

**GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2011
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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LITURGICAL COMMISSION

The Bishop of Wakefield to reply:

The Revd Canon Simon Bessant (Sheffield) to ask the Chairman of the Liturgical Commission:

- Q1** Messy Church has proved to be a valuable tool for parishes throughout the land seeking to engage with young families in their communities. Has the Liturgical Commission considered whether it should produce guidelines or materials which would enable those leading Messy Church events to bring the worship into line with the principles behind *Common Worship*?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Timothy Walker to reply as Third Church Estates Commissioner:

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard (Southwark) to ask the Church Commissioners:

- Q2** Can the Church Commissioners confirm that, in exercising their responsibilities in connection with the possible disposal of the Zurbaran paintings at Auckland Castle, they will take account of the paintings' significance both to the Jewish, Muslim and Christian history of England and to the cultural patrimony of the North East generally?

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith to reply as First Church Estates Commissioner:

Miss Sally Muggeridge (Canterbury) to ask the Church Commissioners:

- Q3** How will the cost of funding any new Provincial Episcopal Visitors (PEVs) appointed to fill the vacant sees of Ebbsfleet and Richborough be met, and in particular will any of their costs or expenses be met by any dioceses, and, if so, which ones?

PENSIONS BOARD

Mr Jonathan Spencer to reply:

Mr Colin Slater (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the Pensions Board:

- Q4** What were the grounds for the recent increases in charges to residents of residential homes run on behalf of the Pensions Board, and was the potential hardship to such residents taken fully into account before the increases were imposed?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

Dr Philip Giddings to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

WRITTEN REPLY

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

- Q5** Can the Council make available to the members of the Synod any response made by the Council to the Charity Commission's recent consultation on its future strategy, and confirm that it will continue to seek to promote an acceptable level of religious literacy on the part of the Commission's staff?

Mr Andrew Britton to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Mark Beach (Coventry) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

- Q6** Can the Archbishops' Council report on what progress has been made since the Coventry Diocesan Synod motion, amended by the Synod, was passed last July, and what level of consultation with the House of Bishops has been involved?

Mrs Mary Chapman to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

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

Q7 The answers to Question 6 and its supplementary at the November 2010 Group of Sessions implied that publication of statistics on clergy ethnicity had been delayed by technical difficulties. Have these technical difficulties now been overcome, so that the ethnicity information will be available routinely, beginning with the 2010 clergy statistics?

Dr Philip Giddings to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q8 Has the Archbishops' Council yet discussed Richard Moy's PMM approved by the Synod last July, calling on the Council to identify funding streams to enable the creation of an online resources library to help hard-pressed parishes who wish to use high quality visuals in worship? If so, what progress has been made?

Mr Nick Harding (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q9 Following the success of the Weddings Project has any thought been given to the mission opportunities that would be provided by a 'Beginnings Project' focused on Baptism and Thanksgiving?

Mr Andrew Britton to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q10 Has any decision yet been made by the Council about how the £12m allocation in this triennium for initiatives that will promote growth will be distributed? If it has, who will make the decisions, and how may parishes or dioceses submit applications for consideration?

The Revd Stephen Pratt (Lichfield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q11 Given the uncertainty that currently surrounds S2P, was consideration given to whether it would have been preferable to postpone the implementation of the clergy pension package approved by the Synod in July 2010 until the position in that respect was clearer?

The Revd Stephen Pratt (Lichfield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q12 When the Government publishes its proposals as regards S2P, what action will be taken, and how quickly, if they are found to affect the future value of clergy pensions adversely?

The Archbishop of York to reply:

Mrs Sarah Finch (London) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q13 Following the decision on 18 January in the case involving Peter and Hazelmary Bull and relating to their bed and breakfast business, in which the judge recognised that the outcome “does affect the human rights of the defendants to manifest their religion and forces them to act in a manner contrary to their deeply and genuinely held beliefs”, will the Archbishops' Council be considering that and other similar decisions and advising on their implications for members of the Church of England?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Archbishop of York to reply:

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

Q14 In the light of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Presidential Address in November, how is the House of Bishops taking forward his suggestion that we need to find a new way of engaging with the discussion concerning matters of human sexuality in relation to the life of the Church of England?

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

Mrs Alison Ruoff (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q15 Is it possible for the House of Bishops to clarify the lessons that it seeks to teach the Church in its report *Affirming our Common Humanity*, GS Misc 972, notably paras 15–18 inclusive?

The Revd Canon Anne Stevens to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q16 In view of the welcome publication of the House of Bishops' Theological Statement *Affirming our Common Humanity*, stressing the Church's 'abhorrence of all forms of racism', will the House consider publishing an equivalent statement on the Church's abhorrence of all forms of sexism?

