

GENERAL SYNOD**July 2009 Group of Sessions****Report by the Business Committee*****Preface***

1. The February 2009 Group of Sessions was long and packed. Many people commented on the variety of material and the outward facing issues addressed over those five days. For some, here was a model of a Synod which reflected together through debate and seminar.
2. For many other people five days seemed too long, and some of the material did not seem appropriate for a body which is above all a legislative assembly concerned with the governance of the Church of England. At a time of financial constraint, both within and outside the Church, we must not be seen to be self-indulgent in how we use time of members and the resources of the parishes.
3. Therein lies the tension between different assumptions about the nature and purpose of the General Synod. Should we be meeting for the minimum time in which essential business can be done? How far should we supplement essential business with opportunities to reflect and comment and learn together as a body of God's people in the world?
4. This is becoming more and more a live issue as we approach the end of this quinquennium and elections for the next Synod. If we want to encourage people to stand for Synod, it is vital that we can be clear about what kind of a body they would be committing themselves to, and the extent to which that commitment is compatible with their other work and personal commitments.
5. The Business Committee will have this issue on the agenda for its September meeting, and we will be consulting widely for views on what Synod is, and is not about.
6. In putting together the July agenda we have taken the model of a Synod which is primarily concerned with legislation, liturgical business, financial business and other governance responsibilities. There is of course a wide range of other issues where synodical deliberation can add some value, but in the present climate, the Committee has thought it right to be stringent in setting the threshold for acceptance of other business.

Dates and Hours of Sitting

7. Having looked carefully at the business for the July Synod, the Committee has concluded that the Synod should meet from 3.30 p.m. on Friday 10 July to 4.45 p.m. on Monday 13 July. This is somewhat shorter than the customary July Group of Sessions, but the Committee has focused on business which is time sensitive and where Synodical consideration adds value; it has accordingly constructed an agenda which is compact and focused.

Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

8. The Agenda takes forward the heavy programme of legislative business which has been a distinctive feature of Synod's agendas over the past two years. The most significant items

are the Revision Stage of the Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure and approval of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations. There is also Final Approval of the legislation resulting from the Review of Crown Appointments.

9. There is one item of liturgical business: First Consideration of the Additional Weekday Lectionary and Amendments to the Calendar, Lectionary and Collects.
10. There is a strong financial focus at this Group of Sessions, with debates on the Archbishops' Council's Strategic Spending Review, the annual budget for 2010 and Christian stewardship. There is also a presentation on clergy pensions.
11. There will also be an emphasis on governance and church order, including a debate on the report of the Constitutions Review Group, set up by the Archbishops' Council to carry out the quinquennial review of constitutions of bodies that are answerable to the Council, a debate on the annual report of the Archbishops' Council and a presentation on the annual report of the Church Commissioners, as well as debates on two diocesan synod motions (see paragraph 15).
12. The Archbishop of Canterbury will give a brief update on the Anglican Communion and reflection on the recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Jamaica.
13. Other debates reflect the Church's wider engagement with society. The report from the Children's Society on *A Good Childhood* is the subject of a take note debate. There will be a debate on the Church's ministry with people with learning disabilities, and there will also be a presentation on the work of the Bishop for Urban Life and Faith.

Diocesan Synod Motions

14. Diocesan Synod Motions are normally considered in the order in which they are received. However, the Business Committee has decided that the Southwark DSM on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod (which is first on the list) and the motion from Rochester on the ordination of women to the episcopate (which is second in the list) should not be debated whilst the legislative process on women bishops continues.
15. Next on the list there are two Diocesan Synod Motions: from Bradford, on episcopal and senior Church appointments, and from London (and later in the list, Chelmsford) on the Clergy Discipline Measure, both of which ask the Archbishops' Council to undertake major reviews, and these will be debated in July. There is also a DSM from Chelmsford which asks for the adoption of a symbol of confidence in the Bible for the nation, noting that the 400th anniversary of the Authorised Version provides an opportunity for this, and this will be the contingency business for July.
16. The list of remaining Diocesan Synod Motions is now quite short, the Synod having debated no less than six DSMs at the February Synod.

