



Diocese of Bristol

VACANCY IN SEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Each candidate wishing to stand for the Vacancy in See Committee has provided a statement explaining why they wish to stand and what they can bring to the role.

CLERGY	
ARCHDEACONARY OF BRISTOL	
Name	Statement
The Revd William James FAIRBAIRN	<p>My name is Will Fairbairn, I have been vicar of Redland Parish Church in Bristol since 2020. As a member of the VISC I hope that I would bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An inside perspective on those in the missing generations (I am 35) - any future Bishop has to grapple with this challenge• An understanding of the city of Bristol and its unique culture- I was born and raised in the city and have seen it change over the years of my life.• A heart for the Church of England to stay together amidst challenging disagreements.
The Revd Sonia Margaret HOME	<p>I am passionate about the role of spiritual and missional leadership in enabling the transformation of church and society.</p> <p>For 15 years before ordination, I worked alongside leaders and their teams from charities, churches and businesses helping them lead and instil healthy and effective cultures. This included a focus on recognising the diversity in leadership styles and emerged from my own leadership experience within mission organisations and charities. This was alongside 30 years active lay leadership.</p> <p>As a Mission Area curate, I minister amongst a breadth of parish contexts and continue to</p>

	serve as a local charity trustee and non-executive Director.
The Revd Philip MANNING	I am standing for the ViSC to advocate for a bishop who would lead us well as we continue to become a welcoming and safe church for all. Over the past 10 years I have worshiped and served in a wide range of churches across Bristol and now, as a young newly ordained priest, I feel able to offer a fresh and hopeful perspective to this committee. I am passionate about ecology, inclusion and our responses to social injustice. If elected, I would advocate for much needed provision for LGBTQIA+ people in the context of a broad and diverse church.
The Revd Dr Andrew James MURRAY	I'm Vicar of St Andrew's Church in Avonmouth and St Peter's Church in Lawrence Weston (Bristol West), alongside my role as Diocesan Dean of Priority Communities. I've served on Diocesan Synod since 2012. One of my great joys is seeing churches deepening in their relationship with Jesus and stepping out in ministry & mission to bring transformation within their congregations and the wider community. I've served in estates communities for much of the past 25 years of ministry so am passionate for the voices of the churches and people from these to be heard in the selection of a new Diocesan Bishop.
The Revd Matthew Leonard SOUTHCOMBE	As a clergy member of a church made up predominately of under 30s, I wish to stand for this committee in order to represent their voice in the selection of a new Bishop and to find someone who recognises the urgent need to prioritise ministry and mission to the de-churched younger generation in our Diocese.
The Revd David John STEPHENSON	In 30+ years of ministry in three dioceses I've known various expressions of the ministry that is 'both yours and mine', and value being led in mission, called into unity and held in prayer, trust and support by my Bishop. I've worked with Bishops as Area Dean in Southwark and Bristol and have a well formed instinct about episcopal priorities and gifts valued by a broad range of parishes and clergy. I'm supportive of generous provision for LGBTQI+ clergy and laity through the LLF process, and hope our next Bishop will offer courageous leadership in all aspects of faithful transformation.
The Revd Sally Lorna	I have been serving as the Vicar of St Edyth's Church, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle, for

THOMAS	almost a year, which has been an exciting and encouraging experience, after being an Associate Vicar in a larger church in a south-west London suburb. I have greatly appreciated the lengths that the Diocese of Bristol have gone to help me, both as clergy in my first post of responsibility and also new to the diocese. I hope that serving on a Diocesan Synod committee will be a way of reciprocating that support.
The Revd Canon Daniel Frank TYNDALL	I am an 'inclusive' Anglican and am pleased to serve a church which welcomes those who have previously felt excluded or fearful. However, labels also define their opposite – and that saddens me. The Vacancy in See committee, facing that pressure, needs members with experience and insight to help navigate that path. For over two decades, in Bristol, in Oxford and nationally, I have helped discern vocations and developed curates across the spectrum of CE. I commit to listening and collaborating fully to help secure a bishop who can hold those tensions and celebrate our shared life in Christ.
ARCHDEACONARY OF MALMESBURY	
The Revd Richard James CRESSWELL	I have served for two years as Vicar of Bradley Stoke, covering a population of approximately 28,000. I look after two churches, one of which is in a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist Church. Prior to that, I was Rector of a rural benefice outside Shrewsbury (Diocese of Lichfield), caring for three village communities, whilst also serving as an Assistant Rural Dean. Therefore, although I am newer to the Diocese of Bristol than some, I have good experience of a range of churches, traditions and diocesan structures.
The Revd Nicholas David John LINES	Following five years as a lay youth worker I have been in ordained urban priority parish ministry for twenty-eight years and an incumbent for twenty-three in Bristol Diocese. I have mentored clergy and lay people for over ten years and have facilitated MDR in the Diocese since its inception. Giving confidence to clergy and lay leaders to reach their full potential in mission and ministry is vital. I support the Uganda link, belong to the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. I pray for the continuing growth of God's Kingdom through the unity, orthodox Biblical faith and mission of the global Anglican Communion.

