

Private Members' Motions (PMMs) are one of a number of ways that debates can be brought to the attention of the General Synod. Private Members Motions fall under Special Agenda III. The other Special Agendas include [Legislative Business](#) (Special Agenda I), [Liturgical Business](#) (Special Agenda II), and [Diocesan Synod Motions](#) (Special Agenda IV).

Any member of the General Synod can write and submit a PMM. In order to decide whether a PMM should be put on the General Synod's agenda, the Business Committee requires a minimum of 100 expressions of interest in support for the motion to be debated in the form of signatures. By putting their name to particular motions, members are signalling that they think they should be debated. Information on how Synod members can sign PMMs can be found on the [Members' Resources](#) page.

When putting together the agenda for the next meeting of the Synod, the Business Committee considers the number of signatures each motion has received. Generally there is only space for one or two PMMs for debate in each meeting of the General Synod (group of sessions). While the motion with the most signatures is often the one selected, another may be selected if it has attracted considerable support (it might, for example, be more time-critical).

A motion that has been open for signature for three groups of sessions expires if it has not attracted 100 signatures.

Listed below are the current Private Members' Motions. These can be signed electronically by using the webform below, emailing synodpmm@churchofengland.org or via the [General Synod app](#).

Current Private Members' Motions

Vocations process and issues in human sexuality

Revd Mae Christie (Southwark) to move:

'That this Synod request that the House of Bishops remove any requirements relating to Issues in Human Sexuality from the Vocations (Shared Discernment) Process.'

146 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (see [list of signatures](#))

Review of the role of Paula Vennells

The Revd Dr Ian Paul (Southwell & Notts) to move:

'That this Synod, in the light of the central role of Paula Vennells in the Post Office Horizon scandal, and the comment by the Archbishop of Canterbury that 'Paula Vennells has shaped my thinking over the years', request that a full review be undertaken of the influence of Paula Vennells on the culture, decisions, appointments, and strategies of the House of Bishops and the wider Church.'

29 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (See [list of signatures](#))

Withdrawal of Valuing All God's Children

Mrs Rebecca Hunt (Portsmouth) to move:

'That this Synod:

Recognising widespread criticism and concerns raised at the content and use of Valuing All God's Children and following the publication of the Cass Review:

- a. Oppose the use of *Valuing All God's Children* by Church of England schools to justify inappropriate relationships and sex education and harmful pastoral practice towards gender questioning children.
- b. Regret the use of *Valuing All God's Children* against Christians in court to undermine the Church of England's teaching on marriage.
- c. Lament the lack of leadership from the Church of England in not speaking into our schools and culture about issues of identity.
- d. Call for the immediate withdrawal of *Valuing All God's Children* and an apology from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the National Society for the harm it has caused.'

30 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (See [list of signatures](#))

Strategy for encouraging the ministry of people from working class backgrounds

The Revd Alex Frost (Blackburn) to move:

'That this Synod welcome the work that has already been done to encourage the ministry of people from working class backgrounds, and request the Ministry Development Board to go further in developing a national strategy for the encouragement, development and support of vocations, lay and ordained, of people from working class backgrounds and report back to Synod to debate that strategy within 12 months.'

150 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (See [list of signatures](#))

Support for looked after children and those in care

Mrs Billy-Jo O'Leary (Rochester) to move:

That this Synod, recognising the enormous challenges facing looked after children and those in care;

- a. call upon the House of Bishops to appoint a lead Bishop with a specific brief recognising the enormous challenges facing Looked after children and care experienced young adults, to ensure their voice is heard; and
- b. request dioceses take proportionate action to support these children and young people and the communities who care for them.'

21 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (See [list of signatures](#))

Governance review of the House of Bishops

Dr Ros Clarke (Lichfield) to move:

That this Synod request that the House of Bishops urgently submit itself to an independent culture and governance review in order to restore trust and ensure that it is acting in an appropriate manner.'

50 signatures as at 20 January 2025 (See [list of signatures](#))

Recognising the Church of England as a Public Authority

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

That this Synod calls upon His Majesty's Government to make legislative changes to recognise the Church of England as a Public Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, acknowledging the Church's unique role as the Established Church, its significant public responsibilities in national and local life, and the importance of transparency and safeguarding in its governance and operations.'

Archbishop of York to step back

Mr Charles Houston (Hereford) to move:

That this Synod request the Archbishop of York temporarily step back from office while the assertions made by the Bishop of Warrington concerning her treatment by the Archbishop of York following her allegations against the former Bishop of Liverpool are investigated.'

February 2025.

Support a debate

By filling in and submitting the following form, Synod members are including his or her name on the list of members who support a debate on the selected PMM.

First name

Last name

Synod number

Email address

Postcode	<input type="text"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>

PMM to be signed

? I confirm that I am the person listed above.

? I am happy to share my data with the Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and Church of England Pensions Board. We will not share this data with third parties.

[Read our full privacy notice here.](#)

The Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners and Church of England Pensions Board are the three main operating bodies of the Church of England. The other [National Church Institutions can be found on our website.](#)

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