



## WATCH AGM 2021– Election of Trustees

Below is a copy of the Constitution in relation to Trustee elections. In brief, it applies to us in this way:

### 1. Rotation

Everyone elected to the committee is in office for 3 years. One third (1/3) of Trustees, excluding co-opted members (3) who are not counted for rotation purposes), are required to retire each year so that there is a rotation. As there are currently 12 Trustees (not co-opted), 4 Trustees need to retire this year and may be re-elected for a 3-year term.

Standing for re-election:

	Name	Nomination	Second
1.	Rosalind Rutherford <i>for Vice Chair</i>	Sally Barnes	Miranda Threlfall-Holmes
2.	Felicity Cooke	Romie Ridley	Maggie Luff
3.	Cath Williamson	Tracey Byrne	Sue Hammersley
4	Michèle Kitto	Sarah Bennet	Sally Barnes

### 2. Other Elections

	Name	Nomination	Second
4.	Roger Neill*	Lizzie Taylor	Sally Wright
5.	Sally Wright*	Roger Neill	Claire Creese
6.	Tracey Byrne	Esther Elliott	Cath Williamson

\*Co-opted by trustees to the National Committee in 2020-2021.  
Liz Shercliff was also co-opted, but is not standing for election.



### 3. The following Trustees continue automatically for 2020-21

- Emma Percy – Chair (2019)
- John Briggs – Treasurer (2020)
- Yvonne Clarke (2019)
- Jenny Humphreys (2020)
- Mary Kells (2020)
- Michael Smith (2020)
- Lizzie Taylor (2020)

## Extract from Constitution

### 10.3 Number of charity trustees

There must be at least six and no more than fifteen charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

### 10.4 First charity trustees

10.4.1 The first charity trustees of the CIO are:

The committee as elected on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Emma Percy – Chair

Anne Stevens – Vice-Chair

Stephen France – Vice-Chair

Mark Bennet – Treasurer

Hannah Elias

Michèle Kitto

Rosalind Rutherford

Michael Smith

Jody Stowell

Yvonne Clarke

Cath Williamson

Esther Elliot

Jenny Humphreys

## 11. APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

11.1 At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, **one-third of the elected charity trustees shall retire from office.** If the number of elected charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, she or he shall not retire;

11.2 The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in



office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by ballot.

- 11.3 The vacancies so arising shall be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting and vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in clause 11.6;
- 11.4 Any person retiring under the provisions of clause 11.2 shall be eligible for election for a second term of three years. Any person who has served two terms shall be required to take a year's sabbatical before being eligible for re-election;
- 11.5 Any person standing for election under the provisions of clause 11.3 shall be proposed and seconded by members of the charity;
- 11.6 If the committee elected by the members, including ex officio members is less than 15, the charity trustees may appoint any member to join the committee until the next Annual General Meeting at which any member so appointed shall be eligible for re-election onto the committee.
- 11.7 The charity trustees may at any time co-opt not more than an additional three members onto the committee to act as trustees. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of her or his appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.
- 11.8 The chair and the vice chairs ("the office holders") shall be elected by the members at an annual general meeting and for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office ("ex officio") be a charity trustee. Each office holder shall remain in post for a period of three years and shall be eligible to stand for election for a second period of three years.
- 11.9 If an office holder shall retire early from their post the committee may make such provision as it deems fit until the next annual general meeting at which meeting the members shall elect an office holder to replace the retiring office holder.
- 11.10 If unwilling to act as a charity trustee, the office holder shall cease to be an office holder except that there shall be no requirement for the treasurer or secretary to be charity trustees.

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## Nominee Bio/Address

### **Rosalind Rutherford** – *Vice Chair*

One of the things that has enabled me to continue to continue as part of the Church of England for many years now, is being a member of Mow and then WATCH, and the friends I have made through this, and our shared commitment to a church where gender justice no longer has to be struggled for.

