

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

JULY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS

1. The Business Committee is charged under Standing Order 4 with settling the Agenda for each group of sessions and determining the order in which business is to be taken. Subject to Standing Order 1, it is also responsible for all matters relating to the sessional arrangements of the Synod (Standing Order 125).
2. It is not a simple mechanical process to fit the items bidding for inclusion into the Agenda.
3. The Business Committee pays particular attention to the feedback received from members about how to ensure General Synod is more user friendly and better able to respond to current issues. It also gives careful consideration, where appropriate, to what individual items or the Agenda as a whole say about the General Synod, the Church of England and its mission. Does the Agenda make it look as if the Synod is overly concerned with its own processes? Or does the Agenda also exhibit a concern for the mission of the Church?
4. In putting together the Agenda for the July 2017 group of sessions, the Business Committee has included a certain number of items that are time critical – the Archbishops' Council's budget for 2018, for example, and an appointment to the Archbishops' Council; and an unusually short list of legislative items after a very heavy schedule in February 2017.
5. There are some items that may be considered inward-looking, but are, nevertheless of clear importance to the wider Church; such as the item on clergy wellbeing.
6. There are items that follow up on business from previous groups of sessions; such as the presentation by the House of Bishops on the proposals for a Pastoral Advisory Group on Sexuality and the development of a teaching document.
7. The Business Committee has also scheduled a number of more outward-facing, items. (A number of the items mentioned above, for example the two Amending Canons also have a missional aspect.) The report from the Archbishops' Council's Mission and Public Affairs Council on the Presence and Engagement programme looks at how the Church of England can proclaim the faith of Jesus Christ in a multi-faith context. There is an opportunity for Synod members to engage on a more informal basis with the various forms of support the national Church provides for local churches. This is aimed particularly at support for evangelism and discipleship in many different contexts. There is also a Diocesan Synod Motion on welcoming transsexual people and another on the cost of applying for citizenship.
8. The whole of Synod is undergirded by prayer and worship, a fact which we hope is apparent to those watching us. There will be the usual opportunities for collective worship in the Central Hall and in the Berrick Saul Building before and after the day's business together with a Continuous Praying Presence throughout.
9. Members will notice that the Synod's sittings in York will now more closely mirror the timing of sittings in London. Please do check the exact timings, though, so you are not caught out! Alongside that, the Business Committee has been advised that the resource cost (which is passed on to dioceses) of providing catering at fringe meetings is proving unsustainable. As a result, the Committee has agreed that food

will no longer be provided at fringe meetings and has lengthened the lunch break accordingly to allow members time to eat together before going to fringe meetings. The Committee hopes that this will have the benefit of strengthening the Synod's cohesiveness by providing the opportunity for members to spend more social time together – something that was appreciated during the two days in July 2016 when there were no Fringe meetings.

10. Members will see that there are a number of presentations. The Business Committee is aware that these are not always popular, however they do serve a number of different functions and this Agenda has several items which, in our judgement, the Synod is best served by receiving in the form of presentations (in some cases followed by a question-and-answer session).

11. This report falls into three parts:

- Part I introduces the Agenda for the July group of sessions and highlights distinctive features;
- Part II comments on individual items of business;
- Part III reports on other work and recent decisions of the Business Committee.

12. As always, we hope that the Business Committee has got the balance about right and we look forward to hearing from members during the debate on the Report, in the Committee's fringe meeting and in correspondence set to us via the Clerk following the group of sessions.

REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

I: The July 2017 Group of Sessions

13. The General Synod will meet at the University of York from 2.30 p.m. on Friday 7 July until 5.00 p.m. on Monday 10 July.
14. Given the relative lack of legislative business needing to be dealt with this July, the Business Committee did not feel it could justify taking more time out of people's schedule by extending the agenda into the morning of Tuesday 11 July. The Committee has therefore decided to conclude the group of sessions on the Monday evening, allowing those Synod members who are able to do so to travel home on that evening.
15. However, the Committee is aware that many Synod members will not be able to do so. Accommodation and catering will therefore be available for the Monday evening and breakfast will be available on the Tuesday morning.

