

8-12 JULY 2022 YORK UNIVERSITY

Welcome to our newsletter for all members, old and new. We hope that you enjoy reading about the General Synod session which was very well attended although there were some members online as sessions are now hybrid.

Our fringe meeting, our Annual Quiz, raised funds for the DEC, totaling £548.

We introduce you to the new lay members of the Crown Nominations Committee first. These important people will help to decide the new bishops. The election results were announced at the end of the sessions after a hustings meeting. Pairs of people were standing in a new arrangement which will call one of each pair at a time for the committee. The hustings strongly resembled speed dating, as members moved round the room sitting with the pairs of candidates for the few minutes allowed. One person from each pair will represent national interests.

The actual election caused some consternation due to the inability of the electors to vote on their tablets and phones, many having to resort to paper! The results are below.

Clergy

The Revd Claire Lording (Worcester) and The Revd Joanna Stobart (Bath & Wells)

The Revd Esther Prior (Guildford) and The Revd Lis Goddard (London)

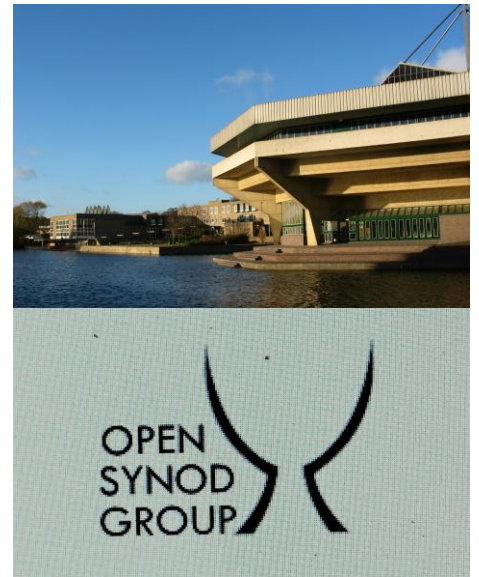
The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn) and The Revd Canon Andrew Cornes (Chichester)

Lait

Ms Christina Baron (Bath & Wells) and Miss Venessa Pinto (Leicester)

Miss Debbie Buggs (London) and Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford)

Mr Temitope Taiwo (London) and Mr Clive Scowen (London)



FUTURE DATES

November

2022 No meeting of GS

February

2023 6th-9th

July

2023 7th-11th

OPEN SYNOD GROUP QUIZ, Saturday 9th

Many thanks to the 105 people who came to compete in teams, usually hastily assembled. Our grateful thanks to Mae for composing the challenging Questions and to John Mason for asking them in a lively manner. Also to Nigel Bacon for scoring and Simon Talbott for assisting with the arrangements. Also the cooperation of the University staff.



ELECTED CANDIDATES' PAIRINGS

Christina Baron and Venessa [Vee] Pinto

Christina is a retired university lecturer. 'I used to teach British History and about modern Britain to overseas students at the University of Bath. I've represented Bath and Wells on General Synod since 2013; previously, I was diocesan lay chair for six years. I worship at my parish church, St.Thomas, Wells, which is a member of Inclusive Church, and used to teach the Sunday school. I was elected to the CNC in 2017 and am the only person elected then who is still on the CNC, having just been re-elected, with my pair, Vee Pinto. I bring relevant secular experience to the CNC, having chaired two NHS trusts and made board appointments and also having served for 17 years as a member of selection panels appointing judges. I'm married to the only tenor in our church choir, we have three children and six grandchildren'.

Venessa (Vee) Pinto was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and she moved to London in 2006. She was commissioned as a Church Army Officer in July 2020 and co-planted Roots, an intercultural Christian community and leads a well-being support group for global majority heritage colleagues in Leicester Diocese. Venessa is currently involved in intercultural and cross-cultural justice issues through her work with Roots and through supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Central Leicester. She is passionate about inspiring, equipping and connecting people to play their part in building a better society, and enabling communities to become more inclusive on all levels.



