

GENERAL SYNOD

July 2003 Group of Sessions

Report by the Business Committee

Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

1. The agenda for the July Group of Sessions covers a wide range of subjects and is very full, with a strong outward mission and social responsibility focus as well as a substantial amount of financial business. There are also major debates on ecumenical relations, ministry matters, and the Church's role in the nation's heritage of buildings.

Venue and Timing

2. The July meeting of the General Synod will take place at the University of York from **8 pm on Friday 11 July to 1 pm on Tuesday 15 July**.
3. Principal debates at the July Synod include:
 - **A children's strategy for the Church** (para 62)
 - **Racial justice: follow-up to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry** (paras 41-42)
 - **Embryo research** (para 53-54)
 - **Ethical investment** (para 60)

- **Church buildings strategy, and the faculty jurisdiction** (paras 57-58)
- **Financial issues facing the Church** (paras 66-70)
- **Ordination training: structure and funding** (paras 36-39)
- **Clergy professional conduct** (paras 26-28)
- **Anglican-Methodist Covenant** (paras 45-50)
- **Legislative business: including guaranteed annuities** (30-35)
- **Choosing diocesan bishops: resumed debate** (para 7, 40, 56 and Annex A).

4. There have been a number of requests for debates which the Business Committee has been unable to accommodate in the agenda for the July Synod through want of time. These included a request from the Council for Christian Unity for a presentation from the delegation to the Conference of European Churches Assembly in Trondheim (which will take place just before the July Synod). In response to this request, the Business Committee has suggested a broad-based debate on European ecumenical issues at a future Group of Sessions, when CCU has had an opportunity of reflecting on the Trondheim Assembly. The Committee has also received requests for a presentation and debate on the latest Report from the Doctrine Commission, and a debate on the reform of the House of Lords (following on from the debate on parliamentary democracy at the February Synod). The Committee intends that debates on both these subjects will take place at the February Group of Sessions next year.

5. It is also envisaged that there will be debates at the February 2004 Synod

(a) on ARCIC and the *Gift of Authority*, sponsored by the CCU (taking into account the Private Member's Motion on ARCIC from the Revd Jonathan Baker), and (b) on civil partnerships, sponsored by the Mission and Public Affairs Council, in the light of the Government's review proposals (which are due to be announced in the summer), taking into account the York Diocesan Synod Motion on cohabitation.

6. The Committee has decided, in order to share further information with Synod members, to issue a forecast of business, currently expected to feature at the forthcoming Groups of Sessions in 2004 and 2005. There are always considerable uncertainties when looking ahead in this way, so this should not be read as more than a broad indication, but it is hoped that members will find the document helpful.
7. In the light of the adjournment of the debate on one of the motions concerning **Choosing Diocesan Bishops** at the February Group of Sessions, the Business Committee has decided to invite the Synod to permit the consideration of options other than eight or four for the number of elected diocesan members on the Crown Appointments Commission. The procedural background is set out in Annex A. The procedural motion to facilitate this will be moved immediately after the debate on the Report by the Business Committee.
8. The Committee has received a request from the Birmingham Diocesan Synod for the Business Committee to seek the Synod's consent to re-introduce the motion on **Gender Neutral Titles**, which was the

subject of a next business motion at the February Synod. The Committee wishes to test the mind of the Synod on this matter, and will therefore invite the Synod to give its general consent to the re-introduction of the motion under SO 32 and SO 24 (immediately after the procedural motion relating to Choosing Diocesan Bishops).