Private Members' Motions

17. No Private Members' Motions have been scheduled for debate at the July Synod. Only one (from the Revd Richard Moy, on Fresh Expressions resources) has reached the threshold of 100 signatures, which the Business Committee considers is an acceptable threshold for PMMs being considered for debate. Three PMMs were debated in February, and the Committee considered that Richard Moy's PMM would in any case be better debated next

year when Bishop Graham Cray (the new Archbishops' Missioner and Fresh Expressions Team Leader) would be ready to make a presentation to the Synod on Fresh Expressions, which would help to set a context for the debate.

Group Work

18. At the July Synod it is customary to include group work, based on Bible study or on other study material relating to the Synod's agenda. This time there will be group work based on the paper by the Council for Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Advisory Group on the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) report *Life in Christ*. The groups will begin with a time of prayer and will take place at 9 a.m., for an hour, on Saturday morning.

Anglican and Ecumenical Guests

19. The Synod will have the opportunity to welcome as observers:

Bishop Nathan Hovhanissian – Armenian Church of Great Britain
(leader of the Armenian Church in the United Kingdom; co-President
of Churches Together in England)

Bishop Angaelos – Coptic Orthodox Church
(General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria; Chair of the
Oriental Orthodox Churches' co-ordinating committee in Great Britain)

The Revd Jens-Petter Johnsen – Church of Norway
(Director of the National Council of the Church of Norway)

His Honour Philip Price QC – Church in Wales
(Chair of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body of the
Church in Wales)

Synod Worship

20. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7.30 a.m. on Saturday and Monday in the Central Hall. There will be a short act of worship in the Central Hall at the beginning of the morning session on Monday. Evening worship will take place daily in the Central Hall at 6.20 p.m. On Sunday 12 July, the Synod will attend a service of Holy Communion in York Minster, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside and the Archbishop of York will preach.

Order of Business

21. Members are reminded that if at any time within the Group of Sessions an unexpected gap opens in the Synod's agenda, business earlier in the agenda, which has not been reached or completed within the period allotted, can be called by the Chair, unless other provision has already been made for it.
22. The Committee has decided that the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod Motion on Confidence in the Bible should be scheduled as contingency business, to be taken if further space opens in the agenda. A background paper from the Chelmsford Diocese (GS 1748A) and a note from the Secretary General (GS 1748B) are being circulated.

Private Members' Motions

23. Notice of Private Members' Motions received is contained in Special Agenda III. Any future notices of Private Members' Motions will be published in Notice Papers and will be available for signature at the July Group of Sessions only if they are received **no later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 10 July.**

Content of Business

Friday, 10 July

Introductions and Welcomes

24. There will be the customary introduction of new members, the welcoming of the ecumenical guests, and a brief address by Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian on behalf of the ecumenical guests.

Report by the Business Committee

25. This will provide the customary opportunity for members to raise points about the Agenda for this Group of Sessions or about the Synod's business generally.

Appointments to the Archbishops' Council

26. The National Institutions Measure 1998 provides for six appointed members of the Archbishops' Council. The terms of three existing appointed members end at the end of 2009. Members are appointed by the Archbishops, having consulted the Appointments Committee and the Archbishops' Council, and with the approval of the General Synod. The Archbishops employ a process of open advertisement to invite applications to these positions. Applicants are shortlisted and interviewed by a panel on behalf of the Archbishops prior to a final interview with the Archbishops themselves. Synod will be invited to approve the Archbishops' recommendations.

Appointment of the Chair of the Audit Committee

27. Mr Tony Hesselwood was appointed Chair of the Archbishops' Council's Audit Committee by the Synod in July 2004, for five years, until 31 July 2009. It is proposed that he be re-appointed for a further three years.

Christian Stewardship

28. The Synod last considered the subject of Christian stewardship in 2000 (although there were group discussions in July 2005). The credit crisis and the accompanying recession provide a new and challenging context and opportunity, for a debate on Christian stewardship. The debate is resourced by a report *Giving for Life* (GS 1723) from the National Stewardship Committee and an accompanying parish guide *Giving for Life: encouraging generosity in your parish* (GS 1723a), which the Synod is invited to commend to dioceses, deaneries and parishes for discussion and action. The motion will be moved by Mr Colin Slater, Chair of the group which has produced the report.

