

Mr Philip Baldwin (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q89 Is the House of Bishops aware of the reason why the Archbishop of Canterbury's annual World AIDS Day message was discontinued after 2011?

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply as Chair of the House of Bishops:

A My predecessor posted a World AIDS Day video message in 2012 and I do not recall being made aware of the practice as a regular commitment from my office. However, I did so in 2016, and also posted a World AIDS Day reflection that year.

Sadly, I have not always been able to address every concerning issue on every day when they are marked.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q90 Were there any substantive differences in the process for recruiting and selecting the new Third Church Estates Commissioner as compared with the process for recruiting and selecting her predecessor, and if so, what were those differences, and what were the reasons for them?

The Bishop of Manchester to reply as Deputy Chair of the Church Commissioners:

A No, there was no substantive difference in the process. As before, the panel tasked with making a recommendation to the Archbishop of Canterbury engaged high calibre search consultants and instructed them to identify a longlist of exceptional and diverse candidates. They advertised the role widely and the panel agreed that the field was indeed exceptional.

I am very pleased indeed that the Revd Canon Flora Winfield came through this thorough process. She brings outstanding skills and huge experience, and we are very much looking forward to working with her.

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q91 Why was an interest in heritage—which appeared as a requirement in the job description for the previous Third Church Estates Commissioner—omitted from the current job description for the role?

The Bishop of Manchester to reply as Deputy Chair of the Church Commissioners:

A It wasn't. The role description made clear that the successful candidate would need a particular concern for church buildings, an appreciation of the unique role of cathedrals and church buildings,

understanding of issues relating to their resourcing and the ability to influence government and other agencies in respect of their funding and maintenance.

The role description also rightly made clear that other criteria, such as leading transformation and change, championing diversity and supporting the Church's efforts to meet net zero targets, would also be important elements of the role in this season.

The Revd Dr Chris Moore (Hereford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q92 GS Misc 1312 has noted that respondents to the Mission in Revision were "anxious and in many cases angry" and "felt frustrated by the consolidation of parishes and benefices, particularly in rural areas, with some fearing that future decision making will solely be driven by financial concerns." What reassurances might be given to rural parishes that their voice is still heard in the national structures, particularly now that the Rural Affairs Group has been disbanded.

The Bishop of Manchester to reply as Deputy Chair of the Church Commissioners:

A There are two aspects to consider: policy and process. On policy, the Archbishops' Council continues to cover rural policy through the new Faith and Public Life team, and the Vision and Strategy team will seek to ensure that voices from all parts of the church, including rural parishes, are taken into account. The introduction of a new Synod members' rural group will enable new policies and proposals to be scrutinised from a rural perspective.

On process, under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Church Commissioners must take account of the needs, traditions, and characteristics of a parish when re-organisation is considered, so the local context – including whether it is in a rural setting – is always one of the factors considered, alongside finance and other issues. The Bishops of Bristol and Ramsbury, our Lead Bishops for Buildings, will also consider the particular issues around rural churches as part of their work on church buildings within the College and House of Bishops.

Mr Richard Denno (Liverpool) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q93 The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Code of Recommended Practice for pastoral reorganisation sets out key principles for consultations to be fair. What plans do the Church Commissioners have to ensure that before a diocese brings a proposal for a deanery to become a large single parish, a fair consultation must provide a clear statement of loss of legal rights and representation under the proposal?