Sessional Arrangements and Timings for the Day

16. Synod members will note that the Synod timetable is published with indicative timings for items of business (as it was in February 2017). This is intended to help Synod members plan their time and it should be emphasised that the length of time taken by any item is in the hands of the Synod.
17. Members are 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 Chair, unless other provision has already been made for it.
18. Under S.O.2(3) the Archbishops as Presidents of Synod have power to decide the timings of each group of sessions and thus the pattern for the days over which they are held.
19. The Presidents have accordingly determined that each full day of this group of sessions should **begin at 9.00 am and conclude at 7.00 pm**, with extended periods for lunch and dinner. This is to enable Synod members to have sufficient time eat together in their dining rooms during the lunch and dinner periods before or after going to fringe meetings.
20. Fringe meetings in York will no longer be catered, but drinks will be available in the meeting rooms. Lunch periods will begin at 12.30 pm and in the evenings, dinner will be available in the dining rooms from 7.00 pm. Fringe meetings can take place any time between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm for lunch meetings, or any time after 7.00 pm for evening meetings. In both instances, the decision whether to hold a fringe event before or after members have dined falls with the fringe organiser.

Synod Worship

21. The group of sessions will begin with an act of worship in the Central Hall. On the morning of Sunday 10 July, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at York Minster. The Archbishop of York will preside and the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach.

22. The Continuous Praying Presence will be based in the Berrick Saul Building and Synod members are welcome to join this where possible. All services, apart from those in the Central Hall and those taking in the convocations and House of Laity, will take place in the Berrick Saul Building. Please refer to the Agenda for a list of services for the period Friday to Monday.
23. Although Synod will be prorogued on Monday evening, Evening Worship and Night Prayer will take place in the Berrick Saul Building that evening for those Synod members who wish to attend.

Anglican and Ecumenical Guests

24. The following Anglican and ecumenical guests will be present as observers on this occasion:
- The Rt Revd Dr Matti Repo, Bishop of Tampere, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
 - The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, Scottish Episcopal Church
25. The Rt Revd Dr Matti Repo, Bishop of Tampere (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) will deliver a brief greeting to the Synod on behalf of the ecumenical guests on Friday afternoon.

Shape of the Agenda

26. The Agenda includes the following types of business:
- Regular procedural items such as the debate on the Business Committee Report, Synod Question Time and the short address on behalf of the Ecumenical Guests. There will also be a presentation from the Elections Review Group followed by a question and answer session.
 - Several items of Legislative Business, including some Article 7 Business which may involve a reference to the Convocations and House of Laity
 - A number of items of administrative business, including reports from the Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council Audit Committee. There will be the annual debate on the proposals for the Archbishops' Council's Budget for the coming year.
 - Synod will debate two Private Members' Motions and two Diocesan Synod Motions. A further Diocesan Synod Motion has been listed as Contingency Business
 - A presentation from the House of Bishops on the Proposals for the Pastoral Advisory Group on Human Sexuality and the development of the Teaching Document
27. If a reference is claimed on the Article 7 business, the Convocations and House of Laity will meet for this purpose on the late afternoon of Sunday 9 July. In such an event, the Private Members' Motion from the Revd Tiffer Robinson will be taken later in the Agenda should space permit, or will be taken at the next group of sessions.

Legislative Business

28. There is less legislative business to be considered at this group of sessions than at recent groups of sessions. In part that is because the Church Representation, Ecumenical Relations and Ministers Measure and Amending Canon No. 38 – which implement proposals arising from phase 2 of the work of the Simplification Task Group – have not yet completed their Revision Committee Stage.
29. The legislative business will be taken, in the order listed on pages 11 to 13 of the Agenda, during the afternoon sitting of Friday 7 July, the morning sitting of Saturday 8 July and the morning and afternoon sittings of Monday 10 July.
30. Further information about the individual items of legislative business is given in Part II below.
31. Item on forms of national support for local churches
32. The Business Committee has listened to feedback from some Synod members asking it to look into creating a space for more informal and interactive discussion of key issues for the Church. On the afternoon of Saturday 8 July members will meet outside the Standing Orders in workshops to hear about and discuss national evangelism initiatives, following these informal meetings the Synod will reconvene in the Central Hall for a formal debate on these initiatives.