I joined MOW when it began, and WATCH soon after it was set up, but my involvement was mainly local until 2010 when I was elected to General Synod (for Winchester diocese), and so was part of the WATCH group on General Synod during the campaigns leading up to the votes in 2012 and 2014. In 2015 I was not re-elected to GS, so I had that time to offer to WATCH and joined the national committee. One of the tasks I took on has been producing the annual WATCH report of Women in



Ministry, based on our analysis of the statistics produced annually by Church House. I also helped to produce our (on line) publication about the Five Principles.

I am standing as Vice chair this year, when both our current Vice Chairs are standing down, to offer my previous experience and continuity to the Chair and committee. I think it is important that WATCH continues to challenge the Church of England on its acceptance of gender discrimination, but not allow our own thinking and spiritual health to be defined by the limits created by the assumptions of those with power in the Church of England.

I retired from full time parish ministry in 2018, and moved with my husband from Basingstoke to Abingdon (Oxford diocese).

### **Tracey Byrne**

Tracey has been a member of the CofE since 1988, first in Bristol diocese and then for many years in Lincoln. Since 2013 she's lives in Nottinghamshire. Her work background is in education, social work and the voluntary sector, as well as more recently in both university and hospital lay chaplaincy. From 2014-2019 she led LGCM – now OneBodyOneFaith. She was ordained in 2019, is in stipendiary ministry in Nottingham and continues to be very involved with OUT, the LGBTQ team at the Greenbelt festival.

### **Felicity Cooke**

As a lay member of the church, I was hugely encouraged when General Synod approved the ordination of women to the priesthood. Naively, I thought that the next step, the consecration of women as bishops, would follow in a timely way. Of course, that was wrong because there was a long and painful path to tread before the Settlement in 2014. Even then, in 2014, I did not appreciate the difficulties which still lay in the way of the full acceptance of women's ministry in the Church of England. As I learned more about these issues, and the existence of the Five Guiding Principles, I made the decision to join WATCH in 2017 and work actively for gender justice in the church.

I served as Vice Chair of WATCH from 2018 to 2021 and during that time have led on strategic planning, following the organisation of WATCH as a charity, and was co-author of our three resource documents on the Five Guiding Principles. With Esther Elliott I co-led WATCH from October 2020 to July 2021 when Emma stood aside temporarily. I am now standing for election to General Synod and, in the hope of success, I would like to focus on representing WATCH, and gender equality, in that forum.

Now retired, my professional role was in university administration specialising in equality, diversity and inclusion. My last appointment was as Head of Equality and Diversity at the University of Oxford (2007-2010). From 2010 to 2017 I ran my own consultancy, Equality Practice. I bring a lay woman's perspective to WATCH, reinforced by long experience of working for gender equality in the lay world. In my parish church I have served as a churchwarden, as well as PCC member, and secretary, assistant warden, welcomer, intercessor, church cleaner and tower bell ringer.



### **Michele Kitto**

Michele is currently the Millfield Prep School Chaplain in Glastonbury. She works with pupils aged 2 - 13 and looks after the spiritual provision of the school for all those of faith and none and is also Head of RS. She was ordained to the Diaconate this past Summer and is excited to be serving as a self-supporting part-time Deacon at St John's and St Benedict's Churches, Glastonbury, along with St Mary's Church, Meare. Previously, Michele was a Deputy Head Teacher in Exeter and an Art Teacher in Oxford. She studied at Cambridge University back in the 90's. Michele is married to husband Phil and they have two teenage boys.

### **Roger Neill**

I am currently a member of the diocesan synod for Peterborough and am rural deanery synod representative for the Brackley deanery representing Newbottle with Charlton parish. I was previously a representative for King's Sutton PCC on the Brackley Deanery Synod, having been a member of King's Sutton's PCC over the past two decades. I was involved in a number of major fund-raising projects for that parish, including in 2015-16 managing the raising of £250,000 for restoration.