***CCU/FOAG report on the ARCIC Report: Life in Christ:
Introduction to Group Work***

29. The Bishop of Chichester will give a short introduction to the report by the Council for Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Advisory Group on the ARCIC Report *Life in Christ*, which will be the subject of group work the following morning (GS 1736). In February 2008 the Synod asked for an opportunity to consider the remaining ARCIC reports which had not yet come before the Synod. The Bishop of Chichester's introduction and the group work will provide Synod with an opportunity to engage with significant issues of moral theology.

Questions

30. Anyone wishing to ask a question of any of the bodies or persons specified in Standing Order 105 must give notice of it to reach the Clerk to the Synod by **5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 30 June**.
31. Members are reminded that, with effect from this Group of Sessions, **all submitted questions will be presumed to be for written answer** unless an oral answer is specifically requested.

Saturday, 11 July

Faithful Cities: Urban Life and Faith: Presentation

32. The appointment of the Bishop for Urban Life and Faith was part of the follow-up to *Faithful Cities*, which Synod debated in July 2006. The Bishop of Hulme comes to the end of his three-year appointment in July 2009, and this provides an opportunity for Bishop Stephen to reflect on this period and the work that has been achieved. He will give a short presentation, and there will then be opportunity for Synod members to ask questions and to offer their own brief reflections. The presentation is resourced by a report by Bishop Stephen (GS 1745) .

Legislative Business

33. This Group of Sessions again sees a substantial and varied volume of legislative business (the full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I).
34. The Synod will begin by formally promulgating Amending Canon No 28, which received Final Approval at the February Group of Sessions. After dealing with the Final Drafting and Final Approval of the two draft Measures, revised in February, which deal with issues relating to Crown appointments, it will proceed to the Revision Stage for the draft Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure.
35. As regards new draft legislation, the Synod is being asked to give deemed First Consideration to two draft 'Consolidation Measures' which reproduce (with corrections and minor improvements) the existing legislation in, respectively, (a) the Pastoral Measure 1983 and much of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 and (b) the three Measures relating to the care of cathedrals. The amendments made over the years to the original pieces of legislation make it desirable that, for reasons of clarity and ease of use, they should now be consolidated into single pieces of new legislation embodying all the changes that have been made. As Consolidation Measures, the special procedure contained in SO 47

applies to both draft Measures, which in practice means that amendments cannot be proposed to the draft Measures in the course of their Synodical progress if the effect of the amendments would be to alter the existing law.

36. Now that the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure has received the Royal Assent, the process of implementing Common Tenure can begin. With a view to it being fully introduced before the end of 2010, a number of instruments will be brought before the Synod for approval. The first is the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations, which will set out the detailed terms of Common Tenure. The Regulations are brought to Synod in the form in which they left it in February 2008, subject only to the making of changes for which a need has been identified subsequently.
37. Finally, in addition to the usual Fees Orders customarily taken at the July Group of Sessions, the Synod will be asked to approve changes to the Church Representation Rules and the Clergy Representation Rules (giving effect to recommendations of the Elections Review Group) and a number of instruments (on one of which a decision was deferred at the February Group of Sessions) making changes to the Rules of the Funded Pension Scheme and the Past Service Scheme.

Clergy Pensions: Presentation

38. The Clergy Pensions Task Group, reconvened at the request of the Archbishops, is due to have published their second report (GS 1746) on the funding of the scheme and the impact of the current financial recession (its first 'scene-setting' paper having been published in March). A presentation will be given on behalf of the Task Group of the main findings of the group's work and the options for the future of the scheme.
39. The publication of the report will start a consultation process with the responsible bodies which sponsor the scheme, with the Group asking for responses (through Bishop's Councils in the case of the dioceses) by the end of October. If this process results in the need for further changes to the scheme, these are likely to be put to the General Synod for endorsement in February 2010. This would be followed by a statutory consultation period with scheme members, with any necessary scheme rule changes then being brought back to the Synod. The presentation will alert Synod to the issues being raised and afford an early opportunity for any questions to be addressed.

Archbishops' Council: Spending Priorities 2010-2015

40. The Archbishops' Council established a Review Group under the chairmanship of Mr Andrew Britton to undertake a strategic financial assessment of the Council's spending priorities for the period up to the end of the next Synodical quinquennium. The Council has now considered the report of the Group (GS 1731) and has endorsed its recommendations. The Council has agreed that the report should be the basis for a take note debate in the Synod, before the Council gives more detailed consideration to the outworking of its conclusions in the context of the 2011 and subsequent budget rounds.

