

**-GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2010**

QUESTIONS

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

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MINISTRY DIVISION

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

The Revd Canon Gordon Oliver (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q1** Could the Ministry Division please explain what is the researched educational evidence basis for the proposed policy of top-slicing the funding allowed to theological colleges and courses in order to sustain higher levels of funding for pre-ordination theological education offered by theological colleges associated with certain universities; and if such evidence is not available could the Ministry Council account for such a policy being proposed in the absence of it?

The Revd Canon Gordon Oliver (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q2** Could the Ministry Division please explain to the General Synod what contingency proposals are envisaged with regard to the pre-ordination phase of theological education for ministry for a situation where serious cuts in central government funding for universities and the imposition of tighter limits on allowable student numbers may result in significantly lower contribution to the costs of IME 1-3 from the resources of the Higher Education Funding Council for England?

Dr Peter Capon (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q3** How many ordinands in training currently attract HEFCE funding and how many full-time-equivalent students does this correspond to?

Dr Peter Capon (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q4** How many HEFCE-funded places have training institutions applied for in the current round of allocations?

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q5** Is it the policy of the Ministry Division to fund the core costs of training in colleges and courses, or are colleges and courses now required to fund a systematic shortfall (e.g. by diversifying their activities or by seeking charitable donations); and in either event, what is the response of the Ministry Division to the evidence that the way the present funding system is applied appears to discriminate against the more successful training institutions?

Dr Anna Thomas-Betts (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q6** Is the Ministry Division aware of the unhappiness that many colleges and courses feel about the uncertainty and shortfall of funding per student that still exists, and would it consider (a) restoring the representation of colleges and courses on the Finance Panel, and (b) setting up a group to review how the funding system has been working so far and to explore methods and means of funding for the diverse modes of training that institutions now offer?

The Revd Professor Richard Burridge (Southern Universities) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q7** Given that over the last couple of decades various working parties of this Synod have debated Vote 1 funding and the fluctuations in the number of ordinands, and their reports and Synod debates have decided against imposing a cap on numbers in training as a way of providing a solution, is it now the case that such a cap has been decided upon, and in addition that recruitment should be related to deployment by accepting for training only those ordinands who have already been accepted by a diocese; and if so, what was the process by which this decision was arrived at, and which bodies or groups were consulted during this process?

The Revd Professor Richard Burrige (Southern Universities) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q8** Given that there have been consistent appeals for younger ordinands in recent years (for example, through the 'Call Waiting' initiative, amongst others), what thought has been given to the impact of the decisions regarding capping of numbers and the relating of recruitment to future deployment with regard to university students and recent graduates, particularly those on one-year pastoral/parish/chaplaincy assistant schemes who would traditionally expect to attend a BAP towards the end of their year's placement?

The Revd Canon Dr Alan Hargrave (Ely) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q9** Can a report be given to the Synod, whether in response to this Question or otherwise, on the current position of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, with particular regard to the trustees' proposals for the use of their remaining funds – including whether they have considered using them to support proactive health care for the clergy (such as by providing regular medicals, occupational health consultations and work-life balance consultations)?

WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Terence Musson (Truro) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q10** What national guidance, or codes of practice, exist regarding the appointing of house for duty clergy and where is it to be found? If no such guidance or codes currently exist, what would be the best avenue by which they might be requested?

Mrs Margaret Tilley (Canterbury) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q11** Did the College of the Resurrection consult the Ministry Division before announcing a decision not to admit to the College ordinands who are unable in conscience to attend celebrations of the Holy Communion at which a woman presides, but who nevertheless wish to engage constructively with fellow ordinands of other traditions and train alongside them; and, if so, what advice, if any, was given?