It was while involved in King's Sutton that it gradually became clear to me that the hard-line opposition to women as priests was maintained by a clique within the PCC but was unsupported both by the congregation and the parish more widely. The Church of England enjoins PCCs to discover the views of parishioners, but currently has no mechanism for either enforcing this guidance, nor of responding when it becomes clear that the parish church is totally at odds with the parish. This experience has led me to join with WATCH in its efforts to bring about gender justice in the church.

A lifelong, imperfect feminist, I am strongly opposed to the doctrine of 'headship' which often underpins opposition to women as priests and ministers and can marginalise women in the laity.

I am Managing Partner of the innovation/leadership consultancy, *Per Diem*. I was founding director of the *Centre for Creativity* at City University London, and international managing partner for *Synectics Corporation*, a world leader in innovation, creativity and leadership. I write, speak and conduct masterclasses and workshops around the world.

Previously I worked in marketing communications. For ten years I was with *Saatchi & Saatchi* and was appointed to the board of directors aged 27. With *Lintas* (now *Mullen Lowe*) I became chairman in Australia/New Zealand and regional director for Asia/Pacific. I was then deputy chairman of *WCRS Worldwide* in London and was World President of the *International Advertising Association* 1990-1992.

An expert on the innovators, artists, writers and musicians of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, I helped Sam Wanamaker to re-build *Shakespeare's Globe* in London and was founder of the contemporary music orchestra *Sinfonia 21* and chairman of *Endymion Ensemble*. I currently chair the Friends of the Heseltine Gallery at Chenderit School in Northamptonshire. My most recent published book is *DIVAS: Mathilde Marchesi and her Pupils*. I started my working life as a rock musician.



### **Cath Williamson**

I have served on the WATCH committee since November 2016. I am a lay woman from Sheffield diocese and I joined WATCH following the loss of the General Synod vote in 2012. I was involved with the local Sheffield group and was, later, elected to the national committee. Until this year, I edited Outlook magazine, and I have been on the Transformations Steering Committee for the last three years. I remain committed to challenging the Church of England on its acceptance of sex discrimination. I have been inspired by being part of a committee that resolutely continues to call the Church to account. I would like to stand again to continue the work and to provide a lay voice from the Northern Province.

I have worked as a clinician and manager in the NHS for twenty years. My daughter was born in July 2020, and I am currently focusing on motherhood alongside working for a clinical doctorate and training to be a psychoanalytic psychotherapist.

### **Sally Wright**

Born and brought up in Buckinghamshire, my family is from the north east of England. Following school, I studied Theology at Durham University, after which I spent three years temping in office jobs and travelling in Africa. It was during training for ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge, where I studied for an MA in Pastoral Theology, that I discovered Feminist Theology, which I found utterly inspiring.

I served my curacy in the Diocese of Chichester. This was a fruitful time, albeit challenging, as I was the only woman ordained alongside 15 men and was the first woman to be priested in the Chichester Deanery and Chichester Cathedral.

From Chichester, I moved to an ethnically diverse parish in Peckham, in the Diocese of Southwark, where I ministered for the next five years as Assistant Priest, also serving as Chaplain of Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the Diocese of London. During this time, I served as Director of Vocations on the national Board of Affirming Catholicism and as an Archbishop's Missioner for Fresh Expressions on Round Table 5 for Catholic and Contemplative Fresh Expressions.

In 2009, my family moved to Witney in the Diocese of Oxford, where I continue to serve as Associate Priest. Since being here, I have worked for a year as a Deanery Vocations and Ministry Adviser, as well as completing the year-long diocesan training in Spiritual Direction, training in Godly Play and a year's training in Pre- and Peri-Natal Therapy, a world which has resourced my ministry greatly.

My passion for women's issues and voices continues to expand and develop and I hope very much to be able to be a part of WATCH as it seeks to inspire, support and seek equality for women in the Church.

I am married to Toby and we have two children: Caspar and Felicity.

**END**