Here you will find an overview of each of the Committees and Commissions of the General Synod. Further information such as membership, future meeting dates and other useful documents can all be found here.

Appointments Committee

The Appointments Committee is a commission of the General Synod and the Archbishops' Council. It is responsible for making such appointments and/or recommendations on appointments to synodical and other bodies as the Synod or the Archbishops' Council require.

Members, meeting dates and more

The type of appointments for which they are responsible, include appointments to: synodical bodies, such as legislative steering or revision committees, the Standing Orders Committee etc. and boards, councils and committees of the Archbishops' Council.

They are also responsible for appointing representatives of the Synod on the governing bodies of theological training institutions, governing bodies of mission agencies (Partnership for World Mission); representatives of the Church of England at ecumenical conferences and at the governing assemblies of other denominations.

Members

Chair - Ven Pete Spiers (Liverpool)

Elected by the House of Bishops

Vacancy

Elected by the House of Clergy

Rev Canon John Dunnett (Chelmsford)
Rev Andrew Moughtin-Mumby (Southwark)
Rev Canon Dr Andy Salmon (Manchester)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Rebecca Chapman (Southwark)
Mrs Lucy Doherty (Portsmouth)
Mrs Sarah Finch (London)
Business Committee

The Committee is responsible for organising the agenda of the General Synod, enabling it to fulfil its role as a legislative and deliberative body. Many of its policies are available on the Members’ Resources page.

Members

Chair (elected by General Synod)
The Revd Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford)

Elected by the House of Bishops
The Rt Revd Martin Gorick, Bishop of Dudley

Elected by the House of Clergy
Fr Paul Cartwright (Leeds)
Revd Mark Ireland (Blackburn)
Revd Jody Stowell (London)

Elected by the House of Laity
Mr Clive Scowen (London)
Mrs Michelle Obende (Chelmsford)
Mr Nic Tall (Bath & Wells)

Appointed by the Archbishops’ Council
Mr Joseph Diwakar (Archbishops’ Council)
Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee was established and is required by law (the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919) and included the Constitution of the General Synod. Amongst other things, it is responsible for submitting Measures to Parliament for approval once they have received final approval by the General Synod.

Members, meeting dates and more

Members

Ex officio Members

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury (Joint Chair)
The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York (Joint Chair)
The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury)
The Revd Canon Chris Newlands (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York)
Dr Jamie Harrison (Chair of the House of Laity)
Canon Elizabeth Paver (Vice-Chair of the House of Laity)
The Rt Worshipful Charles George QC (Dean of the Arches and Auditor)
Mr Andrew Selous MP (Second Church Estates Commissioner)

Elected Members

The Revd Paul Benfield
Canon Peter Bruinvels
Mr Clive Scowen
The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith (Bishop of St Albans)
The Ven. Jane Steen, Archdeacon of Southwark
Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC (Deputy Chair)
Standing Orders Committee

The Standing Orders Committee keeps under review the procedures and Standing Orders (rules) of the General Synod.

Members, meeting dates and more

Members

Chair - Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC

Ex officio Members

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury)
The Revd Canon Chris Newlands (Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York)
Dr Jamie Harrison (Chair of the House of Laity)
Canon Elizabeth Paver (Vice-Chair of the House of Laity)

Appointed Members

Mr David Robilliard
The Revd Preb. Simon Cawdell
Mrs Mary Durlacher
Mr Clive Scowen

Secretary - Conor Gannon

Clergy Discipline Commission

The Commission monitors the exercise of discipline and highlights and encourages best practice.

Please visit the Clergy Discipline Commission page for more information.
Crown Nominations Commission

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) considers vacancies in diocesan bishoprics in the Provinces of Canterbury and York, and candidates for appointments to them.

Members and more information

At each meeting of the Commission the Chair is taken by the Archbishop of the Province for the vacancy under consideration.

The Commission identifies two candidates suitable for appointment, whose names are submitted to the Prime Minister by the appropriate Archbishop or, in the case of the Archbishopsric of Canterbury or York, by the chair of the Commission.

The names submitted are given in an order of preference decided upon by the Commission and the Prime Minister will submit the first name to Her Majesty The Queen for approval.

In 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York commissioned a theological review of the CNC's work. The review is currently underway and more information is available.

Members

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury)

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Doctor John Sentamu (Archbishop of York)

Elected members of the House of Clergy of General Synod:

The Reverend John Dunnett

The Very Reverend Doctor David Ison

The Reverend Canon Doctor Judith Maltby

Elected members of the House of Laity of General Synod:

Mr Anthony Archer

Ms Christina Baron

Ms Jane Patterson

Six members of the Vacancy-in-See Committee of the diocese whose bishopric is to become, or has become, vacant

Ex officio non-voting members
**Dioceses Commission**

The Dioceses Commission considers such matters as the reorganisation of diocesan boundaries, the creation and revival of suffragan sees, and the transfer of episcopal functions by diocesan bishops to suffragan and assistant bishops. The Diocese Commission was established in 2008 under Part II of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 and reports to the General Synod.

**Members and more information**

**Members**

*Chair* - Dame Caroline Spelman

*Vice Chair* - Vacant

*Elected Members*

Mr Clive Scowen
The Revd Neil Patterson
Canon Robert Hammond
The Revd Dr Rob Munro

*Appointed Members*

Ms Ruth Martin
The Right Revd Paul Williams
The Ven Karen Lund
Mrs Sue Slater

*Secretary* - Ms Jenny Axtell
Faith and Order Commission

The Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) advises the House of Bishops, the General Synod and the Council for Christian Unity on ecclesiological and ecumenical matters and acts as a theological resource for the Church of England as a whole.

