

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2016 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2016

WORSHIP

The Revd Michael Gisbourne led the Synod in an act of worship.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

1 The following introductions were made:

New members

The Ven. Martin Gorrick replacing the Ven. Karen Gorham (Oxford)
The Revd Steven Wood replacing the Revd Sue Groom (St Albans)
The Very Revd Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey
Mr Timothy Fleming replacing Mrs Sophy Vickers (St Albans)
The Revd Sr Anita Cook (Religious Communities)
Sr Catherine Harvey (Religious Communities)

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher (Bishop of Dorchester) acting for the Bishop of Oxford during the vacancy in See and the Rt Revd John Holbrook (Bishop of Brixworth) acting for the Bishop of Leicester during the Vacancy in See.

PRESENTATIONS

2 The Revd Canon Simon Butler (the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury); the Ven. Cherry Vann (the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York); Canon Dr Jamie Harrison (the Chair of the House of Laity); and Canon Elizabeth Paver (the Vice-Chair of the House of Laity) were presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury (as one of the Joint Presidents).

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business for the sitting on Monday afternoon was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that item 5 (Presidential Address) be taken immediately after item 3 (Appointment of the Chair of the Dioceses Commission).

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE DIOCESES COMMISSION (GS 2012)

3 The motion

‘That the appointment of Canon Professor Michael Clarke as Chair of the Dioceses Commission from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2021 be approved.’

was carried.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

5 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2013)

4 The motion

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

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AMENDING CANON NO. 34 (GS 1953D) Canon for Enactment (Finally approved July 2015)

500 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 34” be made, promulgated and executed.’

was carried.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
DRAFT MISSION AND PASTORAL ETC. (AMENDMENT) MEASURE
(GS 2014)
Draft Measure for First Consideration**

501 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Mission and Pastoral etc.
(Amendment) Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure stood automatically committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be submitted to the Clerk to the Synod not later than Monday 21st March 2016.

**THE SHARED CONVERSATIONS ON SPIRITUALITY, SCRIPTURE
AND MISSION**

6 Canon David Porter (Archbishop of Canterbury’s Director for Reconciliation) and Mrs Sandra Cobbin (Consultant, ‘Bridge Builders’) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107(3) and answered questions.

QUESTIONS

7 Supplementary questions in respect to questions 1 to 60, as set out on the Questions Paper, were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Revd Jonathan Beswick led the Synod in an act of worship.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2015 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.50 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT FROM THE EVANGELISM TASK GROUP (GS 2015)

8 The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Burnley, the Revd Elizabeth Adekunle (Acting Dean and Chaplain, St John's College, Cambridge), Mrs Beth Keith (an ordinand from the Diocese of Sheffield) and Canon Mark Russell (Sheffield) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

9 The motion

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

was carried.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2015 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2016

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND-CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
JOINT STUDY GROUP (GS 2016)**

The Revd Canon John McLuckie (Scottish Episcopal Church), who was seated in the Public Gallery, was welcomed by the Synod.

- 10 The Rt Revd Dr Angus Morrison (Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.
- 11 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the report of the Joint Study Group of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland (annexed to GS 2016) as a significant development in the relationship between the two churches;
- (b) approve the Columba Declaration, consisting of mutual Acknowledgements and Commitments, as set out in paragraph 38 of the report; and
- (c) request the Council for Christian Unity to oversee the implementation of the Commitments contained in the Columba Declaration and set up the Contact Group proposed by it.’

was moved.

- 20 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.
- 21 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.
- 11 The motion as amended

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the report of the Joint Study Group of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland (annexed to GS 2016) as a significant development in the relationship between the two churches;
- (b) approve the Columba Declaration, consisting of mutual Acknowledgements and Commitments, as set out in paragraph 38 of the report;
- (c) request the Council for Christian Unity to oversee the implementation of the Commitments contained in the Columba Declaration and set up the Contact Group proposed by it; and
- (d) grateful for the Church of England’s valued relationship with the Scottish Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion, request the Council for Christian Unity to ensure that the Scottish Episcopal Church is invited to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Contact Group.’

was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	243
AGAINST	50

49 abstentions were recorded.

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS
PAROCHIAL FEES (GS 2017A and GS 2017B)**

12 The motion

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to exercise its powers under s.1 of the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 so that fees prescribed as payable to parochial church councils in respect

of funerals and weddings should include any costs and expenses of providing a verger.’

was lost.

The motion

‘That the Synod do pass to the Next Business’

was carried.

As a result item 13 lapsed, and may not be reconsidered in the lifetime of the current Synod, except with the permission of the Business Committee and the general consent of the Synod.

