

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2017

WORSHIP

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

WELCOME

1 The following introductions were made:

New members

The Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave, the Bishop of Lichfield (who had replaced the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill)

The Revd James Hollingsworth replacing the Revd John Chitham (Chichester)

The Revd Dr Mark Bratton replacing the Revd Ruth Walker (Coventry)

The Revd Bill Braviner replacing the Revd Dr John Bellamy (Durham)

The Revd Catherine Blair replacing the Revd Canon Karen Hutchinson (Guildford)

The Revd Canon James Allison replacing the Revd Canon Jonathan Clark (Leeds)

The Revd Duncan Dormor replacing the Revd Canon Mark Tanner (Universities and TEIs)

Sarah Maxfield-Phillips replacing Alexandra Podd (Church of England Youth Council)

Edward Cox replacing Elliot Swatridge (Church of England Youth Council)

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2043)

2 The motion

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

was carried.

REVISED DATES OF GROUPS OF SESSIONS IN 2018

3 The motion

‘That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2018:

Monday-Saturday 5-10 February

Friday-Tuesday 6-10 July

Monday-Wednesday 19-21 November (contingency dates).’

was carried.

DATES OF GROUPS OF SESSION IN 2019-2020

4 The motion

‘That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2019-2020:

2019 Monday-Saturday 18-23 February

Friday-Tuesday 5-9 July

Monday-Wednesday 25-27 November (contingency dates)

2020 Monday-Saturday 10-15 February

Friday-Tuesday 10-14 July

Monday-Wednesday 23-25 November (Inauguration).’

was carried.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION (GS 2044)

5 The motion:

‘That this Synod, in the context of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the European Reformation and the Church of England’s understanding of the doctrine of justification as expressed in our historic formularies:

- (a) welcome signs of convergence between the churches on the doctrine of salvation, noting Resolution 16.17 of the Anglican Consultative Council in 2016 regarding the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* and its relation to the Helsinki Report and ARCIC II's *Salvation and the Church*; and
- (b) commend initiatives in this anniversary year to foster mutual understanding and reconciliation between churches, for the sake of our deeper renewal in the grace of God and our ability to share the gospel of salvation with all the world.'

was moved.

19 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

5 The motion (as amended):

‘That this Synod, in the context of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the European Reformation and the Church of England’s understanding of the doctrine of justification as expressed in our historic formularies:

- (a) give thanks to God for the rich spiritual blessings that the Reformation brought to the Church of England;
- (b) welcome signs of convergence between the churches on the doctrine of salvation, noting Resolution 16.17 of the Anglican Consultative Council in 2016 regarding the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* and its relation to the Helsinki Report and ARCIC II's *Salvation and the Church*; and
- (c) commend initiatives in this anniversary year to foster mutual understanding and reconciliation between churches, for the sake of our deeper renewal in the grace of God and our ability to share the gospel of salvation with all the world.'

was carried.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

6 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

QUESTIONS

7 Supplementary questions in respect to all of the questions as set out on the Questions Paper were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

THE LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2016 (GS 2051)

Order made under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986

Under Standing Order 71 the draft Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2016 was deemed to have been approved by the General Synod, no member having given notice of a wish to have the Order debated.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.50 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

HOLY COMMUNION

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK presided at a service of Holy Communion.

FAREWELL TO THE FIRST CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER

- 8 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to Sir Andreas Whittam-Smith (the First Church Estates Commissioner), who was attending his last meeting of the Synod. Sir Andreas responded.

SPECIAL AGENDA III
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

PRELIMINARIES TO MARRIAGE (GS 2045A and GS 2045B)

- 9 The motion

‘That this Synod, noting the Registration of Marriages Regulations 2015 and the growing burden and complexity of the legal requirements imposed on members of the clergy who conduct weddings in the Church of England, invite the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward draft legislation to replace ecclesiastical preliminaries to marriage by universal civil preliminaries, such as those which have been in operation in Scotland since 1977, when banns were replaced by a Marriage Schedule issued by the civil registrar.’

was moved.

- 20 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	146
AGAINST	148

13 abstentions were recorded.

9 The motion

‘That this Synod, noting the Registration of Marriages Regulations 2015 and the growing burden and complexity of the legal requirements imposed on members of the clergy who conduct weddings in the Church of England, invite the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward draft legislation to replace ecclesiastical preliminaries to marriage by universal civil preliminaries, such as those which have been in operation in Scotland since 1977, when banns were replaced by a Marriage Schedule issued by the civil registrar.’

was lost after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	10	16
Clergy	74	87
Laity	79	81

7 abstentions were recorded in the House of Laity.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**DRAFT MISSION AND PASTORAL ETC. (AMENDMENT) MEASURE
(GS 2014B)**

Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval (Revised July 2016)

Report by the Steering Committee (GS 2014Z)

500 The motion

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

was carried.