9. The Committee is mindful that there had been no debate on the Diocesan Synod Motion (after the introductory speech by Ms Bridget Langstaff) before the next business motion was moved. Moreover, the need to accommodate an emergency debate on Iraq on the same day may have been a factor for some Synod members in voting for the next business motion. If the Synod is minded to agree to its re-introduction, it will be taken as the first item of contingency business in July or, failing this, as the next Diocesan Synod Motion to be taken in February 2004.
10. The next item of contingency business (on a related subject) will be the **Sheffield Diocesan Synod Motion on Amending Canon 20**. The preceding three diocesan synod motions in the list on - (i) the consecration of women to the episcopate (Guildford), (ii) cohabitation (York – see para 5), and (iii) the clergy freehold (Oxford) - have been ‘parked’ by the Committee, pending the outcome of the relevant reviews.
11. As regards private member’s motions, the next motion in the list, from the Revd Jonathan Baker, will be considered in the context of the debate on ARCIC in February 2004 (see para 5). The next motion thereafter

is on stipend differentials, but under SO 24 this cannot be considered until February 2004. (This is because the decision made by the Synod in the debate on stipends, pensions and other financial issues in November 2002 that differentials be rounded down, implied that they be retained). As regards other private members' motions, none has yet attracted 100 signatures, which the Business Committee considers is a reasonable threshold for motions to be included as contingency business at this Group of Sessions. Therefore, no private members' motions have been listed on this occasion as contingency business.

12. A financial comment has been prepared by the Finance Division on items of Synod business which have significant financial implications, and this will be circulated in an Order Paper.
13. The Business Committee has continued to consider ways in which the business and the procedures of the General Synod might be made more accessible, both to Synod members and to the Church more generally. In pursuit of this aim, members of the Committee had a useful meeting in May with representatives of two groups of Synod members – the Communicating General Synod Group and the Making Synod User Friendly Group – and the Committee will be reflecting further on the helpful proposals from the two groups at its next meeting.

Dates and Hours of Sitting

14. The times of the July Group of Sessions are set out on the front of the Agenda (GS 1500). The notes – to be

circulated in the second Synod mailing - on transport, accommodation, etc, supplied to members who are coming to York, include a timetable, which also shows the times of services and meals.

Anglican and Ecumenical Representatives

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

Rt Revd Juha Pihkala, Bishop of Tampere,
Church of Finland
Mrs Inge Lise Langkjer, Evangelical-Lutheran
Church in Denmark
The Revd Richard Pain, Church in Wales

In addition, the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Neil Richardson, and the Vice-President, Mrs Judy Jarvis, will be present in the public gallery for the debate on the Anglican-Methodist Covenant on Sunday 13 July.

16. Young Anglican adult observers will also be present in York as in previous years and will no doubt welcome the opportunity, outside the formal proceedings, to meet as many Synod members as possible. The young adult observers will also be involved in the Synod worship in the Central Hall.

Synod Worship

17. There will be a clear strand of worship throughout the Synod and the worship will reflect some of the themes of business before Synod. Holy Communion will be

celebrated at 7.30 am on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday in the Central Hall. The decision to hold the services in the Central Hall follows an experiment on one day last July, where a much larger number of people shared in worship, and a number of people expressed enthusiasm for the change.

18. On Sunday 13 July, the Synod will attend a service of Holy Communion in York Minster. Evening worship will take place daily in the Central Hall at 6.20 pm. It is also intended to continue the practice begun in 2002 of a short act of worship in the Central Hall, immediately before the morning sessions on Monday and Tuesday. (On Saturday, the group work will include a time of prayer and there will not, therefore, be a separate morning act of worship in the Central Hall.) Service leaflets will be distributed to members at York.
19. Arrangements for transport to the Minster on the Sunday will be announced in a separate notice to be circulated later. A special coach service will be provided, tickets for which will be on sale from the information desk in the concourse of the Central Hall. As there will not be enough places for everyone on the coaches, it is hoped that some members will walk or use their car and take passengers. There is usually plenty of vacant space on Sunday mornings in the car parks near the city centre (for which a fee may be charged).

Voting Procedures

20. Members are reminded that particular voting procedures on a division apply at York. The Business

Committee has decided to alternate (in successive years) the practice at York of ascending and descending the stairs in order to vote. Therefore, this year clergy and laity wishing to vote 'yes' will vote by descending the stairs and leaving the Hall through the exits to the concourse; those wishing to vote 'no' will ascend the stairways and leave via the doors to the balcony. Members who have difficulty in ascending or descending the steps in order to vote are reminded that they may remain in their seats and have their vote taken by a member of the staff who will pass it on to the registrar.