Mrs Anneliese Barrell (Exeter) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q12 Has the Ministry Division considered the decision of the College of the Resurrection to exclude from consideration for admission those ordinands whose conscience prevents them from attending celebrations of the Holy Communion at which a woman presides, and in particular whether that decision complies with the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993; and if it has not, will it now please do so?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

The Revd Ian Chandler (Chichester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q13 Has the House considered the decision of the College of the Resurrection to refuse admission to any prospective ordinands who are unable in conscience to attend celebrations of the Eucharist at which a woman presides, and in particular whether it accords with the express wish of the General Synod that ‘the integrity of differing beliefs and positions concerning the ordination of women to the priesthood should be mutually recognised and respected’ (Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993) or, more generally, provides an appropriate model of mutual recognition and respect for those preparing for ordination in the Church of England; and if not, will it now do so?

DEPLOYMENT, REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

Mrs Gill Ambrose (Ely) to ask the Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q14 Following the publication by DRACSC of the model policy in *Dignity at Work* in 2008,

(a) what information has DRACSC been able to gather from dioceses as to whether they have a policy in place in relation to bullying and harassment at work, and

- (b) how many bishops and members of diocesan senior staff teams have undertaken training in relation to the issue of bullying and harassment and from where has this training come?

The Ven Adrian Harbidge (Winchester) to ask the Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

- Q15** What issues relating to Common Tenure remain to be resolved by the Terms of Service Implementation Panel, and will the number or nature of those issues have any impact on the date on which Common Tenure is introduced?

The Revd Alan Bashforth (Truro) to ask the Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

- Q16** Following the publication of the Second Report of the Retirement Housing Review (GS Misc 919) what, if any, progress is being made to implement its recommendations?

The Revd Alan Bashforth (Truro) to ask the Chairman of the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

- Q17** Will the issues relating to clergy retirement housing addressed in GS Misc 919 – which is a very important matter for clergy and their families – ever be brought before the General Synod for debate?

CENTRAL READERS COUNCIL

The Bishop of Sodor & Man to reply:

Mr Nigel Holmes (Carlisle) to ask the Chairman of the Central Readers' Council:

- Q18** In the debate on Reader Ministry in July 2008, the then chairman of the Central Readers' Council said, 'The report [GS 1698] with some extra items [should] be given or made available to all Readers.' As Readers have not received the report, nor has much coverage been given to the report, survey or debate in *The Reader* magazine, how can the diocesan responses due this coming July adequately reflect the views of their Readers?

Mr Nigel Holmes (Carlisle) to ask the Chairman of the Central Readers' Council:

Q19 The average age of Church of England congregations is now 61, almost the same as that of NSMs and Readers, and that of stipendiary clergy is 51 (*Church Statistics 2007/8*). Given these disturbing figures and the facts that the number of Readers-in-training has fallen by 28% between 2000 and 2008 and that a similar proportion of licensed Readers say that they are under-used, will the function and nature of Reader ministry and the use of this valuable and experienced but ageing group of able volunteers be addressed as a matter of urgency?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Dr Philip Giddings to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Canon Gill Calver (Canterbury) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q20 The Palestinian Kairos Document was launched on 11 December 2009 in Bethlehem by a group of clergy and lay people representing all the Christian churches in the Holy Land. It calls on church members around the world to stand alongside the suffering of the Palestinians by visiting them, and endorsing their cry for resistance to the evil of occupation. Has the Mission and Public Affairs Council of the General Synod responded to this call and, if not, when will it be in a position to do so?

Mr Peter LeRoy (Bath & Wells) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q21 What consideration and what response in terms of evangelistic strategy has been, or will be, given to the latest figures showing a fifth year-on-year decline in average weekly attendance, from 1.187 million in 2003 to 1.145 million in 2008, and that the average age of a member of a Church of England congregation is now 61, with men a diminishing proportion – and to the slight acceleration in the rate of decline in the past 12 months?

Mr John Freeman (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q22 Does the Council Support Ian Duncan Smith's proposals to give married couples a payment of £20 a week through the transferable married couples' tax allowance, and what benefits does it think this will bring to the stature of married life?

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q23 As the Islamic Viva Palestina Convoy of aid to Gaza has hit the press substantially recently, what is the Church of England doing to support and help Palestinian Christians?