Diocesan Synod Motions

33. Diocesan Synod Motions ('DSMs') are listed in Special Agenda IV. The three DSMs relating to the Anglican Communion Covenant remain 'parked', pending further discussions within the Communion. Some dioceses have withdrawn their DSMs on the Anglican Communion Covenant.
34. There are seven further DSMs awaiting debate. The Business Committee has previously stated that it will take the Blackburn Diocesan Synod Motion on "Welcoming Transgender People" this July. Accordingly, this has been scheduled for debate on the afternoon of Sunday 9 July.
35. Synod will be receiving an interim update on the progress of the Review Group on the Crown Nominations Commission at this group of sessions, so the Business Committee has decided not to take the Oxford DSM on 'The Role of the Crown Nominations Commission' this July.
36. The Business Committee has accordingly scheduled for the Monday morning the next DSM on the list which is the Birmingham DSM on 'The cost of applying for Citizenship'. There are three other DSM's, all on related environmental matters. The Business Committee will need to consider whether to take them separately or *en bloc* at a future group of sessions. For this reason, the Business Committee has scheduled as Contingency Business the DSM on 'Food Wastage' from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

Private Members' Motions

37. Private Members' Motions ('PMMs') are listed in Special Agenda III. There are 6 current Private Members' Motions on the list at present. Of these, three have

reached the threshold of 100 signatures needed in order for the Business Committee to consider scheduling a debate. These are as follows:

- Ms Jane Ozanne (Oxford) 'Conversion Therapy'
- Revd Tiffer Robinson (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) 'Schools Admissions Code'
- Mr Anthony Archer (St Albans) 'Same Sex Relationships after the Shared Conversations'

38. The Business Committee has scheduled the two PMM's with the most support at this group of sessions. The Private Members' Motion from Miss Jayne Ozanne will be debated on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July. The Revd Tiffer Robinson's PMM has been scheduled on the afternoon of Sunday 9 July. If a reference is claimed on the Sunday afternoon, the Business Committee will seek to take this item elsewhere on the remainder of the agenda. If there is no space to do so, the Business Committee will ensure that Mr Robinson's PMM is scheduled for the February 2018.

II: Individual Items of Business

Friday 7 July

39. There will be the usual debate on the **Report from the Business Committee**. This provides an opportunity for Synod members to raise points about the content and shape of the Agenda for this group of sessions, or about the Synod's business generally. Members may refer to a matter which is not in the Agenda at all but which, in their opinion, should be. However they should not get into the substance of the subject, but should confine themselves to its place in the Agenda or otherwise.

Legislative Business

40. After this, **Amending Canon No. 36**, which dispenses with prescribed forms of vesture at certain services, will return to the Synod for its Final Drafting Stage. (No Final Drafting Stage is required for **Amending Canon No.37**, which allows the usual burial service to be used in the case of those who have taken their own lives or not been baptised.)

41. As Article 7 business, both draft Amending Canons will then stand committed to the House of Bishops, which will meet on the morning of Saturday 8 July to consider them. Following consideration by the House (which may amend them) they will then be returned to the Synod for Final Approval – subject to the possibility of the Convocations and House of Laity calling for them to be referred to them under Article 7 of the Synod's Constitution. Members will be notified in the course of Saturday or early on Sunday as to whether a reference has been claimed.

Administrative Matters

42. This will be followed by three items of administrative business. The first of these will be an item inviting Synod to re-approve the **re-appointment of Mrs Mary Chapman to the Archbishops' Council**.

43. The second item will be a presentation of the **Annual Report of the Archbishops' Council's Audit Committee**. This will be presented by Mrs Chapman as Chair of the Audit Committee. The Archbishops' Council's Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of risk management processes, controls and governance arrangements, ensuring that all identified Archbishops' Council risks are being actively managed. This report focuses on the key work undertaken around the internal audit and risk management areas as well as outlining the Committee's responsibilities to support effective and timely production and sign off of the Archbishops' Council's Annual Financial Statements and Trustees' report.
44. Thirdly, the Synod will receive a presentation on the activities of the **Church Commissioners** as set out in their **Annual Report** for 2016.