Order of Business

21. The business of the Synod has, as usual, been arranged by days. The business each day will follow the order set out in the daily list given in the Agenda, except where it is necessary to modify this. Every effort will be made to give the Synod the longest possible notice of any variations which it is proposed to make in the timetable and to keep such changes to a minimum. Members are, however, 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 Chairman, unless other provision has already been made for it.
22. If there is no such outstanding business and an unexpected gap opens in the Synod's agenda, then unless the adjournment is carried, the Business Committee has decided that the next item to be taken will be the contingency business, set out in paragraphs

8-11 (i.e. the Birmingham Diocesan Synod Motion on Gender Neutral Titles (subject to the Synod's agreement), followed by the Sheffield Diocesan Synod on Amending Canon No 20). Members are reminded that the rubric 'not later than' in the Agenda does not prevent an item coming on significantly earlier than the time stated, depending on the progress of the preceding business.

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 pm on Friday 11 July**.

Content of Business

Introductions (Friday, 11 July)

24. There will be the customary introduction of new members and the welcoming of the ecumenical representatives.

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. After this debate, the procedural motion in respect of Choosing Diocesan Bishops will be moved. The general consent of the Synod will then be sought

under SO 32 and SO 24 for the re-introduction of the Birmingham Diocesan Synod Motion on Gender Neutral Titles. Any comments on the proposed re-introduction of this motion should be made in the debate on the Report by the Business Committee. This is because the process of obtaining the general consent of the Synod to the re-introduction of the Birmingham Diocesan Synod Motion will not itself be preceded by any debate.

Clergy Guidelines on Professional Conduct

26. The *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy* (GS 1499) arise from a meeting in July 1999 of the Standing Committee of the House of Clergy (which brings together the Standing Committees of the two Lower Houses of Convocation), which considered a paper about the Employment Relations Act and its implications for the Church. The ensuing discussion led to the proposal that a joint committee of the two Lower Houses be set up to prepare a Code of Professional Conduct.
27. The Convocations approved the proposal in February 2000, and the draft was circulated for discussion in the dioceses in July 2002. It has now been revised to take into account the comments received. The joint committee has used the Ordinal as a broad framework, as the contents of these services speak of the ministry to which the ordained clergy are called. The document seeks to give guidance to the clergy on the practical outworking of this ministry in a rapidly changing world.

28. The debate in Synod is intended to provide an opportunity for the whole Synod to consider the Guidelines, to commend them to the Church, and then to invite the Convocations to approve them. The formal decision to approve the Guidelines rests with the Convocations because they have formulated them. At their meeting on the evening of Monday 14 July, each Convocation will be asked to approve the Guidelines and to instruct that they be circulated to all the clergy in the Province concerned.

Group work (Saturday, 12 July)

29. There will be an opportunity for group work Bible study, concluding with prayer.

Legislative Business

30. The legislative business for this Group of Sessions will, as usual, be found in Special Agenda I. First, having completed its Revision Committee stage, the **Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure** (which contains a number of uncontroversial changes to church legislation), returns to the Synod for revision.
31. The principal piece of new legislation to be considered is the draft **Stipends (Cessation of Special Payments) Measure** (GS 1505), which will be before the Synod for First Consideration. It gives effect to the proposals for the abolition of guaranteed annuities under the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 and some other special stipend payments which the Synod debated in November 2002.