Archbishops' Council: Budget

41. The budget (GS 1730) has been formulated following a round of consultations, including in the Inter Diocesan Finance Forum and consideration by the Finance Committee and the Archbishops' Council.

Liturgical Business

Additional Weekday Lectionary and Amendments to Calendar, Lectionary and Collects (GS 1724)

42. The package to which the Synod will be invited to give First Consideration includes the proposed 'pillar lectionary' of 'stand alone' readings suitable for use where there is a different congregation each day (e.g. at cathedral evensong), and amendments designed to update (but not revise) the Calendar by adding a small number of Commemorations of people who have now been dead for more than the minimum fifty years or have recently died as martyrs. The opportunity has also been taken to expand the existing Lesser Festival of William Wilberforce to include two other representative anti-slavery campaigners, and to make detailed minor corrections to the existing Lectionary.

Archbishops' Council: Annual Report

43. The Archbishops' Council's annual report for 2008 (GS 1732) has been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice 2005, and this year time has been allocated for a substantive debate (rather than being listed for deemed approval).

Church Commissioners' Annual Report: Presentation

44. Synod members have welcomed the First Church Estates Commissioner's earlier suggestion that members should have the opportunity to discuss the Church Commissioners' annual report every year. There will be a short presentation by the First Church Estates Commissioner, followed by an opportunity for questions to the First and Third Church Estates Commissioners.

Sunday, 12 July

The Church's Ministry with People with Learning Disabilities

45. The Committee for Ministry of and amongst Deaf and Disabled People (CMDDP) and the Mission and Public Affairs Division have established a Learning Disability Working Party, which has produced a report entitled *Opening the Doors: ministry with people with learning disabilities and people on the autistic spectrum* (GS 1725), and an accompanying DVD. The Synod is invited to commend the guidelines contained in *Opening the Doors* to dioceses and parishes.
46. The debate will be prefaced by an introductory presentation by the Bishop of Blackburn (Chair of CMDDP), which will include a showing of the DVD.

Constitutions Review (GS 1737)

47. The Constitutions Review Group was set up by the Archbishops' Council under the chairmanship of Canon Dr Christina Baxter, to conduct the quinquennial review of constitutions of bodies accountable to the Archbishops' Council. The report of the Review Group was the subject of a presentation (followed by questions) at the February Synod. A consultation process has ensued, and the Group has considered a number of submissions from General Synod members. The Council has now considered the revised report of the Review Group and invites the Synod to endorse the Review Groups' recommendations, and

to invite the Council and the Standing Orders Committee to take the steps necessary to give effect to them.

Episcopal and Senior Church Appointments: Bradford Diocesan Synod Motion

48. This motion invites the Synod to request the Archbishops' Council to formulate proposals for reductions in the numbers of episcopal and senior clergy posts, taking into account reductions in the number of stipendiary clergy over the past thirty years, and to make recommendations to the Synod within three years. Background papers have been produced by the Bradford Diocese (GS 1733A), the Dioceses Commission (GS 1733B).

A Good Childhood Inquiry

49. *A Good Childhood* was published in February, just before the February Synod. (Copies of the report were available at the February Synod, and further copies are available on request.) It was a landmark report of the first major independent Inquiry into childhood, and was commissioned by The Children's Society. The patron of the Inquiry was the Archbishop of Canterbury, the author of the report was Richard Lord Layard, and the chair of the Inquiry and co-author of the report was Professor Judy Dunn.
50. The purpose of the Synod debate is to provide Synod members with an opportunity to respond to the findings of *A Good Childhood*, in the context of a take note debate, and to lay foundations for a debate in due course on the Board of Education's children's and youth strategies. The debate is resourced by a report from the Children's Society and the Mission and Public Affairs Division, entitled *Being Adult about Childhood: a consideration of The Good Childhood Inquiry* (GS 1744).

Monday, 13 July

Anglican Communion: an update by the Archbishop of Canterbury

51. The Archbishop of Canterbury, will give a brief report about the recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Jamaica. The Archbishop and the three Church of England members of the ACC who accompanied him to Jamaica (the Bishop of Bristol, Canon Elizabeth Paver and the Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin) will then answer questions.

