

## BISHOP'S COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS

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### Membership for the Triennium 2015 – 2018

The full membership of the Bishop's Council is as follows:

President:	The Bishop
Vice-Presidents:	Vacancy, Chairman, House of Clergy. Mrs Gillian Clarke, Chairman, House of Laity.
Ex-Officio:	The Bishop of Ramsbury The Bishop of Sherborne The Archdeacons of Dorset, Sarum, Sherborne and Wilts The Dean
Chairmen of Boards:	Finance - Mr Nigel Salisbury Education - The Archdeacon of Dorset
Elected Clergy:	Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries – Canon Paul Richardson Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - Canon Andrew Perry Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - The Revd David Baldwin
Elected Laity:	Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries - Mrs Rosemary Cook Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries - Mrs Debbie McIsaac Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries - Mr Richard Chitty Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries - Mrs Elena Oderstone Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - Mrs Gillian Clarke Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - Mrs Margaret Morrissey Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - Mr Derek Howshall Dorset/Sherborne Archdeaconries - Mrs Janet Jackson

There is 1 lay vacancy from Wilts/Sarum Archdeaconries.

### Functions of Bishop's Council

1. The corporate leadership of the Bishop's Council is integral to the vision of a diocese which is episcopally led and synodically governed. The members of Bishop's Council also form the DBF Executive and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee thus bringing together leadership in policy, finance and mission into one group and ensuring that decisions are made in a timely way.
2. The responsibilities are explained as follows:
  - a) The **Bishop's Council** is a statutory body and is the standing committee of the Diocesan Synod whose purpose is to gather views from, and consult with, the deaneries and parishes on concerns of the people of the diocese, make recommendations on policy to the Diocesan Synod and to scrutinise and review the action plans that are put in place to implement the policy decisions made by the Diocesan Synod.
  - b) The **Executive committee of the DBF** consists of the directors and trustees of the DBF. The DBF is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. The responsibilities of the Executive are to promote and assist the work, objects and purposes of the Church of England for the advancement of the Christian religion in the Diocese of Salisbury, and in particular to organise and provide funds for the Church's work. It is

therefore a requirement that candidates are not barred from being a director of a company or a charity trustee

- c) The purpose of the **Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee** is to review arrangements for pastoral supervision and to have particular regard to the making of provisions for the cure of souls in the Diocese as a whole and to the traditions, needs and characteristics of individual parishes.
3. The Bishop's Council meets six to eight times a year (Jan, April, May, July, September and November). These include a 24 hour residential in January and an afternoon meeting that is a joint meeting with the Board of Education. Other meetings of council are usually held in the evening.
4. Bishop's Council is responsible for directing and overseeing the work of the Board of Finance (constituted as the Diocesan Synod), the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Council, the Board of Education and the Mission Council. The Board of Education, though a separate legal entity is accountable to the Diocesan Synod through the Bishop's Council and it is helpful to have some members of Bishop's Council who are also on the DBE.
5. Bishop's Council may from time to time establish or stop other groups, teams and committees for which it will be responsible. These may be the committees related to the main Boards and Councils or to work related to a specific constituent body (for example, the Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committees or the Finance Committee). Some of these are time-limited task groups (for example organising the Clergy Conference or a review of the clergy pension scheme) and some are standing bodies (for example the Sudan Link). There are also a number of sub-committees of the Board of Education: School Leadership, Church and Youth Educational Ministry (CAYEM), the Buildings Services Committee, the DBE trading company directors (SALED) and the Joint Trustees and Executive of the Board itself.
6. Members should be able to commit the requisite time to the work of the Council plus additional membership of at least one sub-committee that interests them according to the nature of their skills and experience as it is in those sub-committees and working groups that the detailed thinking, developing and review are done.
7. These portfolio holders will act as 'critical friends' to the team carrying out the work through effective analysis of the work, support in its implementation and constructive feedback and will be able to speak with experience of the practical issues related to particular areas of work.
8. **Skills and Competencies** The Bishop's Council actively seeks to enhance the scope of highly skilled lay and ordained leaders who bring experience from a wide range of professions and callings. Some of the desirable skills include:
  - Demonstrable acumen in at least one of the following areas: Mission and Growth; Education both teaching and governance in primary, secondary and further; Ministry and training or learning for all ages; Finance; Human Resources; Risk Management; Communications; parish resourcing; property management; pastoral experience.
  - Experience of managing or being a key party to strategic or complex organisational change.
9. **Qualities** It is important to hear the voices from parish/deaneries as well as bringing skills from other walks of life. The work we do needs to be creative and positive, therefore members need a 'can do' attitude about the strategic challenges the work presents and to be able to provide constructive contributions to the monitoring and evaluation of work undertaken and the planning. Other qualities we seek are assertiveness, professionalism and a responsible approach to the work in hand.