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

Q24 Is it true that the Church of England has only appointed for the first time this year an official representative at the annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, whereas many other provinces of the Anglican Communion have had official representatives for some years, and what arrangements have been made for paying the expenses of our appointed representative?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q25 What role is the Church of England Parliamentary Unit playing in alerting the Government to the widespread concerns triggered by its apparent belief, reflected in the Equality Bill, that people can separate their personal religious beliefs from their behaviour in the workplace?

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding to reply:

The Revd Canon Tony Walker (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the Appointments Committee:

Q26 How many members of the House of Laity and how many members of the House of Clergy have not been appointed by the Appointments Committee to bodies (including revision committees) and roles so far this quinquennium, and how many of each House have been appointed to more than one body or role during this quinquennium (numbers for each House to be broken down by gender, please)?

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Revd Prebendary Kay Garlick to reply:

Mrs Christine McMullen (Derby) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q27 What steps are being taken to ensure that the work being done by the Women Bishops Revision Committee will be debated by this current Synod rather than by the new Synod, many of whose members will not have been party to all the earlier work and debates?

Mrs Christine McMullen (Derby) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q28 Assuming that the Revision Committee considering the draft legislation on women in the episcopate completes its work in time, can we be assured that the Business Committee will include the debate on its report and the subsequent revision stage at the July Group of Sessions and that, in that event, the Revision Committee's report will be circulated as early as possible so that informal consultations can be held in the dioceses before the debate takes place?

Mrs Madelaine Goddard (Derby) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q29 Assuming that the revision committee considering the draft legislation on women in the episcopate completes its work in time, can we be assured that the Business Committee will include the debate on its report and the subsequent revision stage at the July Group of Sessions and that, in that event, the revision committee's report will be circulated as early as possible so that members have sufficient time to study it thoroughly before the debate?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q30 The College of Bishops having now considered the ARCIC Report *Mary, Grace and Hope in Christ*, why is the debate on the report which this Synod specifically requested neither on the agenda for this Group of Sessions nor forecast for the next?

Mrs Anne Toms (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q31 As part of its consideration of whether guidance should be issued to members on the declaration of interests in debates, has the Business Committee sought to establish how many of the House of Laity could have interests, through spouses who are members of the clergy, of a kind which in other walks of life they would be expected to declare, and will any guidance the Committee issues deal with that situation?

WRITTEN REPLY

Mrs Wendy Kinson (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q32 Bearing in mind that 2010 is the fortieth anniversary of the General Synod, are there any plans to recognise the long and faithful service shown by the small band of members who have served on the General Synod since it began in 1970?

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Chancellor Timothy Briden to reply:

The Revd Dr John Hartley (Bradford) to ask the Chairman of the Legal Advisory Commission:

Q33 In the period of concern about swine flu, we were advised (a) not to offer the wine at communion and to administer only the bread, and (b) that it was not lawful in the Church of England to consecrate the wine in a lipped chalice or flagon and then to administer it by pouring it into individual glasses and offering each communicant an individual cup. Has the Legal Advisory Commission considered the arguments that (a) it is a principle of the Reformation, and required by Canon Law, that in the Church of England the sacrament should be offered to communicants in both kinds, and, although the individual communicant may decline to accept both kinds, the priest may not decline to offer both kinds; and (b) the justification (in *Legal Opinions*, p. 348) of the practice of intinction as 'lawful where a communicant or the congregation as a whole is fearful of contracting or communicating a contagious disease through drinking from the cup' by 'the doctrine of necessity' would imply that the use of individual cups, in which the wine is held in a cup instead of in the bread, would also be lawful under these same circumstances; and if it has considered these arguments, what is its view of them?

