

GENERAL SYNOD FEBRUARY 2009

QUESTIONS

of which notice has been given under Standing Orders 105-109. The Question for written reply is marked with an asterisk.

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CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Archbishop of York to reply:

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q1. What action is the Council taking to ensure that the Government takes full account of the extensive role already being played by churches and Christian charities, such as the award-winning Christians Against Poverty, in its current efforts to maximize the role of the third sector in providing debt advice to those affected by the recession?

Mr Terence Musson (Truro) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q2. In 1998 I called for the Church to set aside Rogation Day as a day of prayer and fasting for the plight of the farming industry. In view of the recession, would the Council urgently call for the nation to set aside a day for prayer, fasting and repentance as called to do in II Chronicles 7.14?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q3. Has consideration been given, by the House of Bishops or otherwise, to calling the Church and/or the nation to

- prayer about the deepening financial and economic crisis; and
- repentance of the idolatry which may have contributed to it

on Ash Wednesday or during Lent? If so, what was decided; if not, will such consideration now be given?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q4. In the light of the promises spoken through the prophet Malachi (Malachi 3) and the teaching of St Paul (2 Corinthians 8 and 9) will the bishops, as leaders and teachers of the Church, give particular attention in the current economic situation to encouraging Christians whose financial resources are uncertain, restricted or diminishing to see generous giving as an integral part of their Christian discipleship which God can be trusted to honour?

Mr Jonathan Spencer to reply:

The Revd Canon Timothy Barker (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the Pensions Board:

Q5. Given current economic indicators, what consideration is being given to the likely impact of the next triennial revaluation of the Clergy Pension Fund?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Timothy Walker to reply as Third Church Estates Commissioner:

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q6. What was the budget for repairs and renovations to see houses and their grounds in 2008 and what criteria are used to assess the priorities of competing claims for funding from this budget?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

Mr Andrew Britton to reply:

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Miss Emma Forward (Exeter) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

***Q7.** Can the Archbishop's Council explain the reasons for the higher than anticipated costs for external lawyers, referred to in paragraph 6 of GS Misc 902 as being one of the main reasons for the forecast that Vote 2 expenditure will be £70,000 above the level reported to the Synod last July?

Revd Canon Andrew Nunn (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q8.** Following its decision to make funding available to the Lambeth Conference Company to enable it to meet the costs of the Lambeth Conference, what progress can the Archbishops' Council report in terms of the Company's success in raising funds for that purpose from other sources in the Anglican Communion and its constituent churches?

The Revd Canon Simon Killwick (Manchester) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q9.** What is the current position on the funding of the 2008 Lambeth Conference by the Council and the Church Commissioners?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q10.** What analysis, if any, has been carried out to establish whether the financial savings made by delaying the appointment of incumbents in an interregnum are more than cancelled out by reductions in giving arising from reductions in church attendance levels, given the evidence cited in Archdeacon Bob Jackson's book *The Road to Growth* that attendance numbers tend to decrease significantly once a post has been vacant for about six months?

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q11.** How many parishes have had to seek individual registration with the Charity Commission, and will the Archbishops' Council provide an estimate of the total man days incurred across the Church in preparing and submitting applications for registration?

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q12.** When will the publication of the text of the Book of Common Prayer on the Church of England website be completed?

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

The Revd Jonathan Alderton-Ford (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q13. Has the Archbishops' Council considered whether, at a time when new modes of communication are being developed and mainstream broadcasters are abandoning public service broadcasts, it is not time for the Church of England to support independent Christian broadcasters in order to maintain vital media access?

The Revd Prebendary Kay Garlick to reply:

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q14. In view of the economies of scale and local reach that the deanery possesses (average population size: c. 72,000 people), would the Archbishops' Council consider publishing guidance for deaneries on how to market the activities of their constituent parishes more effectively within local areas?

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding to reply:

Revd Canon Timothy Barker (Lincoln) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q15. As many parishes are developing patterns of weekly worship that include a variety of services led by lay people on Sundays and weekdays, and given that under the Marriage Act 1949 'the banns [of marriage] may be published ... by a layman during the course of a public reading authorized by the bishop of the diocese of a portion or portions of the service of morning or evening prayer, the public reading being at the hour when the service at which it is usual to publish banns is commonly held or at such other hour as the bishop may authorize', will the Archbishops' Council

- (a) seek to allow greater flexibility in the reading of banns of marriage that gives due weight both to the pastoral need of the couple being married and to practical circumstances of parishes, and
- (b) ensure that clear guidance about the reading of banns is available to clergy and ministers?

The Bishop of Leicester to reply:

Miss Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q16. The answer to Question 23 in November 2008 implied that, 'over the next few months', statistical information on the ethnic background of those on the Preferment List would become available, as recommended in *Talent and Calling*. What is the target date for such information to be available, and will statistics be given separately for the 'ready now', 'ready later', and 'possible' sections of the Preferment List?