32. After giving the matter very careful consideration, the Business Committee is satisfied that the resolutions which the Synod passed at that stage constitute an instruction to the Committee to bring forward a draft Measure which provides for the money saved by abolishing the payments to be “ring-fenced” for use for stipends. Accordingly, a provision to that effect appears in clause 3 of the draft Measure.
33. The Committee is very much aware, however, that the issue of legislatively “ring-fencing” this money has been and remains a controversial one. Thus the Committee thinks it should draw members’ attention to the fact that the Revision Committee will need to scrutinise clause 3 carefully in the light of this, and that it is open to any member to submit proposals to the Revision Committee to modify or delete the “ring-fencing” provisions.
34. The usual **fees orders** will be laid before the Synod for approval. The Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2003 will be taken on the 'deemed approval' procedure unless, in accordance with SO 69, any member requests it to be debated or proposes an amendment to it. In the light of the debate at the July 2002 Group of Sessions, however, the Synod will be invited to approve the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2003, which will determine the level of fees to be paid to diocesan registrars under their retainers in 2004. The Synod will also be invited to approve the Parochial Fees Order 2003.

35. The remaining item of legislative business is the **Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation** (see paragraph 56).

Structure and Funding of Ordination Training

36. Ministerial training and enabling lay discipleship have become key strategic issues as the Church seeks to respond to new challenges in its mission and ministry. A major report, which forms the subject of this debate, entitled *Formation for Ministry within a Learning Church* (GS 1496), was commissioned by the Archbishops' Council, and produced by a working party chaired by the Bishop of Chichester. It reviews the training needs of the clergy in the context of the learning needs of the Church as a whole.
37. Proceeding from the conviction of the diversity of God's gifts to the Church, it seeks to:
- raise the standard of the initial training of the clergy;
 - promote patterns of lifelong learning;
 - strengthen lay theological education;
 - co-ordinate the work and resources of our existing ministerial training institutions and other potential partners;
 - promote ecumenical partnership in the training enterprise;
 - secure the best value for the Church's expenditure in training.
38. With these aims, the report offers a broad strategy for the development of training to be implemented

regionally and locally in the coming years. The report goes on to make a series of recommendations as part of an integrated strategy for ministerial and lay theological education. The report has been commended by both the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops for debate by the General Synod. A summary of the report (GS Misc 710) has been prepared to assist Synod members. An outline implementation plan (GS Misc 711) has also been drawn up by the Ministry Division and endorsed by the Archbishops' Council, subject to the outcome of the Synod debate, and this is circulated for information.

39. This item will be the subject of a presentation, followed by questions, on Saturday 12 July. Two fringe meetings will then be held to allow members to discuss the issues and seek any clarification. Finally, the following motion, seeking the Synod's approval of the recommendations in the report, will be debated on the afternoon of Monday 14 July.

Choosing Diocesan Bishops

40. The background to this is set out in paragraph 7 and Annex A. A report by the Crown Appointments Commission Review Steering Group (GS 1510) will be circulated.

Statistics of Ethnic Origin

41. This will take the form of a presentation by the Revd Lynda Barley (Head of Research and Statistics, Archbishops' Council) under Standing Order 95A. The presentation will explain and comment on the results of

the exercise requested by the General Synod in November 1999 to gather statistics of ethnic origin for those on the electoral roll (and churchwardens and parochial church council members) alongside the general revision of the electoral roll in 2002. (The request was contained in a Diocesan Synod Motion from Southwark.) The exercise will help to inform the next debate, on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Follow-up. A report on the exercise will be circulated (GS 1502).

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Follow-up: Called to Act

Justly

42. *Called to Act Justly: A Challenge to Include Minority Ethnic People in the Life of the Church of England* (GS 1512) forms the next stage in the follow-up to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report as it affects the Church of England. It follows on the report *Called to Lead* (GS 625, 2000) and provides a clearer picture of the demographic profile of the Church of England as it relates particularly to minority ethnic people. It focuses on five areas identified as priority in *Called to Lead* – education and training, vocation (to ordination), youth, developing leadership, and the relationship between the Church the police services. In addition, *Called to Act Justly* includes a more detailed consideration of institutional racism and an appropriate theological response. The report’s recommendations provide an agenda for the next stage of practical action.