PROPOSED ENABLING MEASURE (GS 2018)

14 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the view of the Archbishops’ Council that there needs to be a means of amending or repealing some primary legislation concerning the Church of England by a more rapid and less complex process than is currently possible;
- (b) welcome the proposals set out in GS 2018; and
- (c) invite the Council to introduce draft legislation at the July group of sessions to give effect to them.’

was moved.

22 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

14 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the view of the Archbishops’ Council that there needs to be a means of amending or repealing some

primary legislation concerning the Church of England by a more rapid and less complex process than is currently possible;

(b) welcome the proposals set out in GS 2018; and

(c) invite the Council to introduce draft legislation at the July group of sessions to give effect to them.’

was carried.

**CONTINGENCY BUSINESS
SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS
BLOOD AND ORGAN DONATION (GS 2022A and GS 2022B)**

The motion

‘That this Synod call on all Church of England parishes to encourage their members to consider, as part of their Christian giving:

(a) becoming blood donors; and

(b) registering as organ donors and making their wishes known to their families.’

was carried.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Revd Jane Morris led the Synod in an act of worship.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2016 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 1 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2016

SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS
IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON BENEFIT CLAIMANTS (GS 2019A and GS 2019B)

15 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) request the Church of England Mission and Public Affairs Council to evaluate, with others as appropriate, the impact of sanctioning upon benefit claimants; and
- (b) call on Her Majesty’s Government to implement the recommendations numbered 58-63 inclusive, made in December 2014 by the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry Report into Hunger in the UK *Feeding Britain* in respect of the use of sanctions upon benefit claimants.’

was moved.

23 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

24 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

25 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

15 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the extensive work already undertaken by the Church of England in partnership with others to evaluate the impact of benefits sanctioning and to identify and

promote recommendations for the reform of sanctions policy and practice;

- (b) call on Her Majesty's Government to implement the recommendations numbered 58-63 inclusive, made in December 2014 by the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry Report into Hunger in the UK *Feeding Britain* in respect of the use of sanctions upon benefit claimants;
- (c) call on Her Majesty's Government to initiate a full independent review of the impact and efficacy of the sanctions and conditionality regime; and
- (d) encourage every part of the Church of England to offer practical and pastoral support to those experiencing benefit sanctions, building on the Church's work with food banks, credit unions and debt advice.'

was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	320
AGAINST	0

2 abstentions were recorded.

RENEWAL AND REFORM

- 16 Canon John Spence, the Bishop of Sheffield, the Bishop of Guildford and Mr Jonathan Kerry (Diocesan Secretary, Leicester) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY 2016 GROUP OF SESSIONS

BUSINESS DONE AT 4.55 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2016

**RENEWAL AND REFORM: RESOURCING MINISTERIAL
EDUCATION (GS 2020)**

17 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) reaffirm the five objectives set out in GS 1979 for achieving the vision of a growing church with a flourishing ministry;
- (b) note that work on Resourcing Ministerial Education and on enhancing quality in all stages of ministerial development, set out in GS 2020, contributes to these objectives;
- (c) welcome the proposed new funding arrangements for initial ministerial education, agreed by the Archbishops’ Council following wide consultation, set out in GS 2020; and
- (d) request the Archbishops’ Council to report back to the Synod by July 2018 on the progress being made to secure both a step change in the number of ordinands and continuing improvement in their quality and deployability.’

was moved.

26 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost.

27 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

28 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	154
AGAINST	202

5 abstentions were recorded.

29 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

17 The motion as amended

‘That this Synod:

- (a) reaffirm the five objectives set out in GS 1979 for achieving the vision of a growing church with a flourishing ministry;
- (b) note that work on Resourcing Ministerial Education and on enhancing quality in all stages of ministerial development, set out in GS 2020, contributes to these objectives;
- (c) welcome the proposed new funding arrangements for initial ministerial education, agreed by the Archbishops’ Council following wide consultation, set out in GS 2020 and, recognising the vital contribution of TEIs and the importance of their full involvement in developing with dioceses a shared understanding of ministry and ministerial education and in implementing as set out in Annex F of GS 2020 the funding arrangements, request the Archbishops’ Council to report to the Synod by July 2017 on progress towards achieving these objectives;
- (d) request the Archbishops’ Council to report back to the Synod by July 2018 on the progress being made to secure both a step change in the number of ordinands and continuing improvement in their quality and deployability; and
- (e) request the Archbishops’ Council to report back to the Synod by July 2018 on the progress made by dioceses to

secure a step change in both the number and variety of authorised lay ministries.’

was carried.

RENEWAL AND REFORM: RESOURCING THE FUTURE (GS 2021)

18 The motion

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

was carried.

PROROGATION

19 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod at 4.55 p.m.