Dr Philip Giddings to reply:

The Rt Revd Michael Hill (Bishop of Bristol) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q17. Has any consideration been given to how the Church of England might best respond to the recent appeals by the Bishop of Jerusalem and the President Bishop of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East for humanitarian assistance for the work of the El Ahly Hospital in Gaza?

Dr John Dinnen (Hereford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q18. Following the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will the Archbishops' Council work with Jewish and Muslim peace groups to seek human rights for all in the Holy Land (Israel/Palestine)?

Mr Mark Russell to reply:

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' council:

Q19. Although the graffiti panels produced at the "Dare To ..." event in Church House have now been installed in Lambeth Palace, as part of the Youth Evangelism Fund projects, how will the Archbishops' Council ensure that more projects of this kind continue to happen throughout the Church of England?

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q20. What is being done to build on the excellent outcomes of work such as the "Dare To ..." day in Westminster (to communicate the ideas of young people) by those exercising leadership at senior levels in the Church of England?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply:

Dr Graham Campbell (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q21. In view of the remarks made by a diocesan bishop on *The Big Question* programme broadcast on 11 January 2009 that "The Bible is not seen as the Word of God in the same way that a Muslim would see the Koran" and "The views in the New Testament are not the same as the views in the Old Testament and it is ridiculous to say that the Bible is one consistent argument about these issues", can the Chairman of the House of Bishops confirm that there has been no change to the Church's doctrine as set out in Articles VI (That Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary for salvation) and VII (The Old Testament is not contrary to the New)?

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q22. What advice or guidance does the House offer to its members about making statements in the media, in particular as to the latitude members of the House enjoy to make statements which contradict the teaching of the Bible, the thirty-nine articles of religion, the Canons, the Book of Common Prayer or the Ordinal?

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q23. Has consideration been given to the possibility of inviting a woman bishop from a church in the Anglican Communion or from another church with which we are in communion to address the Synod on how her church has handled the transition from an all-male episcopate to a mixed-gender episcopate?

The Bishop of Rochester to reply as Chairman of the House's Theological Group:

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q24. Does the Church of England recognize the doctrine of sacramental assurance as part of the Church's teaching and, if so, on what theological or ecclesiological grounds?

The Bishop of Wakefield to reply as Chairman of the Liturgical Commission:

Revd Peter French (Birmingham) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q25. When can we expect the Eucharistic Prayers for children first to be debated by the General Synod, and how long after that are we likely to have to wait for them to be authorized for use?

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply as Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

The Revd Richard Moy (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q26. Given that for many young people a key question is "Will you be there for me?", has the House of Bishops considered the desirability of discouraging short-termism and poor pay conditions in the contracts of church youth workers and encouraging the provision of stipendiary, pensionable roles dedicated to working with young people in each area/deanery – even if that means cutting back on clergy roles to fund this?

The Bishop of Bristol to reply as Vice-Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Division:

The Revd Canon Simon Bessant (Sheffield) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q27. In recent years a number of dioceses have launched mission initiatives such as Mission Action Planning to encourage, inspire and resource their parishes to be more mission-focussed under a diocesan umbrella. Given this, has the House of Bishops:

- (a) debated the value of such initiatives;
- (b) considered a review among those dioceses which have initiated such movements as to whether the initiative has been effective; and
- (c) pondered as to whether such initiatives are an appropriate response to the missiological implications of episcopacy, especially in regard to the concept of the bishop in mission emanating from the Lambeth Conference in 1998 and the insights of the *Mission-Shaped Church* report GS 1523?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr Gordon Simmonds (Chelmsford) to ask the Secretary General:

Q28. What is the number of events per year (for groups of up to 10, 11 to 20, 20 to 30 and over 30) expected to be needed in the foreseeable future, for events organized by the bodies referenced in GS Misc 907B and what are the numbers of en-suite and of full access rooms they require within each size range?

The Revd Canon Ian Bessant (Sheffield) to ask the Secretary General:

Q29. Given that section 52 and Schedule 3 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure came into force on 1 February 2008:

- (a) how many dioceses have now set up new Mission and Pastoral Committees, bearing in mind that all dioceses have until 31 July 2009 to comply; and
- (b) how many diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committees have received training in regard to their new powers and responsibilities?

Mrs Anneliese Barrell (Exeter) to ask the Secretary General:

Q30. Who is entitled under Standing Order 53 to attend Revision Committee meetings?

CLERK TO THE SYNOD

The Revd Canon Simon Killwick (Manchester) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

Q31. What is the typical cost of a debate on a diocesan synod motion?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Lincoln to reply as Chairman of the Board of Education:

The Revd Alastair Cutting (Chichester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q32. Many churches have playgroups and pre-schools attached to them, often ones that have grown as part of their local ministry. Pre-schools are now highly regulated, and have to have Ofsted inspections, and most are currently also being required to register their constitutions with the Charity Commission. With the Church of England's excellent and long-term involvement in education and faith schools, what advice, models and support are available to church-affiliated pre-schools from the central church; and how might they be developed and facilitated through the dioceses?