Questions

43. Under SO 105, members may address Questions to the Secretary General, the Clerk to the Synod, the

Chairman of any body answerable to the Synod through the Archbishops' Council (including Boards and Councils), the Chairman of any Church of England body on which the Synod is represented, the Chairman of each of the three Houses of Synod, and the Church Estates Commissioners. Anyone wishing to ask a question must give notice of it to reach the Clerk to the Synod **by 5.30 pm on Wednesday 2 July**. The Questions notice paper will be distributed at the beginning of the Group of Sessions.

44. Members are reminded that 'omnibus' questions are not in order. If a member wishes to query several points, each should be the subject of a separate question. Detailed information, tables of figures, etc are better dealt with in a written answer and members are urged to be selective in matters which they raise orally at Question Time, including in any supplementaries which must be framed as a question and should be kept brief. Members should indicate clearly when submitting a Question whether it is for oral or written answer.

Anglican-Methodist Covenant

45. In July 2002, the General Synod requested that dioceses should study the report, *An Anglican-Methodist Covenant* (GS 1409), the common statement of the Formal Conversations, set up by the General Synod and the Methodist Conference in 1997/8, which was published and circulated to Synod in December 2001. The Synod asked that Diocesan Synods should debate whether they approved the terms of the Covenant itself (consisting of a preamble, affirmations and commitments), and should record the voting figures.

46. Forty dioceses have to date notified the Council for Christian Unity of the outcome of the Diocesan Synod debates, and the Covenant has been approved by substantial majorities in each of these dioceses. There has also been substantial support for the Covenant in the Methodist district synods. The CCU has prepared a report outlining the process of ‘reception’ in the two Churches, summarising voting in diocesan and district synods and the responses received from other Churches and ecumenical partners (GS 1513).
47. The General Synod is asked to take note of this report, to approve the Covenant, to encourage the Church of England at large to implement it, and to authorise the setting up of a joint implementation commission.
48. Three following motions have so far been passed by Diocesan Synods:
- from Newcastle, seeking the resolution of the outstanding ‘obstacles’ for the organic unity of the two Churches, as identified in the Common Statement; a similar motion has been passed by the Rochester Diocesan Synod;
 - from Southwark, believing that the Covenant entails a movement towards the interchangeability of presbyteral ministries, and seeking to take steps to effect that change.
49. Both the dioceses of Newcastle and Southwark have formally indicated that they would wish to see the motions debated by the General Synod. The Rochester

diocese has indicated that it is content that its motion should be recorded in the Agenda (and on the Order paper) on the basis that the Newcastle motion will be debated instead. The dioceses of Newcastle and Southwark have produced background information on their motions (GS Misc 716A and B) and CCU has also provided a background note (GS Misc 716C). The Business Committee considers that it is appropriate for the two motions to be debated at this juncture, after the debate on the Covenant itself.

50. Members of the Synod are reminded that because the Covenant does not at this stage involve changes to the structural relations between the Church of England and the Methodist Church, the Business Committee has taken the view that it does not constitute Article 8 business as defined in Standing Order 131.

Liturgical Business: Additional Collects - Revision Stage

51. The Liturgical Business for this Group of Sessions is the Revision Stage for the **Additional Collects**. In July 2001, the Synod passed a resolution calling on the House of Bishops to commission ‘additional collects in a worthy contemporary idiom’. A set of such collects was presented to the Synod in February for First Consideration and has now been revised by the Revision Committee.

Pastoral Care (Lichfield Diocesan Synod Motion)

52. This item was listed as contingency business at the February Synod. A background paper was prepared by

the Lichfield Diocese (GS Misc 709A) and a background note with information from the staff in the Education, Mission and Public Affairs, and Ministry Divisions of the Archbishops' Council (GS Misc 709B) was also circulated. Both papers are being re-circulated. This is a wide-ranging motion, which seeks to re-affirm the importance of pastoral care in the life and ministry of the Church of England at every level.