LITURGICAL COMMISSION

The Bishop of Wakefield to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

Mr William Nicholls (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the Liturgical Commission:

Q34 Why is the proposed authorized use of the Additional Eucharistic Prayers for use when children are present restricted to occasions when significant numbers of children are present or when it is otherwise pastorally appropriate to meet the needs of children present, rather than extending to use on a weekly basis at the main celebration of Holy Communion in the parish church, with the result that those of us who live in areas where congregations would value their language will not be able to benefit from what are excellent prayers?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

Mr Andrew Britton to reply:

Mr Robert Hammond (Chelmsford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q35 Given the value of the work undertaken on behalf of the Church by the staff of the NCIs and that, for the first time ever, some staff of the Archbishops' Council are holding a ballot on industrial action as a result of the decision to offer a zero per cent pay settlement in 2009, can it be confirmed whether the Archbishops' Council was consulted on the pay settlement being offered to staff this year?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Andreas Whittam-Smith to reply:

Mr John Ward (London) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q36 Given the value of the work undertaken on behalf of the Church by the staff of the NCIs and that, for the first time ever, some staff of the Church Commissioners are holding a ballot on industrial action as a result of the decision to offer a zero per cent pay settlement in 2009, can the Commissioners confirm whether the Board of Governors was consulted on the pay settlement being offered to staff this year?

PENSIONS BOARD

Mr Jonathan Spencer to reply:

Mr Robin Stevens (Chelmsford) to ask the Chairman of the Pensions Board:

Q37 In the light of the considerable amount of work undertaken on behalf of the Church and its clergy by the staff of the Board, and the fact that some of those staff are holding a ballot on industrial action as a result of the decision to offer a zero per cent pay settlement in 2009, is the Board satisfied that the terms and conditions of service of its staff are adequate?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith to reply:

Dr Edmund Marshall (Wakefield) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q38 What risk assessment was undertaken by the Church Commissioners in 2007 before investing in the American property group owning the Peter Cooper Village – Stuyvestant Town development in Manhattan, and how much was that investment?

The Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q39 What has been the cost to the Church Commissioners of implementing the new SAP accounting and business software system from the time it was decided a replacement was required, year on year; what percentage of the total cost to the National Church Institutions of implementation does that represent; and what are the ongoing costs each year in operating and maintaining this system?

PENSIONS BOARD

Mr Jonathan Spencer to reply:

The Ven Tim Barker (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the Pensions Board:

Q40 I understand that clergy pension contributions are payable by dioceses even after the maximum contribution for a pension has been paid in respect of an individual clerk in holy orders. If so, why is this the policy, given that it represents a significant cost to dioceses for their senior priests?

The Revd Canon Susan Booy (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Pensions Board:

Q41 The proposals in GS 1758 involve the replacement of the contracted-out status of clergy by participation in the state second pension scheme. Is the Board aware of concerns by women approaching the age of 60 and men approaching 65 who have not earned a full church pension and who plan to continue holding stipendiary office, for whom dioceses would not be able to continue national insurance contributions, and are there any plans to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the new provisions affecting work after the ages of 60 and 65 respectively?

CHURCH URBAN FUND

The Bishop of Dudley to reply:

The Revd Canon Dr Alan Hargrave (Ely) to ask the Chairman of the Church Urban Fund:

Q42 Can a report be given to the Synod, whether in response to this Question or otherwise, on the Church Urban Fund's current financial position, with particular regard to how many staff are currently employed compared to, say, two years ago, how much capital the Fund holds and how it intends to apply it?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply:

Mr Aiden Hargreaves-Smith (London) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q43 Given that it is now over 2½ years since the General Synod endorsed the relevant recommendations of the Pilling Review of senior appointments, contained in *Talent and Calling* (GS1650), invited those responsible to give effect to them and invited the Archbishops' Council to report to the Synod during 2008 on progress with implementation,

- (a) have those recommendations now been implemented; and specifically
- (b) which, if any, of the six recommendations relating to Fostering Diversity (chapter 4 of the report) have not yet been fully implemented?

Dr Christina Baxter to reply:

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

Q44 What arrangements are there for employees of the National Church Institutions to declare an interest when they are advising or working for a board, council or committee of the Archbishops' Council or the General Synod or another National Church Institution, including revision committees?

