

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Introduction

1. This report falls into three parts:
 - Part I introduces the Agenda for the February 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 February 2017 Group of Sessions

2. The Synod will meet at Church House, London, SW1 from 3.00 p.m. on Monday 13 February until 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 16 February.

Synod Worship

3. The group of sessions will begin with an act of worship in the Assembly Hall. On the morning of Tuesday 14 February, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall at which the Archbishop of York will preside and preach.
4. Synod worship is overseen by the General Synod Chaplain, the Revd Michael Gisbourne, under the direction of the Archbishops. The Continuous Praying Presence will take place in Church House Chapel during the times that General Synod is sitting. It will be supported by the Community of St Anselm and local churches. Synod members are welcome to join those at prayer in the Chapel. In addition, Chaplaincy support will be available throughout Synod. Chaplains may be contacted via the General Synod Chaplain or by leaving a message at the Information Desk. Please refer to the Agenda for a list of services for the period Monday to Thursday.

Shape of the Agenda

5. The Agenda includes the following types of business:
 - Formal business and presentations from external speakers
 - Regular items such as the debate on the Business Committee Report and Question Time
 - A substantial amount of Legislative business
 - A debate on the Anniversary of the Reformation
 - A debate on the report "Setting God's People Free" from the Archbishops' Council, prepared by the Lay Leadership Task Group
 - A Diocesan Synod Motion from the Diocese of London
 - A Private Members' Motion.
6. Following the meetings of the College and House of Bishops in December, the Presidents have agreed to schedule group work on Human Sexuality on the afternoon of Wednesday 15 February. The group work will be preceded by a short statement from the Bishops of Norwich and Willesden on the work of the Bishops' Reflection Group on Sexuality. The group work will be followed by a

Take Note debate on a Report from the House of Bishops later that afternoon. Details of the groups and material for the plenary session will be provided separately. All Synod members are encouraged to participate in the group work.

Order of Business

7. 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.
8. Timings for items of business in the Synod Timetable are purely indicative timings. The length of time taken by any item is in the hands of the Synod, except where the Business Committee has determined that an item of business is to be taken 'not later than' a time specified in the Agenda.

Legislative Business

9. There is a very substantial amount of legislative business at this group of sessions. This is due to a number of factors. Firstly, a number of items of legislative business have been generated by initiatives forming part of Renewal and Reform, especially the work of the Simplification Task Group. Secondly, as the July group of sessions was foreshortened due to the Shared Conversations and as there was no group of sessions in November, the Business Committee has had to find a considerable amount of time for legislative business at this group of sessions.
10. The legislative business will be taken, in the order listed on pages 3 to 4 of the Agenda, on the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 14 February, the morning of Wednesday 15 February and the afternoon of Thursday 16 February.
11. Further information about the individual items of legislative business is given in Part II below.

Private Members' Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions

12. Private Members' Motions ('PMMs') are listed in Special Agenda III. There are 5 current PMMs. The following have reached the threshold of 100 signatures needed in order for the Business Committee to consider scheduling a debate.
 - 'Preliminaries to Marriage', moved by the Revd Stephen Trott (Peterborough)
 - Mission and Administration, moved by Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford)
13. The PMM from the Revd Stephen Trott will be taken on the morning of Tuesday 14 February.
14. The PMM from Mr Gavin Oldham is listed as Contingency Business and will be taken if a space opens up in the Agenda. If the PMM is not taken in February, there is an expectation that the Business Committee will find space for it to be debated at the July group of sessions.
15. Diocesan Synod Motions ('DSMs') are listed in Special Agenda IV. There are currently 11 DSMs awaiting debate. The 3 DSMs relating to the Anglican Communion Covenant remain 'parked', pending further discussions within the Communion. The Dioceses of Chelmsford, Oxford and St Albans have given notice that they have withdrawn their DSMs on the Anglican Communion Covenant.

16. As in July 2016, the Business Committee has taken counsel from the House of Bishops, who have requested a clear space in February for the consideration of matters relating to Human Sexuality. For this reason, the scheduling of the Blackburn DSM on “Welcoming Transgender People” will not be taken before July 2017.

II: Individual Items of Business

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

Monday 13 February

Report by the Business Committee

18. There will be the usual debate on the Report from the Business Committee on the Agenda. This provides an opportunity for Synod members to raise points about the content and shape of the Agenda for this group of sessions, or about the Synod’s business generally. Members may refer to a matter which is not in the Agenda at all but which, in their opinion, should be. However they should not get into the substance of the subject, but should confine themselves to its place in the Agenda or otherwise.