Embryo Research: Some Christian Perspectives

53. This item of business takes into account the request from the Derby Diocesan Synod that the Mission and Public Affairs Council should prepare a report for debate by the General Synod. It will also help to inform the debate on the report from the Ethical Investment Advisory Group in respect of investment in stem cell research.
54. The Mission and Public Affairs Council has prepared a briefing paper (GS 1511), which takes into account the papers which have been prepared hitherto to brief bishops in the House of Lords, particularly at the time that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, the 2001 Regulations, and the 2002 Act concerning the creation and use of cell nuclear replacement embryos for research, were being debated in Parliament. The report also lists previous involvement in the subject by the General Synod and the former Board for Social Responsibility. The major report on the subject, *Personal Origins* (1985, second edition 1996) was circulated to members of previous Synods on publication, and some copies are still available on request.

Presidential Address (Monday, 14 July)

55. **A Presidential Address will be given by the Archbishop of Canterbury.**
Legislative Business: Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation

56. Amendments to the Vacancy in See Committees Regulations 1993 are necessary in order to implement some of the recommendations of *Working with the Spirit*. The Synod will therefore be invited on Sunday 12 July to approve an amending Regulation, which is being re-circulated (GS 1508). An explanation of its provisions is provided in the Third Report of the Crown Appointments Commission Review Steering Group (GS 1510). The procedure set out in Standing Order 71 will be followed. As the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 is an Act of Synod, it is proposed that if the amending Regulation is approved, the amended Regulation should be re-proclaimed an Act of Synod.

Church Buildings Strategy

57. The aim of this debate is to highlight the role of church buildings in the spiritual life of the nation as centres for community, social, cultural and education activity, and as an expression of our national cultural inheritance. It argues that more help is needed to support and enable the wider use of church buildings and seeks to encourage partnerships, especially with Government and other public agencies, to take account of the contribution which church buildings make to the national cultural heritage.

58. A report has been prepared by the Church Heritage Forum (GS 1514), which is chaired by the Bishop of London and on which the Council for the Care of Churches and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England are represented. The intention is that, subject to the approval of the report by the Synod, a further report should be prepared, with case studies, to present to Government and other bodies with the aim of enhancing understanding and seeking a new partnership with them.

Faculty Jurisdiction (Private Member's Motion: Ven Alan Hawker)

59. Following on from the debate on the church buildings strategy, the Archdeacon of Malmesbury's Private Member's Motion asks questions about the present scope and exercise of the faculty jurisdiction, and seeks to amend it in the light of current secular practice. Background notes have been produced by the Archdeacon of Malmesbury (GS Misc 715A) and the Council for the Care of Churches (GS Misc 715B).

Ethical Investment Advisory Group Report

60. The Ethical Investment Advisory Group's seventh Report, *Investing with Responsibility* (GS 1495) details a year of progress against the backdrop of a difficult and challenging environment for investors. The Report features the Group's proactive work on human embryonic stem cell research, and charts continued progress on corporate governance and shareholder activism on the part of the three national Church

investment bodies. The Report also features work on spread betting, mobile telephones and health, access to medicines and preferential pricing, Christmas Day trading, and engagement with companies generally.

Structure and Funding of Ordination Training

61. The background to this debate is given in paragraphs 36-39.

Children's Strategy

62. *Sharing the Good News with Children: The Church of England's Children's Strategy* (GS 1515), has been developed through a similar process to that adopted for the Youth Strategy, *Good News for Young People*, which was whole-heartedly endorsed by the General Synod in November 2002. Like the Youth Strategy, the Children's Strategy has been developed in the light of two of the Archbishops' Council's four themes (Theme 2: *Equipping to evangelise* and Theme 3: *Welcoming and encouraging children and young people*). The report is a product of the Education Division and the Mission and Public Affairs Division working collaboratively and has been the subject of wide consultation. The agenda detailed in the strategy is demanding but achievable and, given active support in dioceses, deaneries and parishes, would make a substantial difference to the Church's vital work among children.