Dr Philip Giddings to reply:

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

Q45 Has consideration been given to the possibility of the Church of England working with other Christian organizations to supplement the existing range of church attendance statistics by developing a series of indicators of Christian engagement in community life to show current levels of involvement, and subsequently changes over time, using measures such as: the number of church-based youth workers; the number of street pastors; levels of volunteering by Christians; and other relevant indicators for which national estimates may be derived from national or regional surveys?

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

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

Q46 The number of minority ethnic clergy has increased significantly in several dioceses since 2005. When will the results of the 2005 Clergy Diversity Audit be updated?

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

Q47 Would the Archbishops' Council consider re-balancing the basis for ministerial deployment throughout the Church so as to include provision to recognise and encourage success in mission, and build such an approach into both training and diocesan support arrangements?

The Archbishop of York to reply:

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q48 In the debates on the Equality Bill currently undergoing parliamentary scrutiny, the Church of England has expressed a desire to maintain exemptions in respect of the recruiting of ministers of religion, or others to a small number of senior lay posts. Concerning appointments by the Archbishops' Council to its boards, councils, divisions and Central Secretariat, can the Council inform the Synod of those posts to which, if they were to become vacant today, this exemption would currently apply?

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q49 Given the Church of England's support for amendments to the Equality Bill which maintain the current exemptions, can the Archbishops' Council indicate:

- (a) what steps they have been taking since the implementation of the 2003 Regulations to ensure that, when seeking to appoint people to "senior lay posts that involve promoting and representing the religion" candidates "are able to demonstrate an ability to live a life consistent with the ethos of the religion, as well as sharing the faith"; and
- (b) whether any changes to this historical practice are now to be made?

Mrs April Alexander (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q50 Can the Archbishops' Council spell out the nature of the exemptions currently available to the Church in respect of equality legislation and employment law as they apply to lay employees which are referred to by the Bishops of Winchester, Exeter and Chester in their recent statement and which might be lost under the present Equality Bill?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Archbishop of York to reply:

Mrs April Alexander (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q51 In the context of the current debate about the impact of the Equality Bill on employment, particularly of lay people, would this Synod be correct to assume that the 1991 distinction between the 'sexually active' and the 'sexually inactive' as applied to clergy who are gay will be equally applied to lay employees who are gay, should the law allow?

The Revd Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q52 Was the statement by the Bishops of Winchester, Exeter and Chester relating to the employment of homosexual persons, made on 23 January in connection with the debate in the House of Lords on the Equality Bill, made on behalf of the House of Bishops?

Mrs Gill Ambrose (Ely) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q53 In view of the slow progress towards the development of legislation to enable the consecration of women as bishops, would the House of Bishops consider inviting a number of female observers to its meetings so that the insights of women are not lost to the Church at this high level of leadership and policy development?

The Bishop of Bristol to reply:

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

- Q54** There is plenty of anecdotal evidence to support the view that the gender balance in Church of England congregations is getting seriously out of line. Given the importance of this matter, and its neglect by comparison with other important issues such as age and ethnicity, has the House of Bishops:
- (a) Discussed changing the information required in statistical counting to include gender, in order to gain hard evidence on this matter?
 - (b) Debated the profound theological issues which characterise a church with a gender imbalance?
 - (c) Considered the significant missiological issues that emerge when a church experiences a testosterone deficit?

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

- Q55** In view of the 30% decline in the number of confirmations over the last ten years, what action is being taken to arrest and reverse this trend?

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

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

- Q56** What steps are being taken to ensure that the availability of title posts matches the number of those expecting to be ordained in 2010?

Mrs Gill Morrison (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

- Q57** In what ways is the House of Bishops encouraging dioceses to find title posts for ordinands?

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

Q58 Given the likely expectation that:

- (a) stipendiary clergy will have to work additional years for a full pension, and
- (b) will be unable to retire before 68 or 70, and
- (c) that most clergy already work a six-day week,

has the House of Bishops considered the possibility of rebalancing stipendiary clergy lifestyle stresses by promoting the provision of an additional two weeks holiday per year in order to help them extend their working lives in a more sustainable manner?

