

## **Process of appointing a new Bishop**

1. Each Diocese has a Vacancy in See Committee. Ours has 16 members: part elected by Diocesan Synod, and part ex officio; the Ven George Howe, Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness, has been elected Chairman of the Committee.
2. There is a briefing for Members of Vacancy in See Committees published by the Crown Nominations Commission and available on line:  
<http://cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/vsc.rtf>
3. The Carlisle Diocesan Vacancy in See Committee has a preliminary meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. The purpose of this meeting is for the Committee to sort out their programme of work.
4. The Committee will put a notice in the media inviting members of the church and wider public, asking for their thoughts and suggestions.
5. The Vacancy in See Committee's main meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. Also in attendance will be the Archbishops' Appointments' Secretary and the Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretary. This meeting will elect 6 members of the Vacancy in See Committee to serve on the Crown Nominations Commission.
6. The Vacancy in See Committee draws up a Diocesan Statement of Needs.
7. The two Appointments Secretaries do their own consultation, including a public meeting, and draw up a Memorandum.
8. The point of these two consultations is that Bishops have both a local and a national role.
9. The Crown Nominations Commission (6 elected from the Vacancy in See Committee, plus two Archbishops, plus 6 (3 clergy 3 laity) elected by General Synod) will have two meetings early in 2009 at which they look at the Diocesan Statement of Needs and the Appointments Secretaries' Memorandum and at specific names of potential candidates.
10. The outcome is that they produce two names, which go to the Prime Minister, who commends one of them to the Queen, for nomination as Bishop.
11. The process typically takes around nine months to a year from the announcement of the resignation of the outgoing Bishop to the announcement of the new Bishop.
12. The dates provided here are by way of a request for prayer
13. There will be public notices about the invitation to contribute thoughts and suggestions, and about the public meeting

## **Summary**

- Vacancy in See Committee: specific to each Diocese - does its own consultation locally
  - 6 people elected from this elected Committee join national Committee (Crown Nominations Commission)
  - ours chaired by the Ven George Howe
- Further consultation done by Archbishops' Appointments' Secretary and Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretary
- Crown Nominations Commission
  - Chaired by Archbishop
  - Local input from 6 members elected from Vacancy in See Committee
  - National input provided by two Archbishops, 6 members elected from General Synod; two Appointments Secretaries attend but do not vote
  - Crown Nominations Commission produces two names which go the Prime Minister who sends one name to the Queen
- The process is designed to be consultative, careful and confidential