Legislative Business

52. See paragraphs 33 to 37 above.

Clergy Discipline Measure: London Diocesan Synod Motion (also Chelmsford Diocesan Synod Motion)

53. The Diocesan Synod Motion from London expresses concern about the pastoral implications of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003, and requests the Archbishops' Council to review the practical outworking of the Measure, and in particular the Code of Practice. The Chelmsford Diocesan Synod has passed a motion in broadly similar terms. The debate will take place on the London motion, with the concurrence of the Chelmsford Diocese; the two dioceses have produced a joint background paper (GS 1747A) and a member from Chelmsford will seek to speak early in the debate. The Clergy Discipline

Commission has itself undertaken a review of aspects of the Measure and the Code of Practice, and this is also circulated by way of resource for the debate (GS 1747B).

Farewells

54. There is a particularly large number of farewells on this occasion: to the former Dean of the Arches and Auditor (the Right Worshipful Sheila Cameron), and the Bishops of Chelmsford, Dover, Ely, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Southwell and Nottingham.

Prorogation

55. The Synod will be prorogued by the Archbishop of York no later than 4.45 p.m.

Other Work of the Business Committee

56. The Committee has continued to look at ways of making the Synod's business more accessible. It is preparing guidelines on the production of papers by those who will be presenting debates to the Synod, and invites Synod members to send in their comments on how the paperwork for the Synod could be better handled. The Committee is looking at improvements in the sound system and microphone facilities.
57. Proposed changes in arrangements to meet the Archbishops' Council's publishing requirements will lead to some changes in relation to the publication of the Report of Proceedings. With effect from the July Synod, the Report will be published electronically on the General Synod website only, with a limited number of bound photocopies for the copyright libraries. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of making available Synod papers (and the Report of Proceedings) on a CD-ROM.
58. The Committee noted that there had been little response from Synod members to the suggestion that members might be allowed to sign Private Members' Motions between groups of sessions, and has decided not to pursue this further.
59. Synod members are invited to send comments on any aspect of the Synod's business to David Williams, Clerk to the Synod, who will see that communications are circulated to the Committee.

On behalf of the Business Committee

Kay Garlick

May 2009

Membership of the Business Committee

The Revd Prebendary Kay Garlick (Hereford) - *Chair*

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Basingstoke

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Ven Alan Hawker, Archdeacon of Malmesbury (Bristol) - *Vice-Chair*

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford)

The Ven Alistair Magowan, Archdeacon of Dorset (Salisbury)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Gerry O'Brien (Rochester)

Mrs Rosalind O'Dowd (London)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

Professor John Craven (ex officio)

The Revd Canon Glyn Webster (York)

The Secretary to the Committee is the Revd David Williams
and the Assistant Secretary is David Pertaub

Forecast of future General Synod business

The forecast of business provides a forward look to the Groups of Sessions in February and July 2010. There are always considerable uncertainties when looking ahead in this way, so this should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod before the end of the present quinquennium.

Legislative business

February 2010

- Amending Canon No 29 [Clergy Terms of Service] – Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Women Bishops legislation – Revision Stage (and/or July)
- Pastoral and Mission Measure – Revision Stage and Final Drafting/Final Approval
- Care of Cathedrals Measure – Revision Stage and Final Drafting/Final Approval
- Capability / grievance procedures and directions relating to maternity and related leave under the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations
- Standing Order changes to give effect to the recommendations of the Constitutions Review Group in relation to Boards, Councils, etc

July 2010

- Amending Canon No 29 [Clergy Terms of Service] – Promulgation
- Usual Fees Orders

Liturgical business

February 2010

- Additional Weekday Lectionary and Amendments: Revision Stage

July 2010

- Additional Weekday Lectionary: Final Approval

Other business

February/July 2010

Relationship between the Church of England and the Lutheran Council of Great Britain: report from CCU

ARCIC report on Mary: *Grace and Hope in Christ*

Fresh Expressions

Mission-shaped Church

Parochial fees policy

Church heritage and the repair of church buildings

Ethical Investment: report from Ethical Investment Advisory Group

One or more Diocesan Synod Motions and/or Private Members' Motions are customarily included in the agenda for each Group of Sessions.