

Report by the Business Committee

Introduction

1. This group of sessions is the last of this quinquennium. There is therefore a substantial tranche of legislative and liturgical business to be discharged before the dissolution of this Synod. The environment will be a major theme at this group of sessions. This will be launched with a presentation from the National Investing Bodies on the Friday evening. There will be Bible study on the subject on the environment on the Monday morning and the group of sessions will conclude with two debates on environmental issues.
2. 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.

I: The July 2015 Group of Sessions

3. The Synod will meet at the University of York from 3.00 p.m. on Friday 10 July until 5.45 p.m. on Monday 13 July.
4. The Convocations will meet from 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Friday afternoon before the group of sessions starts, in order to discuss the Revised Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy. If Article references are claimed in relation to the Administration of Holy Communion Regulations or the Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language, the Convocations and the House of Laity will meet for that purpose at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday 11 July.
5. The following Anglican and ecumenical guests will be present as observers on this occasion:
 - The Most Revd Dr Antje Jackelén, Archbishop of Uppsala, Church of Sweden
 - The Revd Joel Ingmarsson, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Uppsala, Church of Sweden
 - The Reverend Dr Mark Clavier, Acting Principal and Dean of Residential Training, St Michael's College, Llandaff, The Church in Wales
6. The Archbishop of Uppsala will deliver a brief greeting to the Synod on behalf of the ecumenical guests on Friday afternoon.

Synod Worship

7. The group of sessions will begin with an act of worship in the Central Hall. On the morning of Sunday 12 July, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at York Minster at which the Archbishop of York will preside and Archbishop of Canterbury will

preach. Worship on Monday morning will take place in small groups before the group work on the environment begins. The group of sessions will conclude with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Central Hall, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside and the Archbishop of York will preach, to mark the end of the quinquennium.

8. 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, will take place in the Berrick Saul Building. For a full list of services, please refer to the agenda.

Shape of the Agenda

9. Formal business and appointments will be taken on the Friday afternoon. The Business Committee has decided not to include the customary 'Progress of Measures and Statutory Instruments' as part of the formal business, since it has taken the view that it suffices to communicate the relevant information to members by means of a Notice Paper alone.
10. Following a brief address to the Synod on behalf of the ecumenical guests, there will be a short period of time-critical business which needs to be taken on the Friday afternoon, namely amendments to the Standing Orders which affect the procedures for Synod Question Time and preliminary consideration of the Administration of Holy Communion Regulations. The sequence of environmental business (which continues on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning) will begin with a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session from the Ethical Investment Advisory Group and the National Investment Bodies. Synod Question Time will take place on the Friday evening.
11. The morning of Saturday 11 July will mainly be taken up with legislative business. In the afternoon there will be a debate on a Private Member's Motion from the Revd Canon Simon Killwick on the Faith and Order Commission's report on Senior Leadership.
12. If the Convocations and House of Laity claim a reference under Article 7 in relation to the Administration of Holy Communion Regulations or the Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language, they will meet from 8.30 p.m. on Saturday evening. If no reference is claimed, the Synod will sit from 8.30 p.m. until 9.45 p.m. and receive presentations on the Annual Reports of the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council.
13. Liturgical business will be taken on Sunday afternoon. There will also be presentations during the afternoon and evening on reports from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and the National Society.
14. The final day of the group of sessions (Monday 13 July) will focus mainly on environmental matters, beginning with worship and bible study in small groups and continuing with debates on motions from the Mission and Public Affairs Council and the National Investing Bodies.
15. After the farewells and a short break to allow the re-arrangement of the Central Hall, the group of sessions will conclude with the traditional end of quinquennium Eucharist in the

Central Hall.

Legislative Business

16. The agenda for this group of sessions includes a large number of items of legislative business, with a view to completing as much legislation as possible in the lifetime of the current Synod. Legislative business is set out in Special Agenda I.
17. With the exception of some preliminary items on Friday 10 July, the majority of legislative business will be taken on Saturday morning, with any remaining legislative items being taken on the Sunday afternoon.
18. The draft safeguarding legislation returns to the Synod for Final Approval, as does the Measure that will allow Diocesan Boards of Finance to invest on a 'total return' basis.
19. Items of secondary legislation include:
 - regulations intended to give effect to the Synod's decision in November 2012 to allow the administration of Holy Communion by children;
 - a new set of Faculty Jurisdiction Rules, incorporating further changes intended to simplify aspects of the faculty jurisdiction;
 - new rules excepting certain property transactions by PCCs from the normal requirement for diocesan consent; and
 - an amendment to the Terms of Service Regulations to give effect to one of the recommendations in the report of the Simplification Task Group (GS 1980), relating to interim posts.