The Revd Canon Robert Cotton (Guildford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q17 In 1993 English Football began to combat racism with the "Kick it out" campaign, and now is having publicly to deal with the similarly offensive behaviour of sexism. At a time that the Synod is grateful for *Affirming our Common Humanity* (GS Misc 972), being a theological statement about issues associated with racism, what plans are there for House of Bishops theologians to prepare a similar document that will address the ills of sexist behaviour?

The Bishop of Manchester to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

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

Q18 Given that Standing Order 60(b) gives the House of Bishops power to amend an Article 8 Measure "as it thinks fit" after it has been approved by a majority of diocesan synods and completed the Final Drafting Stage:

- (a) when has the House amended such a Measure in exercise of that power in the past; and
- (b) if the House amends such a Measure in exercise of that power, in what circumstances does the Measure have to be referred again to the dioceses under Article 8 in its amended form before being considered by the Synod on the Final Approval Stage?

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

Ms Susan Cooper (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q19 How much progress has been made by the working group established by the House to prepare a draft of the Code of Practice that would be required under the draft legislation to admit women to the episcopate?

The Bishop of Birmingham to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

The Revd Dr Philip Plyming (Guildford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q20 Did the House of Bishops discuss growth plans in the course of 2010 and, if it did, what steps have been taken to summarise the best practice identified in the discussion and share it with the General Synod and diocesan synods?

The Bishop of Leicester to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q21 What opportunities has the House had to make representations to the coalition government regarding the social, economic and other consequences of the proposed programme of cuts, and what responses have been received?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply:

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Secretary General:

Q22 What procedure would have to be followed for the Anglican Church in North America to be in communion with the Church of England and/or part of the Anglican Communion?

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Secretary General:

Q23 Since 1992 how many former Roman Catholic clergy have been received into the Church of England to function as clergy, and are there any comparable figures available for former Roman Catholic laity who have joined the Church of England in this period?

CLERK TO THE SYNOD

The Revd David Williams to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

- Q24** Please supply both the actual numbers and the relevant percentages of the composition of the Houses of Clergy and Laity in November 2010 in the following categories:
- Female/male
 - Age in bands of 5 years from 29 and under to 70 and over, as at the start of the November Group of Sessions 2010
 - Ethnic minority/white
 - Length of previous service on General Synod by quinquennia – newly elected, 1 previous term, 2 previous terms etc

Mr Paul Boyd-Lee (Salisbury) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

- Q25** Can it be confirmed that members of the General Synod and of the general public may lawfully download and print Synod documents, the copyright to which is vested in the Archbishops' Council or other national Church institutions, and which are only made available on the Synod website?

WRITTEN REPLY

Dr Graham Campbell (Chester) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

- Q26** A package of papers (including voting papers) posted by the General Synod Secretariat on 6 December 2010 reached me on 13 January 2011. In view of this performance by Royal Mail, which prevented me from voting in the election, will the Clerk to the Synod consider alternative ways of distributing time-sensitive material to Synod members?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Oxford to reply:

The Revd Jeremy Fletcher (York) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q27 What response has the Board made to the Government about the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, and does the Board plan to engage with the Government about the omission of Religious Education as a core subject?

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q28 As I understand from the National Association of Teachers of RE that many head teachers are likely to cease to provide GCSE courses in religious education rather than risk their students leaving school without the Government's 'gold standard' of academic success in the form of the English Baccalaureate, what action can the Board recommend with a view to

- (i) ensuring that GCSE RS is included in the EBacc; and
- (ii) encouraging the Secretary of State to give SACREs the power to hold head teachers and governors to account for their decisions about making proper provision for RE?

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q29 March 2011 has been designated as Celebrating RE month by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. Its aim is to showcase RE at its best and to publicise the value and importance of RE for every child and young person. In the light of the Government's seemingly negative attitude towards RE at present, how can we encourage churches and schools to support this initiative?

Mrs Alison Ruoff (London) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q30 Can the Board advise the Synod on the progress made with regard to the question of the use of halal meat in schools, following the reply to my question on the subject at the November 2010 Group of Sessions?

Canon Elizabeth Renshaw (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q31 What is the Board's strategy for increasing the number of Church of England Academies and, as these new autonomous institutions develop, enabling the Church to influence the character and ethos of the education young people receive in the next 200 years?

Mr Nigel Greenwood (Ripon & Leeds) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q32 With the five-year strategy for the Church's engagement with young people in further education colleges due to be completed in July, what progress has been made in reaching the ambitious targets for chaplaincy and multi-faith support set out in the *Pushing Further* report?

Mr Robin Lunn (Worcester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q33 Is the Board concerned about the lack of male Sunday School leaders and the consequent loss of benefits that they bring? If it is, has the Board considered what should be done to increase their number?

WRITTEN REPLY

Canon Elizabeth Renshaw (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q34 Does the Board intend to take steps to promote a debate in the General Synod on the consequences of the Education White Paper and the increase in Student Tuition Fees, including the spiritual, moral and ethical effects these changes will have for our children and young people?

