

GENERAL SYNOD

Report on the Archbishops' Council's activities

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the November 2015 group of sessions in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998. It has met on two occasions since its last report was prepared – on 1 December 2015 and 19 January 2016.

Renewal and Reform

2. The major focus of Council meetings remains the various elements of Renewal and Reform. In preparation for the February group of sessions, the Council has necessarily focussed particularly on the proposals for RME funding (GS 2020) and Resourcing the Future (GS 2021), but there will also be a presentation on the various workstreams in order to help the Synod continue to engage with developments.
3. As part of the Simplification work, legislation (GS 2014) will be before the Synod for First Consideration to implement paragraphs 41-87 of the report of the Simplification Task Group (GS 1980). The Synod will also have the opportunity to consider the merits of changing the way in which the Synod deals with certain kinds of legislation more generally. The idea of an Enabling Measure was first put forward in GS Misc 1094 *Optimising the Role of the National Church Institutions*. GS 2018 reflects the outcome of more detailed discussions and work since the publication of that report.
4. While the Council has had to focus on individual elements of Renewal and Reform as they reach critical points in their development, it has also received regular updates on the totality of the work that is being undertaken and is keen to ensure that it doesn't lose sight of the vision behind Renewal and Reform – to enable dioceses and parishes to plan for a hopeful future for the work of the Church of England.

Other mission developments

5. The Council has kept abreast of the initiative taken by the National Society to develop a new national teaching and educational learning partnership.

Other matters

6. The Council reviewed its risk register to ensure that the risks to which it was exposed had been properly identified and that mitigating measures were in place to manage those risks. It agreed its business plan for 2016, taking account both of the priorities and opportunities that lie ahead and of the major risks it has identified.
7. The Council reviewed the stipend-setting process and agreed a 0.8% increase in the National Minimum Stipend from 1 April 2016.

New Council

8. Elections to the Council – either directly to the Council or to offices that carry with them membership of the Archbishops' Council – have been taking place since November. At the time of printing, only the result of elections by the House of Clergy remained outstanding. The result of that election should be known at the beginning of February, but, subject to that, the membership of the Archbishops' Council as at the date of this report is as follows:

Joint Presidents

The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Archbishop of York

ex officio members

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) *Canterbury Prolocutor*
The Ven. Cherry Vann, Archdeacon of Rochdale (Manchester) *York Prolocutor*
Canon Dr Jamie Harrison (Durham) *Chair of the House of Laity*
Canon Elizabeth Paver (Sheffield) *Vice-Chair of the House of Laity*
Sir Andreas Whittam Smith *First Church Estates Commissioner*

Members elected by the House of Bishops

The Bishop of Ely
The Bishop of Sheffield

Members elected by the House of Clergy

Vacancy
Vacancy

Members elected by the House of Laity

Lorna Ashworth (Chichester)
Canon Mark Russell (Sheffield)

Members appointed by the Archbishops with the approval of the General Synod

Mary Chapman
Philip Fletcher
Matthew Frost
The Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy
Rebecca Salter
Canon John Spence

9. A programme of induction is underway to prepare the new Council for its role. This included presentation by four of the organisations Council engages with to help further its objectives: Church Urban Fund, Fresh Expressions, Near Neighbours and To Your Credit.
10. The Archbishops are grateful to former members of the Council for their hard work over the past five years and look forward to working with the new Council to support the work and mission of the Church of England.

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William Nye
Secretary General

xx January 2016