Private Members' Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions

20. Private Members' Motions ('PMMs') are listed in Special Agenda III. There are now 3 motions with over 100 signatures. Under Standing Order 6, PMMs are not carried forward when the Synod is dissolved. The Revd Canon Simon Killwick's PMM on Senior Leadership has been scheduled for debate on the Saturday afternoon.
21. Diocesan Synod Motions ('DSMs') are listed in Special Agenda IV. There are currently 7 DSMs awaiting debate. The three DSMs relating to the Anglican Communion Covenant remain 'parked' pending further discussions within the Communion. The Business Committee has scheduled the DSM originating from the former Wakefield Diocesan Synod, on 'The Nature and Structure of the Church of England', for debate on Sunday afternoon.
22. Standing Order 7, which covers DSMs, does not preclude them from being carried over into the new quinquennium.

Order of Business

23. 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.

II: Individual Items of Business

24. This section of the Report comments on individual items of business. They are discussed in chronological order.

Friday 10 July

Approval of Appointments

25. The Synod will be asked to approve an appointment to the Archbishops' Council. Details of the motion will be given in a Notice Paper.
26. The appointment of the new Secretary General will be debated only if, under SO 123(a), 40 or more members give notice by 24 June that they wish to do so. The appointment will otherwise be deemed to have been approved.

Presentation on behalf of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group and the National Investing Bodies

27. The Chairman, Mr James Featherby, and Vice Chairman, The Revd Canon Professor Richard Burridge, of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) will present the policy advice produced by the EIAG for the National Investing Bodies. Dr Jonathan Spencer, Chairman of the Pensions Board will speak on behalf of the National Investing Bodies on the implementation of the policy and the decision to divest from thermal coal and tar sands. They will be outlining the new investment approach in the light of the adoption of a new climate change policy that is intended to support the transition to a low carbon economy. There will be an opportunity for Synod members to ask questions.

Questions

28. Following the successful trial of the new format for Synod Questions in February, the Business Committee has decided to continue with this format, but with some minor adjustments to ensure a smoother flow.
29. Members are reminded that, under this new format, answers are no longer given orally. A booklet containing the questions and answers will be emailed to members at least one clear day prior to the start of the group of sessions, and hard copies will be available on arrival for those members who wish to refer to it in advance. The focus of Question Time will consequently move to the asking and answering of supplementary questions.
30. All those asking supplementary questions are asked to do so from one of the two podiums on the floor of the Chamber in order to avoid the necessity for using hand-held

microphones which are difficult to distribute around a space as large as the Central Hall. The Chair will continue to give priority to the original questioner when any supplementary questions are asked, so if a Synod member who has asked a question also wishes to ask a supplementary question, they are requested to be ready at or near one of the two podiums as soon as their question is reached. It may be helpful if those wishing to ask supplementary questions during Question Time position themselves within easy reach of one of the podiums.

31. Synod will have debated earlier in the afternoon proposed changes to the Standing Orders to remove the need for the person answering a question to refer to the answer published in the questions booklet before they take any supplementary questions. If these changes are agreed, the person whose answer has already been published in the questions booklet will stand on the platform and wait to answer any supplementary questions from members.
32. In the event that the Synod does not agree to the proposed changes to the Standing Orders, the person answering the question will begin by referring to the answer published in the questions booklet before turning to any supplementary questions, as was the procedure at the February group of sessions.
33. 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 105 must deliver notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod by 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 30 June. Questions sent by email should be addressed to questions@churchofengland.org
34. Members are reminded that all questions will be presumed to be for written answer unless an oral answer is specifically requested.

Saturday 11 July

Private Member's Motion on Senior Leadership

35. This Private Member's Motion calls on the Synod to take note of the Faith and Order Commission's report *Senior Leadership: a resource for reflection*.

Amendments to Standing Orders

36. In addition to the amendments relating to Question Time, which will be put to the Synod for approval on the Friday afternoon, the Synod will also be asked to approve some further small changes to Standing Orders on Saturday morning before being invited on Sunday afternoon to agree to adopt a revised consolidated text of the Standing Orders as a whole (incorporating the amendments previously agreed at this group of sessions). The *consolidated* text will be expressed in gender non-specific language and set out in a more user-friendly form.