Mr Tom Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q59 What precedents are there in the history of the Church of England for limiting candidates for ordination and salaried employees to those holding or not holding a particular opinion about humanity, and for proscribing membership of a political party or of any other organisation?

Mr Tom Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q60 On what basis does the House of Bishops consider itself bound to implement opinions expressed in successful private member's motions, and has the House received legal advice on the implications under current employment law of itself (or a committee of bishops and advisors it may set up) determining what constitutes support or promotion for a party or organisation whose policies or objectives it itself defines as incompatible with Church of England teaching, especially considering that Church of England ministers of religion have never hitherto been obliged to affirm anything not to be found in the Bible, Book of Common Prayer and Articles of Religion, where the words "race equality" and "racial equality" do not appear?

The Bishop of Bradford to reply:

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q61 Would the House of Bishops encourage Christian communities to engage actively with love and compassion towards Muslim communities in their neighbourhood, thereby (a) witnessing the love which is God, in practical ways, without introducing concerns or fears which may be raised through direct evangelisation; and (b) helping to reduce suspicion and the seeds of conflict in the Middle East, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, as a result of communication within networks of families/friends?

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply:

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q62 If John Humphrys in the *Daily Mail* (Friday 23 January 2010) can acknowledge hope at the heart of Christianity, through the 'risen Christ, the belief that it is possible to roll the boulder away from the tomb and overcome the cross', can this Synod have assurance that our leading clergy will have sufficient confidence in their beliefs to do the same, as the great commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel commands us to do?

The Bishop of Leicester to reply:

Mr John Freeman (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q63 Given the wisdom and Christian leadership the Lords Spiritual bring to the nation, has the House of Bishops considered whether they need any help from members of the Synod to encourage the Government to help them retain their presence in the House of Lords following any changes in the membership of the House of Lords?

Mr John Ward (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q64 Does the House of Bishops intend to reflect on and produce a report on the role of bishops in the legislative process, whether in Synod or in Parliament?

The Bishop of London to reply:

Mr Peter LeRoy (Bath & Wells) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q65 Has the House discussed, or does it plan to discuss, the figures published in October showing that during the 'credit crisis' the running costs of our 113 bishops rose in 2008 to c. £16 million, spent on staff salaries, office expenditure, legal costs and travel, compared to £14.1 million in 2007 (at a time when the Church's assets plunged from £5.67 to £4.36 billion), and the fact that two national newspapers noted that this came at a time when bishops were calling for the nation to live a more frugal life; and if and when it does so, will it bear in mind the call at a recent group of sessions seriously to consider a reduction in the number of dioceses and senior appointments?

The Bishop of Lincoln to reply:

Mr Robert Hurley (Church of England Youth Council) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q66 Can the House provide information on:

- (a) the number of bishops who have made directions under the Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006 allowing applications to be made in their dioceses under the Regulations;
- (b) how many parishes have made such applications within those dioceses;
- (c) how many of those parishes have had their applications granted; and
- (d) how many parishes have had their applications refused, and on what grounds?

Mr Robert Hurley (Church of England Youth Council) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q67 Can the House provide information on:

- (a) the number of bishops who made policies under the former House of Bishops Guidelines set out in GS Misc 488 allowing applications to be made in their dioceses;
- (b) how many parishes made such applications within those dioceses;
- (c) how many of those parishes had had their applications granted; and
- (d) how many parishes had their applications refused, and on what grounds?

The Bishop of Chichester to reply:

Dr Peter May (Winchester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q68 In the light of the reassurance given at the July Synod in York that the new canons and constitution of ACNA had been tabled for consideration by the Theological Group of the House of Bishops, how many meetings has that Group held and what progress has been made?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply:

Dr Anna Thomas-Betts (Oxford) to ask the Secretary General:

Q69 What is the position under the Standing Orders as regards (a) the attendance at revision committee meetings of members who have made submissions on the draft legislation concerned, and (b) the information they are entitled to receive?

