

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2009 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 6.15 P.M.
ON FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2009

PRAYERS

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK opened the Synod with prayers, including in particular prayers for Mr Ian Smith (York) who remains seriously ill.

The Synod also remembered Bishop Ian Cundy and Mr Philip Gore (Manchester) who had died since the last group of sessions in February.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

1 The following Anglican and ecumenical guests were welcomed to the Synod:

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)

The following new members were introduced:

Canon Dr Simon Cox (Blackburn)

Canon Nigel Davies (Carlisle)

Revd Robin Farrow (Chichester)

Canon Jonathan Fletcher (York)

Canon Jonathan Frost (Guildford)

The Rt Worshipful Charles George, QC (the new Dean of the Arches and Auditor of the Chancery Court of York)

Revd Ruth Hind (York)
Revd Andrew Howard (York)
Miss Priscilla Hungerford (Winchester)
Canon Colin Pilgrim (Bristol)
Revd Dr Vaughan Roberts (Coventry)
Jack Shelley (Exeter)

The following bishops were welcomed:

The Rt Revd Alan Smith (Bishop of St Albans)
The Rt Revd Steven Croft (Bishop of Sheffield)

The Rt Revd James Newcome (Bishop of Penrith), exercising the functions of the Bishop of Carlisle during the vacancy in see (though shortly himself to become the new Bishop of Carlisle).
The Rt Revd Frank White (Bishop of Brixworth), exercising the functions of the Bishop of Peterborough, during the vacancy in see.

BISHOP NATHAN HOVHANISSIAN

At the invitation of the Presidents, Bishop Nathan Hovhanissian of the Armenian Church of Great Britain addressed the Synod.

PROGRESS OF MEASURES AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK reported that:

The Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Measure had received the Royal Assent and come into force on 2nd April 2009.

The Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure had also received the Royal Assent. Sections 2, 10 and 13 of the Measure had come into force on 1st July and the remaining provisions would come into force on dates to be determined.

The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure had been submitted to the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament and was awaiting the Committee's consideration.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 1729)

3 The motion

‘That the Synod do take note of this report.’

was carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL (GS 1734)

4 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the recommendations contained in GS 1734.’

was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (GS 1735)

5 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the appointment of Mr Anthony Hesselwood as Chair of the Archbishops’ Council’s Audit Committee from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012.’

was carried.

GIVING FOR LIFE: A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (GS 1723 and 1723a)

6 The motion

‘That this Synod, affirming that God gives abundant gifts to us as individuals and as a Church, and that we are stewards of all that God has given us:

- (a) encourage church members to live generously as disciples of Jesus Christ, joyfully giving time, skills, money and other resources to God’s mission in the world;
- (b) reconfirm its challenge to church members to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income and to adopt as an initial target the giving of 5% of their after tax

income to and through the church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom; and

- (c) commend the *Giving for Life* guide (GS 1723a) to parishes and dioceses/deaneries for prayerful discussion and action.'

was moved.

30 The amendment (Item 30 Order Paper I) was carried.

31 The amendment (Item 31 Order Paper I) was carried.

Under Standing Order 14(f), the Chair adjourned the debate on the motion (as amended) at 5.55pm, the time fixed for the commencement of item 7.

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ON THE ARCIC REPORT *LIFE IN CHRIST* (GS 1736): PREPARATION FOR GROUP WORK

7 The Bishop of Guildford introduced the group work that was to take place the following morning.

Monsignor Andrew Faley gave a response.

The Chair adjourned the sitting at 6.15pm.