CHURCH BUILDINGS COUNCIL

The Bishop of London to reply:

The Revd Tony Redman (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chairman of the Church Buildings Council:

Q35 The journal *Historic Churches* recently suggested that metal theft was the fastest rising crime in the UK. Since all dioceses have been significantly affected by the theft of lead from church roofs, leaving hundreds of congregations and communities across the country worried about how to afford to replace what has been stolen and how to prevent further thefts occurring, what steps is the Church Buildings Council taking to tackle this epidemic and what help will be available to PCCs to combat this dreadful attack on the nation's ecclesiastical heritage?

The Revd Tony Redman (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chairman of the Church Buildings Council:

Q36 What is the Church Buildings Commission doing to help PCCs to discourage bats from sharing and defecating in spaces set aside for public worship?

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Church Buildings Council:

Q37 What is the Council's view on the installation of solar panels on church roofs for heating water or for generating electricity?

MINISTRY DIVISION

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- Q38** (a) Will the Ministry Division commission detailed research into the longer-term benefits and limitations for ordinands and the Church of different models of theological education and training so that decisions about investment in theological education and training can be informed by wider considerations than just the short term cost; and
- (b) if not, why not?

The Revd Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead (Guildford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q39 *The Final Report on the Regions* (GS Misc 745, 2004) outlined the steps which needed to be taken to set up Regional Training Partnerships – albeit with a wide range of possible ways of working. Seven years on, has the Ministry Council seen real benefits in this process and, if so, how does it plan to encourage the development of RTPs throughout the country in order to ensure that the decision to have Regions has been implemented fully and effectively?

The Revd Ruth Yeoman (Bradford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q40 There were unfilled places at theological colleges and on courses in September 2010. In the light of that, can it be confirmed that the Church of England remains committed to a strategy of offering theological education through colleges and courses in both provinces into the future?

The Revd Ruth Yeoman (Bradford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q41 Government funding for theological education for licensed ministries will reduce in 2012/13. If provision were to continue at the same level with the same take-up, what additional funding would be needed to make up the shortfall?

The Revd Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead (Guildford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q42 Following the Bishop of Norwich's letter of 23 November 2010 detailing the national *Assessing of the End of Curacy process*, what steps is the Ministry Council taking to ensure that there will be equality of opportunity and parity in assessment for all IME 4–7 curates across all the dioceses?

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

Q43 Given the excellent work being done by the Mission and Public Affairs Division on “Faith, Work and Economic Life” reported on in GS Misc 974 and 974B and the associated issue of *Crucible*, what steps are being taken by the Ministry Division (in association with the House of Bishops and others) fully to utilise Ministers in Secular Employment, who have both theological education and a wide range of expertise in many areas of work and economic life, to enhance the Church’s ministry with both Christian and non-Christians in their working lives and with the institutions that affect the economy, and to identify the resources that could be devoted to this, to counteract the widespread tendency for people to be sucked into parochial affairs and ministry?

REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q44 What representations have been made to HM Revenue and Customs to try and increase the mileage and fuel allowance for cars, which has been the same since 2001?

The Revd Mark Steadman (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q45 In the light of the recent Government announcement of the phasing-out of the default retirement age, will the Committee consider bringing forward proposals to review the current mandatory clergy retirement age of 70?

WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q46 Can the Committee provide details of the average level of relocation allowance and pension that are payable to

- (a) diocesan bishops;
- (b) suffragan bishops;
- (c) archdeacons; and
- (d) parish clergy?

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q47 In a response to Questions at the July 2007 Group of Sessions, the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds (answering on behalf of the Chairman of the Ministry Division) informed the Synod of a review of the standard Church of England application form for ministerial appointments. The questions concerned the presence on the form of information concerning marital status, information about the applicant's spouse and children and personal health information. In the light of this assurance:

- (a) what progress can RACSC report on this review; and
- (b) if it is completed, is it intended that such information remain on the standard form?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Dr Philip Giddings to reply:

The Revd Charles Razzall (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q48 In the light of the continuing unrest in many countries of the Middle East, would the Mission and Public Affairs Council consider promoting a reflective and theological debate in the General Synod as a matter of some urgency?

Mr Martin Dales (York) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q49 This year sees the introduction of the Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Easter Egg to mention Jesus by name. What is the Council doing to encourage the wider Church to devise and support such evangelistic innovations?

Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q50 What arrangements is the Council making to submit a response to the Ministry of Justice on the Green Paper *Breaking the Cycle*?

CLERGY DISCIPLINE COMMISSION

The Bishop of Guildford to reply:

WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn) to ask the Chairman of the Clergy Discipline Commission:

- Q51** Since the coming into force of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 on 1 January 2006, how many clergy discipline tribunals have been held, how many appeals have there been by respondents
- (a) against any penalty imposed; and
 - (b) on any question of law or fact,
- and how many of those appeals have been successful?