

GENERAL SYNOD

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the July 2013 group of sessions in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998.
2. The Council is chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Archbishop of York and has met once since its last report was prepared – on 25 September.

Challenges for the new Quinquennium

3. The work of the Council and its staff is now primarily focused on the themes identified for the new quinquennium: Going for Growth, the Common Good and Re-Imagining Ministry. The Council considered draft reports on *Intentional Evangelism* and the *Church School of the Future* and agreed that they should be debated at Synod.

Spending plans for the period 2014-2016

4. Following the Council's decision, reported to the Synod in July, on the allocations to the dioceses for 2014 it agreed in September the allocations for 2015 and 2016. It also agreed the framework for a proposed new strategic development fund.

Parish Giving Scheme

5. The Diocese of Gloucester has for some years been running a successful parish giving scheme, which facilitates giving for donors to any church within the scheme. In essence, the scheme receives donations, passes them on with the addition of any Gift Aid amount and itself reclaims the Gift Aid.
6. A number of other dioceses have signed up to the scheme, but for the scheme to reach its full potential to benefit the parishes of the Church of England, it needs to grow beyond its current base in the Diocese of Gloucester. The Council has welcomed this initiative and has agreed to offer some funding over four years to help enable the scheme to develop from a local to a national initiative.

Appeals to the Court of Arches

7. The Council approved a request from the Church Buildings Council (CBC) for the necessary financial support to enable it to seek leave to appeal to the Court of Arches two judgements relating to the sale of heritage items from churches where, in the view of the CBC, issues of precedent were at stake.

Government and Parliament

8. The Council discussed a number of current legislative and other public affairs issues of particular relevance to the Church, including the implications of the Immigration Bill in relation to ecclesiastical preliminaries.

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21 October 2013

William Fittall
Secretary General