Convocations/House of Laity

63. The two main items of business before the Convocations are the **Guidelines for the Professional**

Conduct of the Clergy (see paras 26-28) and a discussion of **employment arrangements in relation to the clergy** (in the light of the ongoing Review). The main item of business before the House of Laity is a similar discussion of employment arrangements and the clergy.

Archbishops' Council Annual Report (Tuesday, 15 July)

64. The Archbishops' Council's annual report for 2002 (GS 1503) reflects the wide range of work undertaken within the overall context of the Council's themes. The new infrastructure of the Council, reflecting the outcome of the Guildford Review, largely came into effect at the beginning of 2003 and will feature in next year's report. The report for 2002 therefore marks a time of transition; it was also a particularly demanding year, being the first year of the three-year programme of budget cuts.
65. The financial statements have been substantially remodelled by the Council's new auditors, Deloitte and Touche, to bring them into line with more widely accepted practice and to make them more accessible.

Financial Overview 2003

66. The financial presentation by the Financial Secretaries of the Council (Shaun Farrell) and the Church Commissioners (Christopher Daws) is intended partly to update the Synod on the implications of recent financial strategy decisions, and partly to set the scene for the important questions to be resolved next year

regarding the Commissioners' spending plans for the next triennium 2005-2007. These will be addressed as part of a strategic review of the role that the Commissioners' non-pensions expenditure might play in supporting the mission and ministry of the Church. The presentation will be made to the Synod under Standing Order 95A, and a report setting out the background to the Financial Overview will be circulated (GS 1516). There will be an opportunity for Synod members to ask questions after the presentation.

Strategic Financial Review

67. The presentation will be followed by a take note debate, which will focus on the strategic spending review (mentioned in paragraph 66), which will be introduced by the First Church Estates Commissioner. A separate report on this item will be circulated (GS 1517).

Archbishops' Council's Budget for 2004

68. The Archbishops' Council committed itself to freezing its administrative costs (Vote 2) for three years and 2004 marks the third year of this commitment; the freeze has also been extended for 2003-4 to its grants and provisions budget (Vote 3). *Discerning the Future* (GS Misc 671), circulated in June 2002, set out the savings required to achieve the necessary overall savings target; these are being implemented and are reflected in the 2004 budget. GS 1498 provides a commentary on all aspects of the budget, which the Synod will be asked to approve. The 2004 budget is summarised in a leaflet, which is also circulated to Synod members.

Mission Agencies Pension Contributions

69. The Pensions Measure 1997 lays on the Church Commissioners an obligation to meet the pension costs of clergy employed by certain mission agencies. To avoid this having an adverse impact on the amount made available in selective allocations to the less well resourced dioceses, it was agreed that the cost would be met through apportionment, and Vote 4 came into being as a result.

70. Following discussions with representatives of the mission agencies and dioceses, it has been agreed that the [contribution through Vote 4 to the Commissioners'](#) liability should be capped. [The Synod will be asked](#) to signal its agreement to [that](#) proposal, which is further explained in GS 1498 (the budget commentary).

Concluding Business

71. Following the customary farewells, the Synod will be prorogued, no later than 1 pm. The closing ceremonies will be conducted by the Archbishop of York.

On behalf of the Committee

Michael Perham
May 2003

Members of the Business Committee

The Very Revd Michael Perham (Dean of Derby) - Chairman

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd George Cassidy, Bishop of Southwell

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Ven Alan Hawker, Archdeacon of Malmesbury

The Revd Prebendary Sam Philpott (Exeter)

The Revd Simon Pothen (London)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Frank Knaggs (Newcastle)

Mrs Maryon Jagers (Europe)

Two members of the Archbishops' Council

Mr Brian McHenry (Southwark)

Professor Peter Toyne (Appointed)

(The Secretary to the Committee is David Williams and the Assistant Secretary is Malcolm Taylor)