'The Church: Towards a Common Vision': Report from the World Council of Churches

37. In 2013, the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council Churches published *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*, the culmination of two decades of work on the doctrine of the Church. It is described as a 'convergence text' and is only the second such

document produced by the Commission, the first being *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, published in 1982, on which this report seeks to build. The text can be accessed at: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/i-unity-the-church-and-its-mission/the-church-towards-a-common-vision>.

38. The Commission has asked for ‘ecclesial responses’ to the text from member Churches by the end of 2015. The Council for Christian Unity considers that the Synod is the appropriate body to approve the Church of England’s formal response as a member Church of the WCC; hence the first part of the motion. Reception of the document is also a significant opportunity to promote careful and creative theological thinking about the Church both within the Church of England and with our ecumenical partners, including those Churches that have grown out of the Pentecostal movement. This is reflected in the other parts of the motion before the Synod.

Church Commissioners’ Annual Report and Archbishops’ Council’s Annual Report

39. The Synod will receive presentations on these reports if the Convocations and House of Laity do not claim a reference under Article 7 in relation to the Administration of Holy Communion Regulations or the Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language.
40. The Third Church Estates Commissioner will give a presentation under SO 97. This will be followed by a question and answer session. Members of the Archbishops’ Council will then offer a brief presentation on the Council’s work as outlined in its annual report. The Synod will then have an opportunity to ask questions of a panel consisting of members of the Council.

Sunday 12 July

Liturgical Business: Christian Initiation: Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language

41. The Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language were prepared in response to a Liverpool Diocesan Synod Motion carried by the General Synod in February 2011. This requested the preparation of material to supplement the Common Worship Initiation provision, including additional forms of the Decision, the Prayer over the Water and the Commission, expressed in accessible language. Following First Consideration in July 2014 they were committed to a Revision Committee. The Revision Stage was completed at the February group of sessions, without any re-committal motions being passed, following which the texts were referred to the House of Bishops in May under Article 7. At that meeting, the House agreed two further minor amendments, one in relation to a point made in the February Synod debate; the other to remove a possible textual ambiguity.
42. The Synod will be invited to give Final Approval to the Additional Baptism texts, subject to the outcome of any Article 7 reference to the Convocations and House of Laity.

Diocesan Synod Motion: Nature and Structure of the Church of England – National Debate

43. This Diocesan Synod Motion, originating from the former Diocese of Wakefield (now part of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales), was submitted in July 2012 and has taken some time to reach the Synod Agenda.
44. The Business Committee ‘parked’ the DSM from the time of its receipt pending the outcome of the debate on the Reorganisation Scheme for the Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield. The DSM was ‘unparked’ and scheduled for debate as contingency business at the November 2013 group of sessions, but it was not reached at that time. In February 2014 the Business Committee decided that the DSM should be postponed until a later group of sessions whilst the Dioceses Commission carried out its evaluation of the learnings from the West Yorkshire Scheme. In July 2014, the Wakefield DSM was deferred at the request of the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales whilst it consolidated its own infrastructure.
45. There was insufficient time on the agenda for the Business Committee to schedule the DSM at the November 2014 and February 2015 groups of sessions. However, given the considerable period that the DSM has had to wait for debate, the Business Committee has now scheduled its debate on Sunday afternoon.
46. The DSM requests ‘the House of Bishops to facilitate a theologically informed national debate about the organisational shape of the Church we are called to be in order to best equip the parishes to serve the people of our land.’

Presentation from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC)

47. The Synod debated the report *Unfinished Business* (GS 1844) in July 2011. The report focused on the means of increasing the representation of minority ethnic Anglicans (MEAs) in all sectors of the Church’s ministry and activity and called upon CMEAC to report back to the Synod. The presentation by the Bishop of Chelmsford, who is a member of CMEAC, will include a short film which will update Synod members on progress made over the last four years in encouraging MEA participation in the work and ministry of the Church. This will be followed by a short presentation on other aspects of *Unfinished Business*. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for Synod members to ask questions.

Introduction to Bible Study on the Environment

48. Dr Paula Gooder (Birmingham) will introduce the group work on the environment which will take place on Monday morning.