Questions

45. The sitting will conclude with **Synod Questions**. In accordance with the requirements of the Standing Orders, any member wishing to ask a question of any of the bodies or officers specified in Standing Order 112 must give notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod by 12 noon on Tuesday 27 June 2017. Questions sent by email should be addressed to questions@churchofengland.org.
46. Written answers to Questions will be available in the Questions Paper which will be emailed to Synod members at least **one clear day** before Question Time. Synod members will be able to ask supplementary questions at Question Time.

Saturday 8 July

47. The morning will begin with a **Presentation from the Archbishop of Canterbury** on the House of Bishops' proposals for the Pastoral Advisory Group on Human Sexuality and the development of the Teaching Document. The Business Committee has agreed to a short period of Questions and Answers after the presentation.

Debate on the Presence and Engagement Interfaith Programme

48. The Synod will be debating a motion from the Mission and Public Affairs Council on the **Presence and Engagement Interfaith Programme**. This programme was established by General Synod in 2005 (GS 1577) and constitutes the Church of England's programme in parishes where more than 10% of the population follows other faiths.
49. The four elements of the programme are as follows:
- Maintaining a Christian presence in multi-faith communities
 - Building bridges with other faiths in pursuit of the common good (including the Near Neighbours programme)
 - Proclaiming the Christian faith in multi-faith communities
 - Equipping people (including converts from other faiths) for ministry.

50. The programme has reported back every few years to Synod, seeking a new mandate every five years. This is the first time that the report will return to Synod in this Quinquennium.

Legislative Business

51. Most of the legislative business to be considered at this group of sessions will be taken later on Saturday morning.

52. The **Legislative Reform Measure**, having been revised in February, returns for Final Drafting and Final Approval. The Measure facilitates the removal or reduction of legal burdens by enabling the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod to amend some primary legislation by way of order.

53. Also returning for Final Drafting and Final Approval after revision in February are:

- the **Statute Law (Repeals) Measure**, which repeals a significant number of enactments which are obsolete or no longer of practical utility; and
- the **Pensions (Pre-consolidation) Measure**, which makes minor changes to Church of England pensions legislation in anticipation of a forthcoming consolidation.

54. The Synod will be asked to give First Consideration (under the deemed procedure) to the **Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure**, which will make a number of uncontentious changes to ecclesiastical law.

55. Finally, the Synod will be invited to approve various orders, again under the deemed procedure: the **Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2017**, which sets the level of Church funding for the Churches Conservation Trust for the period 2018 to 2021; the **Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2017**, which makes provision for the fees payable to diocesan registrars by way of retainer in 2018; and the **Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2017**, which makes provision for the fees payable to ecclesiastical judges and others in 2018.

Amendments to the Standing Orders

56. The Standing Orders Committee is proposing in its 52nd Report a number of changes to the Synod's Standing Orders, mostly to put in place the new procedures that will be required in connection with the Legislative Reform Measure. The Synod's approval of the changes is being sought under the deemed procedure, but if a debate is required, or notice is given of any amendments, the changes will be debated after the completion of the legislative business on Saturday afternoon.

Forms of National Support for Local Churches

57. The morning will conclude with a **short introduction** to the learning sessions which will be taking place in the afternoon.

58. After lunch on the Saturday, members will meet informally, outside the Standing Orders, to engage in learning sessions to discover more about national initiatives for supporting evangelism, to offer feedback on these and consider how they might support them in their dioceses and parishes. Synod members will then break out

into six separate workshops where they will have the opportunity to meet with staff and others engaged in supporting evangelistic initiatives.

Formal Plenary Debate in the Central Hall

59. After this period of interactive workshops, Synod will re-convene to debate a short motion from the Archbishops' Council which refers to these initiatives entitled '**Forms of National Support for our Churches**'.