<p>The Revd Elveen MEAD</p>	<p>I'm Rector of 4 churches where I'm passionate in making all members of our community feel welcome and safe. As associate Area Dean for Swindon, I feel that I would be able to represent the interests of a diverse Deanery without solely relying on my own personal views to make an appointment. I have chaired a secondary school governor board during which time teachers were appointed.</p> <p>I believe our next Bishop should continue the progress made in Transforming Church and be supportive of working towards further inclusivity which is sensitive to the safety and flourishing of all, despite our differences.</p>
<p>The Revd Marc David TERRY</p>	<p>I am committed to unity in diversity and am a signatory to the Inclusive Evangelical open letter and part of Together Bristol. Bybrook Benefice shares the vision and supports PLF and my previous benefices have worked towards Inclusive Church. I serve as a Wayfinder for Bristol Diocese, fostering open dialogue.</p> <p>I have a heart for reconciliation and as a member of deanery leadership team am committed to mission through churches, people, and strategies working together.</p> <p>Bristol Diocese possesses the potential to be a leading example of inclusivity while preserving its diverse character as a safe space, together, for all.</p>

<p>LAITY</p>	
<p>ARCHDEACONARY OF BRISTOL</p>	
<p>Canon Richard Francis BACON</p>	<p>As Chair of the DBF, I am involved continuously in the oversight of the Diocese's finance and governance, working closely with the Bishop.</p> <p>I chaired the appointment panel for the Dean of Bristol. I thoroughly understand senior appointment processes, including those involving the team in Church House and the</p>

	<p>Crown.</p> <p>I have a broad understanding of churchmanship as a worshipper at the Cathedral, and also for a time at the Catholic Cathedral, at Christ Church Clifton, Redland Church and most recently at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church.</p>
Ms Sally CORDWELL	<p>I am a museum and charity CEO and have significant experience recruiting teams and senior roles. I believe I can bring a different perspective, as a single parent of three children of Caribbean heritage, and an atheist until finding faith eight years ago. I am committed to fairness, inclusivity and equity, and making the Church of England accessible and welcoming to everyone. I was the Diocese Director of Communications for two years, through Covid 19 and the development of Transforming Church Together, so I also have a good understanding of the internal culture and processes.</p>
Dr Clare Lorna JEFFERIS	<p>I am a young Christian, having been baptised as an adult.</p> <p>I will represent the parishes and their communities – as I have done for 3 years already on Bishop’s Council. I’m excited that TC.T is progressing.</p> <p>I am a fundraiser for Christian charities and churches, giving me an insight into the work of churches throughout the UK. I’m also a trustee for a national environmental charity.</p> <p>Finally, I am not afraid to discuss difficult issues; and I try to disagree well. In the words of Bill and Ted: be excellent to each other; or as Jesus says: love your neighbour.</p>
Mrs Caroline JOWETT-IVE	<p>Having recently retired from my position as the Diocesan Director of People and Safeguarding, ED&I and Deputy Diocesan Secretary, I had the privilege of working closely with the current Bishop as a member of the Bishop’s staff team. This has given me a deep insight into the role of a Diocesan Bishop, including from a strategic, operational, governance, and pastoral perspective.</p> <p>Prior to this role I held senior HR leadership roles in global organisations. I have a master's degree in human resource management and qualified as a member of the CIPD. I have extensive experience of recruitment and selection into senior positions.</p>