Dates of groups of sessions

19. Following consultation with Synod members, the Business Committee – with the agreement of the Presidents – will be moving a minor amendment to the dates agreed for the February 2018 group of sessions to enable part of this group of sessions to take place on Saturday 10 February 2018 (the likely date of conclusion of this group of sessions). The aim of this suggested change is to test out how Synod members respond to holding part of a February Synod over a week-end period. The Synod will then have the opportunity to consider and approve the proposed dates for groups of sessions for the period 2019-2020 (which include a Saturday in the envelope of dates for the February groups of sessions).

Anniversary of the Reformation

20. The Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England (FAOC), with the support of the Council for Christian Unity (CCU), proposed a debate on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, with particular reference to the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation, also now affirmed by the World Methodist Council.

21. The Business Committee have agreed to schedule this debate in light of the other events organised by key church partners in Continental Europe to mark the Reformation Anniversary.

Questions

22. 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 112 must give notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod by **12 noon on Wednesday 1 February 2017**. Questions sent by email should be addressed to questions@churchofengland.org.
23. Written answers to Questions will be available in the Questions Paper which will be emailed to Synod members at least **one clear day** before Question Time. Synod members will be able to ask supplementary questions at Question Time.

Tuesday 14 February

Holy Communion

24. There will be a service of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall on the Tuesday morning.

Farewell to the First Church Estates Commissioner

25. The Archbishop of York will give a farewell to the First Church Estates Commissioner, Sir Andreas Whittam Smith, who is retiring in March 2017. Given the length and nature of the contribution of Sir Andreas to the life of the Church, the Presidents have exceptionally granted him the opportunity to make a short address in response.

Legislative Business

26. Legislative Business will be taken now and in the designated slots in the Agenda over the following two days.
27. The **Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure** – which implements changes identified in phase 1 of the work of the Simplification Task Group – is for final drafting and final approval.
28. The **Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure** – which consolidates a considerable amount of legislation relating to the ecclesiastical courts and church buildings – is also for final drafting and final approval.
29. The **Legislative Reform Measure**, having been considered and amended by the Revision Committee, returns to the Synod for the Revision Stage. The Measure facilitates the removal or reduction of legal burdens by enabling the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod to amend some primary legislation by way of order.
30. The **Statute Law (Repeals) Measure** returns to the Synod for the Revision Stage. It repeals a significant number of enactments which are obsolete or no longer of practical utility.
31. The **Pensions (Pre-consolidation) Measure** – which makes minor changes to Church of England pensions legislation in anticipation of a forthcoming consolidation – also returns for the Revision Stage.
32. The **Church Representation, Ecumenical Relations and Ministers Measure and Amending Canon No. 38** – which implement proposals arising from phase 2 of the work of the Simplification Task Group – are for first consideration.

33. The **Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2017** will make it possible for the term of office of bishops, deans, archdeacons and residentiary canons to be extended beyond the age of 70. They will also make it possible for beneficed clergy to continue in office, or to be appointed to office, beyond the age of 70. (The Regulations do not have any effect on the pensionable age for clergy.)
34. The **Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2017** alter the composition of the Church of England Pensions Board so that instead of six of its members being elected by the House of Laity, this House will elect two of its members to the Board with four other persons being appointed by the Archbishops. This follows a consultation with members of the General Synod that was carried out by the Board in the second half of 2016.
35. The **Safeguarding (Clergy Risk Assessment) Regulations 2016**, made by the House of Bishops under Canon C 30 ('Of safeguarding'), make provision for the persons who may carry out a risk assessment of a cleric conducted under that Canon and for the procedures for carrying it out and challenging its outcome.
36. The **Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2016** makes provision for the fees payable to diocesan registrars by way of retainer in 2017.
37. **Amending Canons Nos. 36 and 37** are concerned, respectively, with dispensing with prescribed forms of vesture at certain services and with the use of the burial service in certain special cases. They were originally both comprised in draft Amending Canon No. 36. That Canon was divided into two Amending Canons by the Revision Committee, which also made other amendments. The two resulting Canons now return to the Synod for the Revision Stage.

Wednesday 15 February

Creation of a Suffragan See for the Diocese of Leicester

38. After morning worship, the Bishop of Leicester will ask the Synod to approve his proposal to petition Her Majesty in Council to create a suffragan See at Loughborough. The diocese of Leicester does not currently have a suffragan See. The Dioceses Commission has reported on the proposal. The Commission's report, which includes a statement of the effect of the proposal on the mission of the Church of England and an estimate of its financial effect, is being sent to members of the General Synod along with the Bishop's proposal in accordance with the requirements of section 18 of the Dioceses, Mission and Pastoral Measure 2007.

