

# OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

14 November 2015

## FIRST NOTICE PAPER

### QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 70

1. **Penny Keens (162 )** to ask –

The next Bishop of Oxford will be chosen by the Crown Nominations Commission elected from the last Oxford Diocese Vacancy in See Committee, and the last General Synod. Following recent elections two people from Oxford – and possibly others from General Synod – are no longer Synod members. Is it right that they should be representing us in this important work?

The **Bishop of Dorchester** to reply-

At the time a see becomes vacant, the Vacancy in See Committee is crystalised in office and it remains so until the new bishop is in post. Elected vacancies cannot be filled and the membership cannot be changed. A Vacancy in See committee can only be disbanded and a new one established after the bishop is in post.

It is unusual for a complete renewal of both Diocesan Synod and General Synod to occur while a see remains vacant, as has been the case this time. It means that several members of the Vacancy in See committee who are no longer serving in the capacity in which they became a member of the Vacancy in See Committee, such as General Synod members, will continue to serve on the committee until it is disbanded.

The diocesan representatives on the CNC responsible for selecting a new bishop, are elected from the membership of the Vacancy in See Committee. In the same way, they continue in office until the post has been filled. There is no provision for the diocesan CNC members to be replaced except where they are not competent to serve, such as in the case of serious illness.

Once our new bishop is in office, a new Vacancy in See Committee for the current triennium will be constituted.