The Archbishops’ Council’s Budget and Proposals for Apportionment for 2016

49. The Synod will be invited to approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure budget for 2016 and the Council’s proposals for apportionment amongst the dioceses, and the usual pooling adjustment in respect of additional maintenance grants to ordinands. Proposed net

expenditure in 2016 (after income from third parties including the Church Commissioners) is £31.3 million, £0.3 million (1.1%) above the 2015 budget level. The overall apportionment increase is 2.5%. This is higher than the expenditure increase due to a reduced planned drawdown on reserves and lower use of the Council's restricted and designated funds on specific time limited projects.

50. The apportionment for two largest 'Votes' – Training for Ministry (Vote 1) and National Church Responsibilities (Vote 2) – are recommended to increase by 2.3% and 2.2% respectively. Apportionment increases for the remaining three Votes are: Grants (Vote 3) 0.6%; Mission Agencies' pension contributions (Vote 4) 2.0%; and Clergy Retirement Housing (Vote 5) 5.0%.

National Society: Development of Teaching and Educational Leadership Partnerships

51. This presentation will be given by the Bishop of Ely as Chair of the National Society, accompanied by the Chief Education Officer, the Revd Nigel Genders, and Professor Joy Carter, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester, who is also the Chair of the Partnerships Steering Group.
52. The proposed Partnerships are intended to enable a nationally coordinated programme of training and development opportunities to promote an Anglican vision of education and equip teachers and leaders to deliver it more effectively. The planned remit of the Partnerships ranges from initial teacher training to executive leadership programmes as well as programmes for governors, clergy and laity working in schools.
53. The presentation will set out the vision for the Partnerships and explain why they are so important for the future of the Church of England's work in education. A short period will be allowed for Synod members to ask questions of those presenting.

Monday 13 July

Combatting Climate Change: The Paris Summit and the Mission of the Church

54. This motion focuses on the global dimensions of climate change by looking ahead to the forthcoming Paris summit meeting. The motion calls for long term carbon reduction measures and requests the Church's Environment Working Group to consider producing suitable theological and liturgical resources for parish use.

Climate Change and Investment Policy

55. This motion calls on the Synod to welcome the proposed policy on climate change proposed by the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) and to support the divestment plans announced by the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) in April. The motion also calls on the Synod to ask the EIAG and the NIBs to report back within three years on the implementation and impact of this policy.

56. Both Birmingham and Oxford dioceses have proposed Diocesan Synod Motions on the subject of fossil fuels investment. In light of the motions from the Mission and Public Affairs Council and the National Investing Bodies which are being debated at this group of sessions, the Business Committee has decided not to schedule these DSMs for debate. However, in these special circumstances, the Business Committee has requested that background notes for both DSMs should be circulated as GS Miscs.

III: Other Work of the Business Committee

Fringe meetings and Displays

57. The Business Committee has published a new Policy for Fringe Meetings and Displays at groups of sessions. It is published as Annex 3 to this report. Synod members are invited to send any queries on the new policy to the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk to the Synod.

Synod Security

58. For security reasons, bags and coats will no longer be permitted in the public gallery either at York or in London. A separate room and cloakroom tickets will be provided and this will be staffed by a security officer throughout groups of sessions. No food or drink is to be permitted in the public gallery, but a water cooler will be provided outside the public gallery both in York and in London. The usual scanner and search facilities are being retained in York and will be enhanced in London to bring them into line with the existing arrangements in York.

59. Information regarding Synod security arrangements is made available to members via the Security Notice Paper before the start of each group of sessions. Further guidance regarding security measures and conduct of members of the public in the public gallery is given out with tickets for the gallery.

Draft Guidelines on Group Work

60. Following comments received from members, the Business Committee has finalised the guidelines for group work at General Synod which were published in draft form in February 2015. These are attached at Annex 2.

Distribution of Papers

61. The Business Committee wishes to move with effect from November 2015 to an arrangement under which Synod members will receive Synod papers electronically unless they specifically indicate that they would like to receive hard copies. This is proposed for two reasons: firstly, in order to reduce the environmental impact of printing large numbers of Synod papers; and secondly to reduce costs to the Church of printing and postage of Synod papers which are in the range of £7,000 - £10,000 for a London group of sessions and up to £20,000 for a York group of sessions.

62. The Standing Orders Committee has therefore brought forward changes to the Synod's Standing Orders to give effect to this proposal (see the 51st Report of the Standing Orders Committee (GS 1991 and the First Notice Paper).