501 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure” be finally approved.’

was carried after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	23	0
Clergy	90	0
Laity	120	0

2 abstentions were recorded in the House of Clergy and 1 in the House of Laity.

The Chair reported that the Measure automatically stood committed to the Legislative Committee.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION AND CARE OF CHURCHES MEASURE (GS 2031A)

**Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval (First Consideration
July 2016)**

Consolidation Measure

Report by the Steering Committee (GS 2031Y)

502 The motion

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

was carried.

503 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure” be finally approved.’

was carried after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	23	0
Clergy	86	0
Laity	113	0

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Laity.

The Chair reported that the Measure automatically stood committed to the Legislative Committee.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM MEASURE (GS 2027A)

Draft Measure for Revision (First Consideration July 2016)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2027Y)

504 The motion

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

was carried.

Clauses 1-11

With the permission of the Chair clauses 1-11 were taken *en bloc* under Standing Order 58(4).

512 The motion

‘That clauses 1-11 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

Long Title

513 The motion

‘That the Long Title stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Legislative Reform Measure stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT STATUTE LAW (REPEALS) MEASURE (GS 2030)

Draft Measure for Revision (First Consideration July 2016)

Clauses 1 and 2

With the permission of the Chair clauses 1 and 2 were taken *en bloc* under Standing Order 58(4).

514 The motion

‘That clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

Schedule

515 The motion

‘That the Schedule stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

Long Title

516 The motion

‘That the Long Title stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Statute Law (Repeals) Measure stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT PENSIONS (PRE-CONSOLIDATION) MEASURE (GS 2032A)

Draft Measure for Revision (First Consideration July 2016)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2032Y)

505 The motion

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

was carried.

Clauses 1 and 2

With the permission of the Chair clauses 1 and 2 were taken *en bloc* under Standing Order 58(4).

517 The motion

‘That clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

Schedule

518 The motion

‘That the Schedule stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

Long Title

519 The motion

‘That the Long Title stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Pensions (Pre-consolidation) Measure stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**DRAFT CHURCH REPRESENTATION, ECUMENICAL RELATIONS
AND MINISTERS MEASURE (GS 2046)**

(Article 7 Business)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

506 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Church Representation, Ecumenical Relations and Ministers Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Church Representation, Ecumenical Relations and Ministers 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 20th March 2017.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 38 (GS 2047)

(Article 7 Business)

Draft Amending Canon for First Consideration

507 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 38” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that draft Amending Canon No. 38 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 20th March 2017.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICES (TERMS OF SERVICE)
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (GS 2048)**

Draft Regulations under section 2 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009

508A The motion

‘That the draft Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 be considered.’

was carried.

520 The amendment (Order Paper II) lapsed.

521 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

508B The motion

‘That the draft Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 stood referred to the Archbishops’ Council and, once made, would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS 2017 (GS 2049)**

Regulations under section 6 of the Clergy Pensions (Amendment) Measure 1972

509 The motion

‘That the Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2017 be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2017 would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

THE SAFEGUARDING (CLERGY RISK ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 (GS 2050)

Regulations under Canon C 30

510 The motion

‘That the Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2016 be approved.’

was moved.

The motion

‘That the debate be now adjourned and resumed at the next group of sessions.’

was lost.

510 The motion

‘That the Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2016 be approved.’

was carried after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	25	1
Clergy	93	22
Laity	103	26

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 6 in the House of Clergy and 5 in the House of Laity.

The Chair reported that, having been approved, the Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2016 would come into force on 1st March 2017.

ALTERATION OF THE TIME OF SESSION

Under Standing Order 2(5)(a) the Presidents altered the time of the Session on Wednesday 15th February by providing that the afternoon sitting was to commence at 4.45 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

**DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 36 (GS 2029A)
DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 37 (GS 2029AA)**

(Article 7 Business)

Draft Amending Canons for Revision (First Consideration July 2016)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2029Y)

511 The motion

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

was moved.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

Under Standing Order 15(7)(a) the Chair adjourned the debate at 7.00 p.m.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Revd Dr Sean Doherty led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 11.50 A.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2017

WORSHIP

The Revd Paul Hutchinson led the Synod in an act of worship.

**CREATION OF SUFFRAGAN SEE FOR THE DIOCESE OF
LEICESTER (GS 2052)**

**Proposal under section 18 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure
2007**

10 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the proposal to petition Her Majesty in Council to direct under the Suffragans Nomination Act 1888 that the town of Loughborough be taken and accepted for a see of a suffragan bishop as if it had been included in the Suffragan Bishops Act 1534.’

was carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL (GS 2053)

11 The motion

‘That the appointment of Mr Mark Sheard as a member of the Archbishops’ Council for a term ending on 14 February 2022 be approved.’

