General Synod, sharing responsibility for the leadership of the Church of England nationally
- fostering relationships between the Church of England and the Church in other countries, in particular offering hospitality to visiting world church leaders and building relationships with their ecclesiastical and civil representatives in London
- being the public face of the Church in the eyes of the media with an important communications role
- carrying particular national responsibilities, chairing committees or boards within the National Church Institutions, ecumenically, or in connection with religious charities, being invited to contribute experience or expertise to the deliberations of national government or regional bodies on particular issues, and called upon to play a leading part in national life and to represent not just the diocese but also the region at the national level.

**Particular to the role** of Bishop of London is being:

- a Privy Counsellor (one of many formal advisors to the monarch/government)
- a member of the House of Lords
- Dean of the Chapels Royal, serving the Royal Household

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