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans) to ask the Secretary General:

Q70 Will the Secretary General clarify what the requirements are (whether under the Standing Orders or otherwise) as to the confidentiality of submissions to, and the papers, business and decisions of, revision committees considering draft legislation?

The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn) to ask the Secretary General:

- Q71** When and how are submissions made by synod members to legislative revision committees, the papers considered by those committees, and the minutes of those committees made available
- (a) to those synod members making submissions;
 - (b) to other synod members; and
 - (c) to the general public?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Secretary General:

- Q72** In the event of a revision committee in future wishing to make an interim statement as to its provisional conclusions, will the Secretary General give an undertaking that any such statement will be communicated to the members of the General Synod *before* it becomes the subject of a press release?

The Revd Canon Susan Booy (Oxford) to ask the Secretary General:

- Q73** Given the acknowledged ease and regular use of email by Church House to communicate with members why did Church House staff not advise the revision committee for the legislation on women in the episcopate to seek a means of communicating with Synod members to prepare them for the committee's unprecedented action in issuing press releases during the life of the committee?

Mrs Sarah Finch (London) to ask the Secretary General:

- Q74** What recourse is there for patrons when a notice of vacancy is not issued for several months after the vacancy has occurred, and who then find that the nine months during which they can present are deemed to have begun from the date of the vacancy, as specified on the notice?

The Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Secretary General:

- Q75** Is the Secretary General aware that many mortgage providers are insisting on Chancel Repair Insurance being taken out as a condition of acceptance of new applications, and preventing applicants from investigating whether it is required, and what action will be taken to stop this practice?

The Revd Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Secretary General:

Q76 Has any advice been issued to the national and diocesan institutions of the Church to ensure that they act in accordance with the law when seeking information, in application forms and at interviews, about an applicant's marital or other status?

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Ruth Yeoman (Bradford) to ask the Secretary General:

Q77 Soon all parishes will be individually registered with the Charity Commission. Have discussions taken place at a national level with the Charity Commission to build a significant relationship towards good communication about our situation and their work?

WRITTEN REPLY

Dr Edmund Marshall (Wakefield) to ask the Secretary General:

Q78 What advice is available from national church organisations of the Church of England to dioceses considering the formation of new team parishes which would partly, but not wholly, include existing parishes which have passed Resolutions A, B or 'C', about the consequential limitations on having female team rectors?

CLERK TO THE SYNOD

The Revd David Williams to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Prebendary Colin Randall (Bath & Wells) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

Q79 Given that very few parish clergy – including none of my acquaintance – possess convocation robes, i.e. an academic gown and/or preaching bands, and in 34 years of ordination I have never seen them worn let alone worn them myself, can consideration be given to suggesting a different mode of formal dress for clergy for the formal opening of Synod at the new quinquennium in November?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Lincoln to reply:

Mr Edward Keene (Church of England Youth Council) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q80 In the course of assisting schools with their legal obligation to provide regular services of a broadly Christian character, and/or in equipping diocesan boards of education to do so, what is the Education Division doing to ensure that the unique characteristics and beliefs of the Christian faith - and the unique claims of Jesus Christ - (principally that of salvation by faith alone) are effectively communicated to pupils?

Miss Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q81 What response has the Church of England made to the Maurice Smith review of the provisions which prevent the promotion of racism in schools?

WRITTEN REPLY

Canon Alan Cooper (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q82 Would the Board agree that much of the criticism directed against faith schools during the last twelve months has been selective and generally ill-informed, and will the Board ensure that the good work carried out in the Education Division and in dioceses to promote and protect the good name of our church schools will be reinforced as we approach the General Election?

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr Andrew Britton to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Ruth Yeoman (Bradford) to ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee:

Q83 As parishes are being encouraged to use the good work developed in *Giving for Life* at a local level, what is happening at a national level to encourage the dioceses towards greater financial transparency and a sharing of resources across diocesan boundaries towards our mission as a national church?

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

Mr James Humphery (Salisbury) to ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee:

Q84 Has consideration been given to whether there is anything in Scripture or the Anglican tradition which encourages borrowers to tithe from the amounts they borrow?