

# Choosing our new Bishop

## ...and how you can be part of the process



**THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER** Diocese of Rochester

### Vacancy in the See of Rochester

Following the announcement of the resignation of the Right Reverend Dr Michael Nazir-Ali the See of Rochester will fall vacant on **1 September 2009**

Any person who wishes to comment to the Vacancy in See Committee on the needs of the role is invited to contact:

The Secretary to the Vacancy in See Committee, Canon Louise Gilbert, Diocesan Office, St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL or email: [vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org)



As Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee I wanted to share with you details of the work that is going on and the process for discerning who might be the next Bishop of Rochester.

#### Angela Scott

One of the most important parts of this process is enabling and encouraging people in our churches and the wider community across the Diocese of Rochester to give their views on what qualities we would be looking for in our new bishop.

We hope that the views will take into account the current work being undertaken and the future challenges for the Church of England as well as the Diocese. This will assist the members of the Vacancy in See Committee as they bring together a profile and person specification to aid the process.

Formal consultations will take place in November 2009 with clergy, church members, and representatives from the wider community. Two executives from the Crown Nominations Commission,

representing the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Prime Minister, will visit the diocese to interview a number of key people and to take part in a public meeting on the appointment.

□ **The Public Meeting will be held at St Justus Church, The Fairway, Rochester ME1 2LT, on Thursday 12 November at 7.30 for 8.00pm.**

The aim of the meeting is to begin to understand what kind of person would be best for the role and the specific needs of the Diocese. It is open to whoever wishes to come along. We do hope you will feel able to attend.

Views can also be sent in writing to: Secretary to the Vacancy in See Committee Louise Gilbert, Diocesan Office, St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL or email: [vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org)

### Members of the Vacancy in See Committee

Full contact details can be found on the website [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

#### CHAIRMAN:

Mrs Angela Scott

#### SECRETARY:

Canon Louise Gilbert

#### EX OFFICIO:

The Bishop of Tonbridge  
The Dean of Rochester  
The Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley  
The Archdeacon of Rochester

#### GENERAL SYNOD MEMBERS:

##### The Proctors:

The Rev Canon N I Kerr  
The Rev A M MacLeay  
The Ven C J N Mansell  
The Rev Canon T G Oliver

##### House of Laity:

Mr J R Cheeseman  
Brig W I C Dobbie  
Mr P C French  
Mr G M O'Brien

#### DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS:

##### Chair, House of Clergy:

The Rev R Oates

##### Chair, House of Laity:

Mrs A Scott

##### Elected:

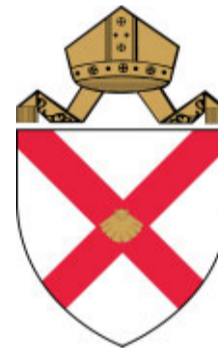
##### Clergy:

The Rev Canon K C Barnes  
The Rev Dr J G A Ive  
The Rev Canon A Vousden

##### Laity:

Mr D J Gater  
Canon E G Mann  
Mr D E S Webster OBE

# The process of choosing a new Bishop



## Vacancy In See Committee

The Vacancy in See Committee which is elected in readiness for a vacancy, prepares a brief description of the diocese and a statement of needs setting out the desired profile of the new Bishop.

The Committee would be glad to receive suggestions from you regarding the type of Bishop we need to build on the current work of the Diocese and take it forward for the future.

These suggestions can be sent to Secretary to the Vacancy in See Committee Louise Gilbert, Diocesan Office, St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL or email: [vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:vacancyinsee@rochester.anglican.org)

The Vacancy in See Committee will also elect those diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission.

The Committee has had an initial meeting to consider the way forward and is currently planning to meet again on

two further occasions:

- **Tuesday 22 September 2009 at 7.30pm at Christ Church, Chislehurst**
- **Wednesday 11 November 2009 at 7.30pm at The Diocesan Office, Rochester**

## Consultations

The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments and the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments will jointly undertake a series of consultation interviews within the diocese. They will meet with representatives from the diocese as well as individuals from the local civic, social and religious life. These consultations will take place on 12 and 13 November 2009.

In addition there is an open hearing which anyone may express views about the needs of the diocese. This will take place on the evening of

- **12 November 2009 at St Justus Church, The Fairway, Rochester ME1 2LT at 7.30 for 8.00pm.**

The Appointments Secretaries also welcome the submission of names of people you feel might be appropriate for the post.

## Crown Nominations Commission

The Crown Nominations Commission will consider the person most appropriate to be appointed as the next Bishop of Rochester, in light of the Diocesan Statement, the Secretaries' Memorandum and the Archbishops' Statement of National Needs.

Six members of the Vacancy in See Committee will sit on the Commission. They will be elected by the Committee at its 11 November meeting.

## What will you see next?

In the early autumn you will see the formal announcement and request for potential names. This will be published in Link and in other national and local newspapers.

Following the meetings in November you will see a list of those people who have been elected to serve on the Crown Nominations Commission together with details of the meeting dates.

## Your prayers are asked...



### ...for the Vacancy in See Committee

Lord God, Almighty Sovereign, source of all wisdom and light, we pray for those who are to make

decisions regarding the appointment of our next Bishop.

Grant them an abundance of your wisdom in their deliberations, and your illumination in their discussions, that the person of your choice might be called to this place, for the glory of your holy name.



### ...for the Diocese in a time of change

Our gracious and heavenly Father, we don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds us as we take a step forward.

Our journey goes on, but our travelling companions change places; increase our confidence in you.

Help us see that our lives and the life of our Diocese can be safely built upon the rock, which is Christ Jesus, which will withstand all challenges, for it is in his precious name that we pray.



### ...for Bishop Michael & Valerie Nazir-Ali

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all life, we pray for our brother and sister, Michael

& Valerie, and their family, as they respond to your leading into a new sphere of ministry. Go before them, walk beside them, watch behind them.

May they be filled with your Spirit, overflow with your joy, and leave your grace wherever they tread, that your Kingdom might be built and your love made known, through Jesus Christ their Lord and ours.