Private Members' Motion

60. Synod will then debate a Private Members' Motion on "**Conversion Therapy**" from Miss Jayne Ozanne (Oxford). This calls on Synod to endorse a January 2017 statement signed by The UK Council for Psychotherapy, The Royal College of General Practitioners and others condemning the practice of conversion therapy and calls on the Archbishops' Council to become a co-signatory to the statement on behalf of the Church of England.

61. The sitting will then close with worship.

Sunday 9 July

62. The Synod will resume on the afternoon of Sunday 9 July after the Minster service which will take place in the morning.

Diocesan Synod Motion

63. This Diocesan Synod Motion from Blackburn Diocese asks for the House of Bishops to consider whether to bring forward some nationally **commended liturgical materials to mark someone's gender transition**

Interim Report on the Review of the Crown Nominations Commission

64. Synod will hear a presentation from Professor Oliver O'Donovan, who is the chair of group commissioned by the Archbishops in 2016 to review the **Crown Nominations Commission**. In the light of the fact that the Houses of Clergy and Laity will be electing the central members for 2017 – 2022 over the summer, the Archbishops have requested that early reflections on the theological underpinning of the work of the CNC and on the role of central members are shared with Synod members in July. The Business Committee has agreed that Questions may be asked after the presentation. The Business Committee will be asked in due course to find time for the final report from the review group to be taken to Synod during 2018.

Debate on Clergy Well-Being

65. This report sets out the work of the House of Clergy Working Group on **Clergy Well-Being** which has been meeting since the end of 2016. The Synod is being asked to consider the issue of clergy well-being and support the establishment of a more formal Clergy Well-being Working Group to bring proposals for a Covenant for Clergy Well-being back to Synod by July 2019.

Possible Article 7 Reference meetings

66. Synod will be informed on the Saturday or Sunday whether the Convocations and House of Laity will be **seeking a reference on the Article 7 Business** in the form of Amending Canons No 36 and No 37.
67. If a reference is claimed, the Convocations and House of Laity will meet from 6.00 until 7.00 pm on the afternoon of Sunday 9 July. Room details will be set out in a Notice Paper. Evening Prayer will take place in these separate meetings.

Private Members' Motion

68. If a reference is not claimed, Synod will debate the Private Members' Motion on the **"Schools Admission Code"** from the Revd Tiffer Robinson. This calls on the Government to make changes to the Schools Admissions Code to give priority to children of clergy for entry to local schools.
69. The sitting will close with worship at 7.00 pm

Monday 10 July

Legislative Business

70. At different points on the Monday, subject to the completion of the Article 7 procedure, **Amending Canon No. 36** and **Amending Canon No.37** will return to the Synod for Final Approval, in the form agreed by the House of Bishops.

Diocesan Synod Motion

71. Synod will begin the morning by debating the Diocesan Synod Motion from Birmingham which calls on the Mission and Public Affairs Council and the Lords Spiritual to raise concerns with government on the **"Cost of Applying for Citizenship"**. It also calls on parishes to lobby their MP and support those who are struggling with the cost of applying for citizenship.

Report from the Elections Review Group

72. The Chair of the Business Committee will be presenting to Synod on some of the conclusions arising from the report of the **Elections Review Group**. In particular she will update Synod on the main recommendation, which is about the introduction of online voting in the Synodical elections of 2020. The Business Committee has allocated time for questions to be taken after the presentation.
73. The debate on the report will be followed by a presentation from the Elections Review Group on possible options for the reform of the electorate of the House of Laity

Financial Business

74. Synod will debate a number of items of finance-related business on the afternoon of Monday 10 July. Firstly, the Synod will receive a presentation on the **Archbishops' Council's Annual Report** which provides some context and background for the next item on the 2018 Budget. Synod will then be invited to approve the Archbishops' Council's expenditure **budget** for 2018, the Council's proposals for

apportionment amongst the dioceses, and the usual **pooling adjustment** in respect of additional **maintenance grants to ordinands**.