Prudence Dailey and Debbie Buggs

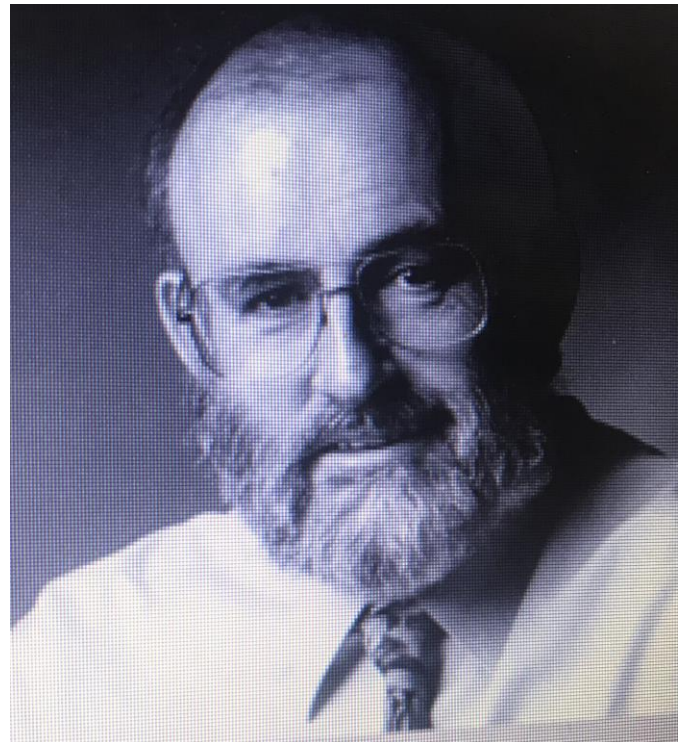
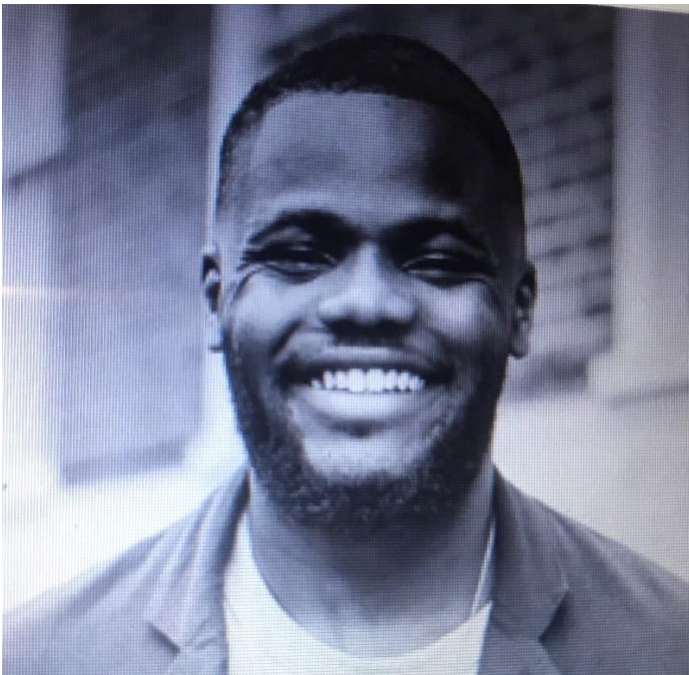
Debbie Buggs and Prudence Dailey will work towards:

- Diocesan Bishops who pastor their clergy well and cherish the work done in parishes
- A House of Bishops which reflects the people in our pews and which contains theologians, teachers and evangelists
- Representing the concerns of you, the members of General Synod, in the CNC
- Continued mutual flourishing of all traditions in the Church of England

Between them, they have 27 years of experience on General Synod. Debbie currently serves on the Panel of Chairs, and has served on the Archbishops Council's Audit Committee. Prudence is a director of Save the Parish, and was formerly Chairman of the Prayer Book Society. Both of them are independent thinkers who will contribute to robust challenge and consensus building on the Crown Nominations Commission.

They will contribute to the healthy operation of the Commission, and will seek to ensure that a range of voices, stories and perspectives are brought to bear on its workings – both through personal experience and by understanding the experience of others. They say, "We will take seriously the aspirations expressed by you the members of General Synod, in relation to the life of the Church and their practical outworkings.

Temitope Taiwo and Clive Scowen



Temitope is 27, of Nigerian heritage and was new to Synod in 2021. Born in London he has lived in - local estates and social housing and has been raised in a single parent by a wonderful faith-filled mother. Prior to serving in ministry for the C of E, he graduated with a first class degree in Business, worked in the fashion industry and lived in Bangladesh in mission to the Garc community. He now serves as the Discipleship Pastor of Saint, a young flourishing Anglican church in the heart of East London where he has the privilege of overseeing a small groups ministry to 295 predominantly young people.

Clive Scowen is 63 and has served on General Synod for 16 years. He is a licensed lay minister and former church warden and has now semi-retired as a barrister. He serves the Diocese of London on Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and the Finance committee and has served General Synod on the Business Committee, Elections Review Group, Legislative and Standing Orders Committees. He writes 'We can embrace much diversity of practice and emphasis within a framework of orthodox doctrine and a common focus on Jesus and Lord of His Church. In particular we must ensure that the promises made to those unable to accept the ordained ministry of women, of an honoured place to flourish in this church, are kept'.

More Important News

The November session of General Synod will not take place this year.

The next session will be in February 2023 in London and the dates reserved are Monday 6th to Thursday 9th.

The following 2023 session in York and dates reserved will be from Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th July.

Penny Allen's diary account of the July 2022 session of General Synod is available here:

<https://pennyatgeneralsynod.weebly.com> .

Committee News. We are grateful to Nigel Bacon and Julie Dziegiel for agreeing to join our committee and are still seeking another member of clergy to join us.

The Death of Her Majesty the Queen, Supreme Governor of the Church of England



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Since writing this newsletter we have all been deeply saddened to hear of the death of our Sovereign and Defender of the Faith. Some of our members will remember her attendance and speeches after the Inauguration of General Synods in Westminster Abbey and afterwards in Church House. We are grateful for her devout life of prayer and example of service. We offer our prayers for the Royal Family at this time, especially thinking of our new King, Charles III and his new responsibilities. Many of us will already have written our condolences and we add to those the sympathy of the Open Synod Group and all associated members.

Penny Allen. Acting Chair and Secretary

John Mason. Treasurer

Canon Simon Talbott, Member

Nigel Bacon, Member