

## Agenda item 9

# Vacancies on the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

## Background

Mrs Carol Jones will be retiring from the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in July 2021 and we thank her for her service. As a result, the diocese has a casual vacancy on the Governing Body for an elected lay representative to serve until 31 December 2021.

## Candidate

**Ms Melody Lewis** has been nominated for election by Estuary and Mountain Mission Area and has provided the following summary of her experience and skills:

Relevant experience in Mission Area and/or diocese
I have been an active member of my church community at St Peter's in Holywell since childhood, attending the Sunday school and assisting with services, whether that be with logistics and planning, or singing and playing in the worship band. As a young person with a keen interest in social justice and true equality for all in the Church, I found being a member of the St Asaph Youth Forum an invaluable experience. I sat on the Youth Forum since from the ages of 14 to 18 when I left for university, and during that time I was involved in many key projects, including the Dementia Friends scheme, and work raising awareness around how we use language surrounding disability in the Church and within the community. As a part of my role on the Youth Forum, I also volunteered at the yearly Diocesan Conference, and in 2019 wrote and delivered a reflection on the theme of hope in the Church today, looking at figures from biblical history who have often gone unnoticed or unappreciated. My work with the Youth Forum and the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area have given me the wide-ranging skill set necessary for working on the Governing Body.

Other relevant experience/skills
During my time at university in Cambridge, I have joined various ecumenical groups working towards creating a loving and welcoming space for all. The Student Christian Movement (SCM) group I am a member of in Cambridge is a small but close-knit group of students and recent graduates who are looking to fight the prejudices and discrimination that are often so prevalent in church settings. My work with SCM Cambridge aims to tackle these attitudes and create a safe space for all people no matter their gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or beliefs.

Further information to support my nomination (200 words maximum)
I am studying Spanish and German at Cambridge university and the move to digital ways of delivering worship means that I have continued to be a part of St Peter's church in Holywell through the weekly Mission Area Zoom services. I regularly participate in these by doing readings and leading the music. I am in Cambridge for 24 weeks per year and Holywell for 28 weeks per year. The voice of under 30s is vital if the Church is to continue to flourish and be relevant in the 21st century. The Church needs to take a lead in being a prophetic voice to society. It is no longer enough for the Church to merely preach a message of equality for all; we need to act on this and give everyone the opportunity to feel God's love, especially on matters affecting so many young people today, such as the continued refusal of the Church to allow same-sex marriage; making churches accessible for all in the community; reflecting inclusion in our liturgy. If the Church in

Wales is to survive, it needs to be at the forefront of challenging the inequality and prejudices that are ever present in our community. I would work hard on the Governing Body to make sure the voice of the future is heard.	
<b>Signature of candidate</b> Melody Lewis	<b>Date</b> 14/06/2021

### Action required

Members of the Standing Committee are asked to approve the appointment of Ms Melody Lewis to the Governing Body, to serve until 31 December 2021.

## Vacancies on the Governing Body of the Church in Wales


### Background

Mrs Jennie Willson is moving away from the St Asaph Diocese and we thank her for her service. As a result, the diocese has a casual vacancy on the Governing Body for an elected lay representative to serve until 31 December 2023.

### Candidate

**Mr Lewys Evans** has been nominated for election by Penedeyrn Mission Area and has provided the following summary of his experience and skills:

<b>Relevant experience in Mission Area and/or diocese</b>
<p>Most recently opportunities to attend Church services have of course been limited however I have been 'attending' services remotely, taking full advantage of services uploaded online by various Churches, including Christ Church, Bala and All Saints, Newtown.</p> <p>Between 2010-2016, I was elected as the youngest ever member of the Governing Body and was subsequently elected as a member of the Representative Body. On the Representative Body, I was a part of the committee that oversaw the change of St Michael's College into St Padarn's Institute and sat on the board of governors for St Padarn's Institute. I was unable to stand for re-election to either Bodies at the end of my term due to my educational commitments, however now is an opportune time for me to put myself forward for re-election.</p> <p>Prior to election to the Governing Body I was invited to accompany Bishop Gregory to the House of Lords to speak to the panel conducting the Church in Wales review. This allowed me the opportunity to discuss views with the panel, before then debating its content at the Governing Body meetings.</p> <p>On a more local level, I have previously been a PCC member since the age of 16, an alter server and responsible for setting up and maintaining a Church website. I have also assisted a local PCC with informal advice on the drafting of letters when contentious matters have arisen.</p>

<b>Other relevant experience/skills</b>	
<p>I am a barrister-at-law by profession, specialising in child protection, vulnerable adults and financial remedy. This gives me a unique insight into various aspects of life that crosses over with Church activity; from both a legal and personal view. I feel that I would therefore be able to bring a professional legal perspective to the Governing Body on matters that are very much live issues within the management of the Church, and any other organisation or body.</p> <p>My profession means that debate, public speaking and advancing an argument, both for an against often emotive and difficult topics, are skills that I utilise day to day. My professional training means that I am able to understand and analyse a large volume of information and pinpoint the relevant matters very quickly, something I feel would be valuable when considering the volume of documents and information provided in advance of Governing Body meetings.</p>	
<b>Further information to support my nomination (200 words maximum)</b>	
<p>Being of the younger generation of Church members, this again gives me unique insight into the future needs of the Church. Given that in reality it is people of my approximate age that the Church must be planning for in the immediate future, I can offer invaluable insight into the thoughts and feelings of the future of the Church.</p> <p>As a first language Welsh speaker who has experienced being members of a Church in both a rural and city centre setting, I am able to approach topics and debate from various different perspectives. This means that whilst I am able to be sympathetic to the need for efficiency, I am also able to recognise the importance place upon the use of the Welsh language by some members of the Church community, in contrast with the view some other members have.</p> <p>I have significant experience of being a member of both the Governing Body and Representative Body, and I feel that now is a great time to put myself forward for re-election. I have advanced qualifications and experience of the governance of the church in Wales, and am eager to contribute further to the development of the Church, and planning for its future.</p>	
<b>Signature of candidate</b>	<b>Date</b>
	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Action required

Members of the Standing Committee are asked to approve the appointment of Mr Lewys Evans to the Governing Body, to serve until 31 December 2023.

**Diane McCarthy**  
**Diocesan Secretary**  
**24 June 2021**