	I have been a Church Warden since 2020 and am a lay member of Diocesan Synod.
Mr Llewelyn Harry Christopher LAWTON	I'm standing as I believe I can bring a unique perspective to this committee. As a, relatively, young person (25) I would be able to bring a voice that is not always present in our governance and decision-making structures. I studied theology as an independent student at Trinity College, and I am Church Warden at Lawrence Weston (recently involved in appointing an associate vicar). I am a member of the DEF and Prayerbook Society, while I represent a more traditional-minded perspective I have had experience in a wide range of churchmanships and love the strengths and diversity these traditions bring.
Ms Jennifer LEGGAT- GREEN	I would be honoured to serve on this committee from January 2025. I retired three years ago after 27 years as a GP practice manager and am an active member of Cotham Parish Church. I am the secretary of the PCC and a member of the Ministry Team at Cotham. In my working life, I have dealt with GPs, staff and the public from all walks of life and backgrounds. I was involved in interviewing and appointing many people and believe myself to be a good communicator.
Ms Caroline Jane PLAICE	I am an Anglican in the inclusive Catholic tradition, committed to work for inclusion in all areas of the Diocese, and to offer an unconditional welcome to the LGBTi community, both priest and laity, through a generous LLF provision. As an active member of a gathered community, I strive to live those Kingdom values by authentic membership of Inclusive Church. In a leadership role at the University of the West of England, I innovate and deliver. I feel passionately that we are called to be bold, and I welcome the opportunity to bring my skills to the forthcoming appointment process.
Canon Peter Gordon ROBOTTOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed Lay Minister, St Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol since 2011 • Lay Canon Emeritus of Bristol Cathedral and past member of Bishop's Council. • I have served on Vacancy-in See Committees in the past and, in my previous Diocese of Chichester, been a Diocesan representative. I am therefore familiar with the issues that will need to be addressed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would seek to ensure that the candidate sought would have an orthodox understanding of the authority of the Bible (Article VI) while being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
ARCHDEACONARY OF MALMESBURY	
Mr Samuel CLARKE	I am 29 years old and have been a Christian for 24 years. I have a passion for young people and work for The George Müllers Trust as their Y&C Development Lead and would like to contribute my skills and experience in this area to The Vacancy In See Committee.
Ms Nathalie MARSHALL	I wish to serve the entirety of the Bristol Diocese through the ViSC. As chair of PCC of a church going through huge structural changes, and with professional experiences in outsourced and shared services provision, I have experience working between conflicting cultures and across divisions of understanding. As a member of a church that serves a mixed urban area in Swindon with few resources I wish to encourage a future Bishop who will value and support all our parishes in telling the stories of Jesus to all people, and to move forward from current divisions
Canon Nicholas Richard ORMAN	<p>I first joined Diocesan Synod in 1988 and have served on finance committee, bishop's council and, for the last two vacancies, the vacancy in see committee engaging with a wide variety of people both lay and ordained across the diocese.</p> <p>I strongly believe that a function of the bishop is to bring together all Christians in our churches regardless of tradition, class, race etc allowing us to flourish together in unity (though not uniformity). This is key to mission as it is through our love for one another that attracts the world to Christ (John 13:35).</p>
Mrs Alison ROWE	<p>Having had the privilege to be a LLM on Bishops council and Vacancy in see for the last triennium, I aim to bring the voice of laity to this platform</p> <p>It's been good to witness the implementation of TCT and have seen first hand the work of one of the first faith chaplains in my local church</p> <p>In living and ministering in this diocese for over 40 years as a vicars wife, I have a good knowledge of the Diocese and its churches and people.</p>

Miss Laura Jane
THOMAS

I would love to serve on the Vacancy-in-See Committee. Finding my faith in 2010 was the single most important thing to have happened in my life. I've been worshipping at St Michael's Stoke Gifford since then and was confirmed in 2011. In 2014 I began working there, and I'm now Church Administration and Communications Manager. Previously, I worked for 17 years for Post Office Ltd. I have a BSc (Hons) in Business & Legal Studies. Being single myself, I have a passion for advocating for single people in the church. I also visited Uganda with the Bristol Uganda Link in 2023.