Members and more information

Members

Episcopal

The Right Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry (Chair)
The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham
The Right Revd Dr Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester
The Right Revd Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield
The Right Revd Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston

Non-episcopal

Professor Nicholas Adams
The Revd Canon Professor Loveday Alexander
The Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone
Professor Mike Higton
Dr Joshua Hordern
The Revd Dr Rosalyn Murphy
The Revd Dr Emma Ineson
The Revd Thomas Seville CR

Secretary - The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen

More on the Faith and Order Commission can be found by following the link at the bottom on this page.
Fees Advisory Commission

The Fees Advisory Commission makes recommendations as to certain fees to be paid to ecclesiastical judges, legal officers and others, and embodies those recommendations in Orders which are laid before the General Synod for approval. If approved, the Orders take effect unless annulled by either House of Parliament, and are published as Statutory Instruments.

Members and more information


Members

Chair - Mr John Alpass

The Rt Revd Alistair Magowan (Bishop of Ludlow)

The Revd Stephen Trott

Mr Bill Husselby

Mr Niall Blackie

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC

The Revd Canon John Rees

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones

The Revd Christopher Smith

Secretary - Conor Gannon

Legal Advisory Commission

The Legal Advisory Commission gives advice on legal matters of general interest to the Church which are referred to it by the Archbishops’ Council and its Divisions, Boards, Councils and Commissions, by the General Synod and its Houses and Commissions, by the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pensions Board, and by diocesan clerical and lay office holders.

Members and more information

The Commission cannot accept requests for advice from private individuals or secular bodies. In addition, the Commission cannot normally give opinions on contentious matters, but it may be able to do so (depending on the circumstances) if the facts are agreed by all parties to the dispute, all parties join in referring the matter to the Commission for an opinion and it is not (and is not expected to become) the subject-matter of proceedings in the courts.
The opinions of the Commission and its predecessor, the Legal Board, on matters of general interest are published by Church House Publishing under the title Legal Opinions Concerning the Church of England.

Members

Chair - The Revd Canon and Worshipful Dr Rupert Bursell QC

Vice-Chair - The Revd Canon John Rees

The Rt Worshipful Charles George QC
The Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden
The Rt Worshipful Peter Collier QC
Mr Stephen Slack
Mr Christopher Packer
Prof. David McClean CBE QC DCL FBA
The Worshipful Mark Hill QC
The Worshipful Dr Charles Mynors
The Worshipful Morag Ellis QC
The Worshipful Ruth Arlow
Mr Peter Beesley
Mr Peter Foskett
Miss Cordelia Hall
The Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, Bishop of Lincoln
The Ven. Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes
The Revd Paul Benfield
The Very Revd Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester
Mr Robert Pearce QC
His Honour Judge David Hodge QC
Mr Andrew Roberts

Secretary - The Revd Alexander McGregor
020 7898 1722

Administrative Secretary - Conor Gannon
020 7898 1371
Legal Aid Commission

The Legal Aid Commission operates under the Church of England (Legal Aid) Measure 1994, and administers the Legal Aid Fund which was originally set up under the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963 and is continued by the 1994 Measure.

Members and more information

Legal aid under the 1994 Measure may be granted, subject to various conditions, for certain types of proceedings before Ecclesiastical Courts and tribunals; details of eligibility for legal aid and the Commission’s procedures, together with an application form for legal aid, are obtainable from the Secretary, on request.

Members

Chair

His Honour Judge Andrew Rutherford

The Rt Revd Alistair Magowan - Bishop of Ludlow
The Ven. Clive Mansell (Rochester) - Archdeacon of Tonbridge

The Revd Canon Sally Lodge (Chelmsford)
The Revd Paul Benfield (Blackburn)
The Revd Geoffrey Harbord (Sheffield)
The Revd Canon Joyce Jones (Wakefield)

Mrs Isabel Adcock (Chelmsford)
Mrs Rosaline Brewer (York)
Mrs Carolyn Johnson (Blackburn)
Mr Aiden Hargreaves-Smith (London)

Secretary

Stephen York
020 7898 1703
Liturgical Commission

The Liturgical Commission at present has four primary functions:

- To prepare forms of service at the request of the House of Bishops;
- To advise on the experimental use of forms of service and the development of liturgy;
- To share information and advice on liturgical matters with other Churches both in the Anglican Communion and elsewhere;
- To promote the development and understanding of liturgy and its use in the Church.

Members and more information

All of the Common Worship texts and the Book of Common Prayer can be found under the Prayer and Worship webpages.

Members

Chair - The Bishop of Exeter

Vice Chair - The Bishop of Lichfield

Ms Shayne Ardron
The Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone
The Revd Philip Barnes
The Revd Mark Earey
Ms Kashmir Garton
The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Irvine
The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones
Mr Simon Kershaw
The Revd George Lane
The Revd Fiona Mayer-Jones
Mrs Lucy Moore
Dr Bridget Nichols
The Revd Canon Dr Jo Spreadbury
The Revd Canon Dr Samuel Wells
The Revd Dr Jennifer Strawbridge

National Liturgy and Worship Adviser - Dr Matthew Salisbury
Contact Us

If you have a question about any of our Committees, please get in touch using the Contact Form below. Please pick “General Enquiry” for the subject line

- Current Start
- Preview
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Name ____________________________

Email address ____________________________

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Related Commission and Committee Pages

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Faith and Order Commission

More information on the work of the Faith and Order Commission

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Dioceses Commission

More work from the Dioceses Commission

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