Farewells

75. After any remaining Legislative Business, Synod will bid farewell to the **Bishop of Bristol** and the **Bishop at Lambeth** who will be attending Synod for the last time prior to their retirement.

Prorogation

76. Synod will be prorogued not later than 5.00 pm on the afternoon of Monday 10 July.

III: Other Work of the Business Committee

Changing the Culture of General Synod

77. The Archbishops' Council has requested the Business Committee to continue with its on-going programme on 'Changing the Culture of General Synod' but to be more radical in its approach. In particular, the Council has requested the Business Committee to consider how the activities of General Synod are communicated within the Church and more broadly, and also how the General Synod supports the wider mission of the Church. The Business Committee will share its thinking on these themes at its Fringe Meeting and also welcomes comments from Synod members and others.

General Synod Code of Conduct

78. The Business Committee has prepared a draft Code of Conduct for Synod members. This is being circulated as a GS Misc 1162. The Code of Conduct is made up of a number of pre-existing and new policies:

- Pre-existing policy on Declaration of Interests
- Pre-existing policy on Code of Conduct for Synod members and NCI staff
- New section with a voluntary Code of Conduct for Synod members.

79. The Business Committee welcomes comments on this draft Code of Conduct. Feedback may be sent to the Committee via the Clerk on the email below. In addition, members of the Business Committee invites Synod members to join them to talk about this and other matters of concern and interest at the Business Committee Fringe Meeting on Sunday evening at 8.30pm.

80. The Committee will review comments received at a future meeting. The Code of Conduct will be issued in its final form at the February group of sessions.

New policy on Fringe Meetings and Displays

81. The Business Committee and the Presidents have approved a new Policy on Fringe Meetings and Displays. This has been emailed to all Synod members and is also available on the Members' Resources page of the General Synod website at the address below:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members'-resources.aspx](https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members-resources.aspx)

82. The Committee have introduced eligibility criteria for those who wish to apply for a fringe meeting or display. Fringe and display slots will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. The Presidents also reserve the right to refuse an application for a fringe or display should they consider it necessary under the conditions set out in paragraph 30 of the policy.

Synod Security

83. Synod members are reminded of their responsibility to be vigilant at all times to ensure the security of Synod members, visitors and staff. As stated in point 5 of the security policy, Synod members are requested not to leave any items unattended around the Central Hall or its environs.

Record of Business Done in 2015 – 2020 Quinquennium

84. The Business Committee have agreed some changes to the formatting of the record of Business Done in this Quinquennium. These include a more accessible visual format and word limits on each entry for ease of reading.

85. The Record of Business Done will no longer be published in the Business Committee report but is now available on the **Members Resources web page** and will be updated on the website prior to each new group of sessions.

86. Synod members are reminded that they have the responsibility themselves to update their dioceses and parishes on the outcomes of business conducted at Synod after each group of sessions.

On behalf of the Business Committee

The Revd Canon Sue Booy

Chair of the Business Committee

July 2017

Membership of the Business Committee

Chair

The Revd Canon Sue Booy

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Revd Graeme Buttery

The Revd Canon Simon Cawdell

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Anne Foreman

Canon Robert Hammond

Mr Clive Scowen

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

Mrs Lorna Ashworth

Canon Mark Russell

The Secretary to the Committee is the Clerk to the Synod (Dr Jacqui Philips) and the Assistant Secretary is Miss Polly Dunn

FORECAST OF FUTURE BUSINESS

Forecast of future General Synod business

February 2018

- Genetic screening, disability and abortion (title tbc)
- Affordable Housing
- Diocesan Board of Education Measure
- Report from the Ministry Council: Resourcing Ministerial Education
- Diocesan Synod Motions on the Environment from the Dioceses of Oxford, London and Truro
- Report from the Review of the Crown Nominations Commission
- Oxford Diocesan Synod Motion on “The Review of the Crown Nominations Commission”

July 2018 and beyond

- Appointment of Chair of the Pensions Board
- Diocesan Board of Education Measure (Revision Stage)
- Appointment of the Chair of the Appointments Committee
- Appointment of the new Chair of the Pensions Board
- Archbishops' Council Appointments