Appointment to the Archbishops' Council

39. The Archbishops have followed a process of open recruitment to appoint a member to fill the vacancy left by Philip Fletcher's retirement from the Council at the end of 2016. At the time of writing this report, the name of the new appointment was unknown, but the motion for the Synod will be circulated on a Notice Paper in due course. Since the appointment carries with it *ex officio* membership of the Synod, the Synod has a formal role in approving the appointment.

Diocesan Synod Motion: Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

40. Synod will debate a motion from the Diocese of London on the social and financial impact of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals on families and whole communities and calling upon H M Government to reduce substantially the maximum amount that can be wagered in a single game.

41. Mr Clive Scowen has tabled a Private Member's Motion in identical terms.

Legislative Business

42. Synod will then continue with legislative business until 12 noon.

Introduction to the work of the Bishops' Reflection Group on Human Sexuality

43. The first part of the afternoon on Wednesday 15 February will be spent in small groups. The Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop of Willesden will introduce this group work before lunch. Their introduction will set the scene by giving some historical background to the Synod's consideration of issues of sexuality and will also explain something of the process that the House of Bishops has been engaged in over the autumn. It will also outline what the House proposes future synodical handling should look like.

Group work

44. The group work is not a continuation of the Shared Conversations, which have now finished. It is intended to enable members of Synod to consider (as the House and College of Bishops did) some real-life pastoral situations in the light of the Church of England's existing theological and ethical understanding. The groups will be chaired by members of the House of Bishops (without the use of external facilitators). The Bishops' Reflection Group hope that it will provide a helpful way in to the Synod's consideration of the Church of England's approach to this issue.

The Bishops' Reflections on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships: Report from the House of Bishops (GS 2055)

45. Synod will then hold a take note debate on the report from the House of Bishops. The report has been prepared by the Bishops' Reflection Group on Sexuality, chaired by the Bishop of Norwich.

46. The sitting will conclude with Evening Worship.

Thursday 16 February

Farewell to the Bishop of London

47. The Archbishop of Canterbury is to give a farewell to the Bishop of London, who retires in early February.

Address by the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion

48. The Presidents have invited the Most Revd Josiah Atkins Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion to address the Synod.

Setting God's People Free – A report from the Archbishops' Council

49. Synod will debate a motion from the Archbishops' Council commending the report from its Lay Leadership Task Group entitled *Setting God's People Free*. The Task Group was established by the Archbishops as part of the Renewal and Reform initiative to provide a narrative and storyline around how the Church should view and respond to the challenges of recognising and supporting lay leaders in church, community, workplace and wider society. The report is accompanied by an Implementation Plan, setting out a longer-term series of goals and objectives to deliver the vision outlined in the report.

50. If time opens up, further legislative business will be taken prior to lunch.

Further Legislative Business

51. The remainder of the group of sessions will be spent finalising the Legislative Business not completed earlier in the week, with any remaining legislative business being taken after lunch.

Contingency Business

52. The PMM moved by Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) on 'Mission and Administration' puts the case for centralising a number of administrative functions of the dioceses and estimates the possible cost savings from doing so.

Prorogation

53. Synod will be prorogued no later than 5.00 pm on the afternoon of Thursday 16 February.

III: Other Work of the Business Committee

Security, Fringe meetings and Displays

54. Synod members are invited to note the Synod Security policy and the policy on Fringe Meetings and Displays. Both policies may be found on the Members' Resources page of the General Synod website at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members'-resources.aspx>

55. Synod members are reminded of their responsibility to be vigilant at all times to ensure the security of Synod members, visitors and staff. As stated in point 5 of the Security Policy, Synod members are requested not to leave any items unattended around the Assembly Hall or its environs.

Voting Cards

56. Following difficulties experienced with the voting cards during the July 2016 group of sessions, staff have investigated the issue with the supplier and the issue has now been resolved.

On behalf of the Business Committee
The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Chair of the Business Committee)

January 2016

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ANNEX 1

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chair

The Revd Canon Sue Booy

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Revd Graeme Buttery

The Revd Prebendary Simon Cawdell

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Anne Foreman

Canon Robert Hammond

Mr Clive Scowen

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

Mrs Lorna Ashworth

Canon Mark Russell

*The Secretary to the Committee is the Clerk to the Synod (Dr Jacqui Philips)
and the Assistant Secretary is Ms Polly Dunn.*

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ANNEX 2

FORECAST OF FUTURE GENERAL SYNOD BUSINESS

July 2017

Legislative Business

- Legislative Reform Measure – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Amending Canons Nos. 36 and 37 – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Statute Law (Repeals) Measure – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Pensions (Pre-consolidation) Measure – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Church Representation, Ecumenical Relations and Ministers Measure – Revision Stage
- Amending Canon No.38 – Revision Stage
- Pensions Measure – First Consideration
- Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – First Consideration
- Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order
- Usual fees orders (deemed)

