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1 March 2019

Dear lay member of the Diocesan Synod

Vacancy in See Committee 2019-2021

I am inviting nominations for elected lay members of the Vacancy in See Committee.

The Rules require that there should at all times be a Vacancy in See Committee, in case of accident, illness, emergency, resignation, or retirement of the diocesan bishop. The work of the Vacancy in See Committee is to prepare for the appointment of a new diocesan bishop, in the event that a vacancy should arise.

Its function in that event would be like the role of a PCC preparing a parish profile, but on a diocese-wide scale. Its work (if it is needed) would require several meetings over a period of six months or so.

Its composition is largely *ex officio*, and many of the clergy and lay members are those who were elected to serve on the present General Synod. However, there is a requirement that each archdeaconry be more or less equally represented, and that there should be not less than two directly elected lay members.

There is sufficient representation from the Berkshire archdeaconry so, to secure appropriate representation, we need to elect **6 additional lay members** as follows:

- **1 from the Oxford archdeaconry**
- **1 from the Buckingham archdeaconry**
- **4 from the Dorchester archdeaconry**

If you would like to nominate someone you consider would be suitable in this role, please read the enclosed guidance notes carefully, approach the individual to ensure they would be willing to serve, then complete and return the enclosed nomination form to me by **12 noon on Friday 15 March 2019**. If an election needs to be run, I shall circulate voting forms.

With all good wishes.

Revd Canon John Rees