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS: REDUCTION OF MAXIMUM STAKE (GS 2054A and GS 2054B)

12 The motion

‘That this Synod, mindful of

(a) the destructive impact which accessible, high-stake machine gambling can have on families and whole communities and

(b) the widespread public concern about the very large amounts being wagered at fixed odds betting terminals located in high street betting shops,

call on Her Majesty’s Government as a matter of urgency to bring forward proposals for the amendment of existing legislation to reduce very substantially from £100 the maximum amount which may be wagered on a single game at such terminals in order to reduce the risk of harm to large numbers of vulnerable people.’

was moved.

21 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

22 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

23 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried,

12 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod, mindful of

(a) the destructive impact which accessible, high-stake machine gambling can have on families and whole communities and

(b) the widespread public concern about the very large amounts being wagered at fixed odds betting terminals located in high street betting shops,

welcome Her Majesty's Government's review of the maximum stake for such terminals and call on Her Majesty's Government as a matter of urgency to bring forward proposals

- i. for the amendment of existing legislation to reduce from £100 to £2 the maximum amount which may be wagered on a single game at such terminals and
- ii. to grant local authorities the power to make provision about the number and location of such terminals

in order to reduce the risk of harm to large numbers of vulnerable people.'

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

IN FAVOUR	310
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

**DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 36 (GS 2029A)
DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 37 (GS 2029AA)**

(Article 7 Business)

Draft Amending Canons for Revision (First Consideration July 2016)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2029Y)

511 The motion

'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'

was carried.

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 36 (GS 2029A)

Paragraph 1

522 The amendment (Order Paper II) lapsed.

523 The motion

‘That paragraph 1 stand part of the Amending Canon.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that draft Amending Canon No. 36 stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 37 (GS 2029AA)

Paragraph 1

524 The motion

‘That paragraph 1 stand part of the Amending Canon.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that draft Amending Canon No. 37 stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

The Chair adjourned the sitting until 11.15 a.m.

MARRIAGE AND SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE SHARED CONVERSATIONS: INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BISHOPS’ REFLECTION GROUP ON SEXUALITY

13 The Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop of Willesden gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2017

MARRIAGE AND SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE SHARED CONVERSATIONS: A REPORT FROM THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS (GS 2055)

14 The motion

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

was moved.

The motion

‘That the debate be now adjourned and resumed at the November group of sessions.’

was lost.

14 The motion

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

was lost after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	43	1
Clergy	93	100
Laity	106	83

2 abstentions were recorded in the House of Clergy and 4 in the House of Laity.

24 The motion (Order Paper IV) lapsed.

25 The amendment (Order Paper IV) lapsed.

26 The motion (Order Paper IV) lapsed.

The Ven. Douglas Dettmer led the Synod in an act of worship. The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2017 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.55 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2017

WORSHIP

Canon Margaret Swinson led the Synod in an act of worship.

FAREWELL TO THE BISHOP OF LONDON

- 15 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to the Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, who was attending his last meeting of the Synod.

ADDRESS FROM THE MOST REVD JOSIAH ATKINS IDOWU-FEARON, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

- 16 Archbishop Idowu-Fearon gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

SETTING GOD'S PEOPLE FREE: REPORT FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2056)

- 17 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the report from the Archbishops' Council, *Setting God's People Free* (GS 2056); and
- (b) call on the Archbishops' Council to develop the implementation plan referred to in section 5 of the report and to work closely with the House of Bishops and the dioceses in taking it forward.’

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA III PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MISSION AND ADMINISTRATION (GS 2057A and 2057B)

27 The motion

‘That this Synod, considering the ratio of time and money spent in administration to that spent in mission to be too high throughout the Church of England, and noting the very effective facilities provided for parish statistics collection and clergy payroll:

(a) confirm that the principle of subsidiarity should not be applied to purely administrative functions; and

(b) request the Archbishops’ Council to consult with the Church Commissioners and dioceses, with the objective of establishing centralised administrative facilities so that other functions which can be handled more efficiently thereby are transferred accordingly.’

was moved.

28 The amendment (Notice Paper IV) was carried.

27 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod, considering the ratio of time and money spent in administration to that spent in mission to be too high throughout the Church of England, and noting the very effective facilities provided for parish statistics collection and clergy payroll:

(a) confirm that the principle of subsidiarity should not be applied to purely administrative functions; and

(b) request the Archbishops’ Council to develop its current work with dioceses to identify opportunities for nationally provided administrative services which would both release a larger proportion of resources for local growth and mission initiatives and generate economies for the whole Church.’

was carried.

PROROGATION

18 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK prorogued the Synod at 12.55 p.m.