Worship

63. At the request of the Presidents, the Chaplain to the Synod is continuing to offer paperless worship using the screens provided. For those Synod members who use personal devices, .pdf copies of the worship booklet will be emailed to Synod members a few days ahead of the Synod and will also be available to download on the Church of England website. A limited number of paper copies of the worship booklet will be available on request from the Information Desk for those Synod members who prefer to use them.

Summary of Business Done 2010 – 2015

64. For the information of members, the Business Committee has compiled a brief summary of key items of business which has been concluded in the current quinquennium (GS Misc 1111).

Look Ahead to the New Quinquennium

65. Arrangements are now in hand for the inaugural group of sessions of the new quinquennium, which will take place from 24-25 November. On 23 November there will be an induction day for new and returning Synod members. Materials are being prepared for that and these are likely to include an updated version of the booklet *General Synod: A Survivor's Guide* as well as audio-visual and e-learning materials. Any out-going members of Synod who would like to participate in the induction day are invited to contact the Clerk to the Synod.
66. The inaugural service will take place in Westminster Abbey on the morning of 24 November. The group of sessions will run from after lunch on Tuesday 24 November until the late afternoon of Wednesday 25 November.
67. The forecast of future business annexed to this report provides a forward look to the first few groups of sessions in the new quinquennium. This should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod in 2016 and beyond.
68. A consultation on a proposal for a possible Enabling Measure which may come to Synod in due course was published in April 2015 and may be read at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2212596/gs%20misc%201103%20-%20consultation%20paper%20on%20possible%20new%20power%20to%20amend%20legislation%20by%20order.pdf>
69. The deadline for responses is **30 July 2015**.

70. Synod members may also wish to comment further on the suggestions regarding the pattern of future Synod meetings which were set out in GS Misc 1094 ('Optimising the Role of the NCIs').
71. The Business Committee is reviewing arrangements for members of Synod and visitors with disabilities and would welcome any suggestions from Synod members as they plan for the next quinquennium.

On behalf of the Business Committee

The Revd Canon Sue Booy
Chair of the Business Committee

Membership of the Business Committee

Chair

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford)

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) (Vice-Chair)

The Revd Charles Razzall (Chester)

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones (West Yorkshire and the Dales)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Anne Foreman (Exeter)

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Gerry O'Brien (Rochester)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield)

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans)

The Secretary to the Committee is the Clerk to the Synod (Dr Jacqui Philips) and the Assistant Secretary is Dr Emma Arbuthnot.

Forecast of future General Synod business

This forecast should not be read as more than a broad indication of business that may come to the Synod in 2014 and 2015. Timings are therefore approximate and not a guarantee that they will be dealt with at the Synod session indicated.

One or more reports are usually taken at each group of sessions.

One or more Diocesan Synod Motions and one or more Private Members' Motions are customarily included in the Agenda for each group of sessions (see Special Agendas III and IV).

November 2015 (inaugural group of sessions)

- Progress update on *Released For Mission: Growing the Rural Church* (Mission and Public Affairs Council)
- ? Possible follow-up report to the 'Turning Up the Volume' report
- Evangelism Task Group report and possible group work
- Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order
- Progress report on reform and renewal programme

February 2016

- ? Enactment of Amending Canon No. 34
- ? Simplification Measure(s) – First Consideration
- ? Enabling Measure – First Consideration
- ? Amending Canon re Canon B 38 (use of burial service in cases of suicide) – First Consideration
- ? Possible report on Chaplaincy by the Mission and Public Affairs Council

Guidance for Those Preparing Group Work at General Synod

The Business Committee appreciates the valuable role that group work can play within the life of Synod and is willing to schedule time where it deems it appropriate for group work within a group of sessions, subject to the following guidelines:

Purpose

Good group work

- is clearly related to a major item of business on the Synod agenda
- enables members to listen to and understand each other's deeply held convictions
- enables members to reflect together on what God might be saying to his church, through prayer, silence and engagement with Scripture
- prepares the ground sensitively for when the subject is handled within the more formal rules of debate and procedure.