Dr Graham Campbell (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q33. In the light of the letter from the Chief Education Officer of the Church of England to the *Guardian* of January 27, how does the Board of Education intend to ensure that teaching and discussion of sexual relationships and sexual orientation in Church of England schools fully reflect the Bishops' teaching in *Issues in Human Sexuality* and in *Marriage – a teaching document of the House of Bishops of the Church of England* (1999)?

MINISTRY COUNCIL

The Bishop of Norwich to reply as Chairman of the Ministry Council:

Revd Canon Alan Hargrave (Ely) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

Q34. Since 1990, how many clergy, excluding those who have retired or died, have left the ordained ministry each year and no longer hold any sort of authority from the bishop under Canon C 8? Are there any statistics which outline people's reasons for leaving? If so, what are they?

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

Q35. In view of the forthcoming closure of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, has any thought been given about how to continue providing appropriate care for the clergy and their families (and others) in times of sickness and stress?

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

Q36. What progress has been made in negotiations with HM Government concerning HEFCE and tuition fees for those taking equivalent or lower qualifications as part of their theological training? And what impact will the outcome have on individual institutions, as well as on the Vote 1 budget as a whole?

Mr Peter LeRoy (Bath & Wells) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

Q37. What progress has been made in implementing the recommendations relating to the guidelines for Ministerial Development Review (contained in the *Review of Clergy Terms of Service Report* – GS 1564): that it will be compulsory, annual, and that “it will be important to provide some lay participation in advance” and “provision for parish input or for the reviewer to visit the parish”?

The Revd Richard Moy (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

- Q38.** At which training colleges or institutions did our female clergy currently holding the offices of
- (a) dean;
 - (b) archdeacon; and
 - (c) residentiary canon
- respectively train?

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Council:

- Q39.** In July 2007, the Bishop of Derby told the Synod, “The Bishops’ Committee for Ministry has set in place a process to inform itself regarding the situation at Wycliffe [Hall]. A small team of independent advisors, drawn from current senior inspectors, will report to the Bishops’ Committee for Ministry, which can then take any further action, if required.” Subsequently the Bishop of Norwich has told the Synod that this ‘process’ would be part of the quinquennial inspection of Wycliffe Hall but, on 16 November 2008, the Lead Inspector, Ian Bunting, told staff and students that the criteria for the November 2008 inspection of Wycliffe Hall were the normal inspection criteria for colleges, and that these excluded enquiry into past events. Why was “the process to inform itself” not part of this inspection and what alternative action is the Ministry Council now proposing in order to fulfil its promise “to inform itself regarding the situation at Wycliffe” in 2007, so that it can take any necessary further action to restore the reputation of Wycliffe Hall after the large number of staff resignations and the allegations of bullying?

DEPLOYMENT, REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply as Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Mr Nigel Chetwood (Gloucester) to ask the Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q40. Diocesan support is available in a benefice for ministry costs incurred during a vacancy. However, in a team ministry a vacancy for this purpose only occurs when the incumbent team rector moves on. So when a team vicar moves on, there is deemed to be no vacancy and the parishes covered by the outgoing team vicar themselves pick up the ministry costs of retired clergy who help out. As the number of team ministries is increasing, are steps being taken to address this situation?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Dr Philip Giddings to reply as Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Mr Tom Benyon (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q41. In view of the evidence that fruit machines generate problem gambling because of continuous and repetitive play which both leads to addiction and is a gateway to higher forms of gambling, what representations has the Church of England made to Her Majesty's Government about its reported proposal to increase the limits on stakes and prizes for Category C machines – which are mostly classic fruit machines?

Mr Gordon Simmonds (Chelmsford) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q42. What actions has the Council for Mission and Public Affairs taken to encourage Her Majesty's Government to address more urgently the devastating effect of the severe drop in the UK bee population, given that they are estimated to provide the majority of the pollination of our food crops?

The Revd Canon Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q43. What are the Church of England and its agencies doing to support the life and witness of the churches in the Southern Sudan as they seek to support the new regional governing authorities as they address the rebuilding of the region?

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Revd Prebendary Kay Garlick to reply as Chairman of the Business Committee:

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q44. In view of the national and global significance of the 2012 Olympics, does the Business Committee have any plans for the Synod to hear about the Church's planned mission and ministry around the Games?

DIOCESES COMMISSION

The Archdeacon of York to reply as Vice-Chairman of the Dioceses Commission:

Mr Nigel Holmes (Carlisle) to ask the Chairman of the Dioceses Commission:

Q45. Given that more than half the dioceses were in financial deficit last year, has the prospect of amalgamating dioceses been discussed formally at the national or the diocesan level?

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Chancellor Timothy Briden to reply as Chairman of the Legal Advisory Commission:

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Legal Advisory Commission:

Q46. Has any advice been given as to the circumstances (if any) in which it is permissible for a bishop to suspend all livings that become vacant in his diocese on the basis of pastoral reorganization within the diocese generally and without reference to any proposals in relation to the parish or benefice concerned?