



**The Very Reverend Simon Robinson  
Dean-designate of Truro Cathedral  
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### **THE VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE**

It is important for us to remember that we are seeking to discern a Bishop for the Diocese of Truro, for the whole of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, for people of faith, of different faiths and for people of no faith. We are also seeking to discern, with the national church a Bishop for the Church of England and indeed for the Anglican Communion.

The VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE of the Diocese of Truro operates under the VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE Regulations 1993 with various amendments having been made over the past 20 years. A briefing paper including the Amended Regulations can be found at this link [BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF](https://www.churchofengland.org) ([churchofengland.org](https://www.churchofengland.org)).

The Diocese is duty bound to have the ViSC established and ready to operate at the point of the departure of the Diocesan Bishop.

The role of the Vacancy in See Committee is as follows:

- to prepare a brief description of the diocese and a statement setting out the desired profile of the new Bishop;
- to elect the diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission.

The Committee will meet at least twice. Its discussions (but not the date, time and place of its meetings) should be kept confidential. Confidentiality is of the highest importance in this process of discernment.

The Vacancy in See Committee comprises ex-officio members, elected members and nominated members, nominated by the BDC.

The Very Reverend Simon Robinson was nominated and elected by the BDC as Chair of the ViSC. The Reverend Simon Cade was nominated and elected by the BDC as Secretary to the Committee. Anna Corbett was nominated and elected by the ViSC as Deputy Chair to the ViSC. Kate Cortez will provide clerical support to the Chair and the Secretary of the ViSC.



The first meeting took place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. This was a Zoom meeting. Stephen Knott, Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments and Helen Dimmock, Crown Ecclesiastical Secretary were both present. Stephen Knott briefed the ViSC on their duties and tasks.

The second meeting of the ViSC will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. This will be an in-person meeting taking place at the Old Cathedral School.

Further meetings are to take place of the whole ViSC and of a subgroup who will draft the Statement of Needs. The subgroup will be convened and led by the Deputy Chair of the ViSC. This group is not yet established, although expressions of interest for membership of this group have been received. It is important that this group is representative of the Diocese.

Various pieces of work will be undertaken and presented to the ViSC for consideration before the second meeting including a schedule of meetings. At this stage these will be undertaken by the Chair, Deputy-Chair, Secretary and clerical support.

#### Key dates for the ViSC

31 January 2023	Deadline for content of the Statement of Need
5 and 6 February 2024	Online individual, group and public consultations
17 February 2024	Deadline for finalised Statement of Need and final ViSC
19 February 2024	Group and individual consultations
22 February 2024	'In diocese' day with Archbishops' Appointments Secretary and Crown Ecclesiastical Secretary

There are several key themes to be aware of

1. The importance of prayer.
2. This is a process of discernment. It is not a secular appointments process.. For further information read [Discerning in Obedience](#).
3. Representation is important and clarity on what good representation in this diocese looks like. For further information read [Responsible Representation](#). A variety of voices must be heard and the CNC members should be as representative as possible of the diocese. When voting for them, consideration should be make of this.



We have three opportunities:

To prayerfully and practically contribute to the discernment of Gods' will and hopes for the Kingdom here, now and in the future.

To be curious about each others' hopes and fears.

Join in with what God is already up to here in the Diocese of Truro.

*Simon Robinson*

**The Very Reverend Simon Robinson**  
**Chair of ViSC**

**16/11/23**