Content

Good group work

- is prepared by those handling the item of business, or with recognised expertise in, and experience of, the subject under discussion
- is prepared with reference to previous group work exercises, to ensure a variety of approaches is employed over time, catering for different personalities/learning styles
- includes a means of biblical reflection (such as bible study questions, lectio divina, Ignatian spiritual journey etc.) prepared in consultation with biblical scholars (members such as Dr Paula Gooder and Prof Richard Burridge have indicated they are keen and ready to help in this area).

Process

Good group work

- includes members drawn from across other groups and dioceses, which remain fairly static across a quinquennium to allow relationships to deepen (except where a group is clearly dysfunctional, and may need to be reconfigured before the next group of sessions)
- uses chairs drawn from all three houses, with specific skills and/or training in leading groups
- involves the bishops, but not always as chair – one role for a bishop who is not chairing is to act as chaplain, leading worship/prayer and offering pastoral support for any member for whom the discussion appears to have been emotionally difficult
- utilises a reporter for each group, separate from the chair, identified and invited in advance

- is cautious about the use of experiential material (photos, food, role play) unless the group leader clearly understands and is convinced of its essential value and purpose.

To ensure that proposed group work falls within these guidelines, those preparing business are invited to consult the Business Committee at an early stage via the Chair or the Clerk to the Synod. Boards and Councils who are preparing reports for discussion are also invited to consider whether there is some good and helpful group work that might fit with their subject, and to bring any such suggestions to the Business Committee at an early stage.

On Behalf of the Business Committee
The Revd Canon Sue Booy
Chair of the Business Committee

General Synod Displays and Fringe Events Policy

1. Like many events of its size, meetings of the General Synod accommodate a number of fringe events and displays.
2. The Business Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the sessional arrangements of the General Synod under powers given to it by Standing Order 115. As part of its responsibilities under Standing Order 115, the Business Committee reserves the right to oversee the operation of fringe events and displays at groups of sessions.
3. Any decision that the Business Committee may make regarding fringe events and displays is final.
4. The Business Committee reserves the right to refuse space to an organization for a fringe event or display where they judge that the subject matter of the fringe event or display is contrary to the ethos of the Church of England or that the presence or other involvement of any person at the fringe event or display may pose risks to the security of General Synod, its members and visitors or, in the case of groups of sessions held at York University, impact adversely on the reputation of the University.
5. By allowing a particular fringe event or display, the Business Committee is not to be viewed as showing support for the organization arranging it, or for any views expressed or presented at or through the fringe meeting or display. These are entirely the responsibility of the organisers.
6. Any concerns that Synod members or visitors may have concerning a fringe event or display should in the first instance be raised directly with the organisers. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved with the organisers, those concerns should be raised with the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk to the Synod (contact details below).
7. The Business Committee requires all organisers and participants in fringe events or displays to meet the following requirements:
 - Organisers must comply with the deadlines for supplying information, details for security passes and other information required by the Synod Office. Any organiser who fails to meet those deadlines will be refused a fringe event or display.
 - In the case of groups of sessions held at the University of York, in order to comply with the terms on which the venue is used the organisers must inform the Synod Office at the time of booking of any potentially controversial speakers/content which the University could regard as infringing its policy on Freedom of Speech and Equal Opportunities.
 - Organisers must ensure that their fringe event or display stays within the room or space allocated to them. No signage or materials should go beyond the allocated area.
 - Where display organisers are unable to be present for the duration of the period for which they have requested a display, they must ensure their stand is left in a tidy and safe state.

- The Business Committee retains the right to order the immediate removal of any display stand which is not staying within its allocated space or poses a risk to health and safety.
 - In the case of groups of sessions held at the University of York, if the fringe event / display stand is considered by the University to contravene its policy on Freedom of Speech and Equal Opportunities the Business Committee also reserves the rights (1) without recompense, to cancel the fringe event / order the immediate removal of the display stand and (2) to provide additional security at an expense which will be passed to the organiser.
 - Those participating in, speaking at or organising Synod fringe events and displays are required to remain courteous and respectful at all times to Synod members, staff and guests, including those who do not agree with the views being promoted at such meetings or displays.
8. Any complaints from Synod members, staff or guests regarding the organisation of fringe events or displays, or the conduct of those participating in them should be sent to the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk to the Synod (contact details below).
9. The Business Committee reserves the right to **refuse any further applications** from organisers for up to **two groups of sessions** if they take the view that these Guidelines have been infringed.

All questions regarding these Guidelines and any concerns regarding Synod fringe meetings or displays should be sent to the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk at:

jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org

The Business Committee
May 2015