General

- Debate on a motion from the Mission and Public Affairs council on the Presence and Engagement programme
- Report from the Ministry Council on progress made on the proposals in GS 2020 *Renewal and Reform: Resourcing Ministerial Education.*

Ecumenical Matters

- Debate on inter-changeability of ministries between the Anglican and Methodist Churches

Diocesan Synod Motions

- Blackburn Diocesan Synod Motion on 'Welcoming Transgender People'
- Oxford Diocesan Synod Motion on 'Review Of The Role Of The Crown Nominations Commission'

Private Members' Motions

- Private Members' Motion from Mr Gavin Oldham on 'Mission and Administration' [if not taken in February]

Beyond July 2017

- Report from the Ministry Council on the *Development of Lay Ministries*
- Appointment of the Chair of the Appointments Committee (2018)

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ANNEX 3

RECORD OF BUSINESS DONE IN 2015-2020 QUINQUENNIAL

The roles and responsibilities of the Business Committee are set out in S.O. 125 of the Standing Orders of the General Synod. S.O. 125(6) lists the functions of the Committee. One of these, detailed in sub-paragraph (e) is the requirement

“to take such action as may be necessary to ensure that decisions of the Synod are implemented and that its work is carried on between groups of sessions”.

Legislative business concluded to date in the period 2015-2020 is listed in **Section 1**. **Non-legislative business** concluded to date in this quinquennium is included in **Section 2**, together with any follow-up actions arising from it.

Synod members are reminded that as a matter of course all business completed at a group of sessions is communicated to dioceses via the record of Business Done (published on the website) and other direct communications.

On behalf of the Business Committee

The Revd Canon Sue Booy

Chair of the Business Committee

January 2017

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ANNEX 4

**SECTION ONE - LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CONCLUDED IN THE 2015-2020
QUINQUENNium**

DATE OF FINAL APPROVAL	DATE ENACTED	LEGISLATION
25 November 2015		Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2015 (GS 2007)
	15 th February 2016	Amending Canon No. 34
8 July 2016		Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2016 (GS 2033)
8 July 2016		Suspension Appeals (Churchwardens etc.) Rules 2016 (GS 2034)
8 July 2016		Amending Code of Practice under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 (GS 2035)
8 July 2016		Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2016 (GS 2037)

SECTION TWO – NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CONCLUDED IN THE 2015-2020 QUINQUENNium

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
25 November 2015	Motion on the Migrant Crisis (GS 2009)	Urge parishes and dioceses to provide practical resources and to pray for all those seeking to address the causes as well as the symptoms of this crisis, welcome aid provided by HMG to those suffering and call on it to increase number to be resettled significantly beyond its initial target of 20,000 over five years; call upon HMG to work with the UN High Commissioner to ensure that vulnerability to religiously motivated persecution is taken into account when determining whom to receive, to work with international partners to establish legal routes to places of safety and to take a fair share of refugees now within the EU.	Parishes and dioceses HMG	<p>We have worked closely with the resettlement team at the Home Office, acting as a bridge between them and parishes which have expressed interest in being involved in refugee support. In November we helped to lead a national seminar for dioceses and other Church of England groups engaged in refugee and asylum support.</p> <p>Guidance has been issued on asylum support, especially the tricky issues of local clergy being asked to support people in court, with help in relation to those who have recently converted to Christianity and are seeking asylum: this issue has returned strongly to prominence, especially in some areas.</p> <p>The main focus in 2016 has been to support local Christian communities in practical work. We work closely with other agencies through a CTBI steering group. In terms of advocacy, part of the aim is to lend weight to the church's voice by strengthening our credibility as making practical local contributions in many parts of the country. in the Brexit context, we shall aim to play our part in developing constructive narratives about migration and community during 2017.</p>

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
25 November 2015	Church Buildings Review (GS 2008)	Welcome the report from the Church Buildings Review Group, commend it for discussion in dioceses, deaneries and parishes, invite the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners and the Church Buildings Council to work together on the detailed implementation of the proposals in the report so as to enable the Business Committee to schedule the start of the relevant legislative process by July 2016 and invite the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners and the Church Buildings Council to develop a strategy to inspire, encourage and support churches and their dioceses to invest in their facilities to serve their communities and provide opportunities for mission.	Dioceses, deaneries and parishes, Archbishops' Council, Church Commissioners, Church Buildings Council, Business Committee	DCMS Cathedrals and Church Buildings Sustainability Review looking at ways in which more assured financial support for listed cathedrals and church buildings can be provided for in the long term. Proposals for simplification of Canon Law concerning regularity of worship and PCC meetings have gone forward as part of a review of the Church Representation Rules. They will go to Synod in Feb 2017. A consultation on developing regular diocesan church buildings reviews was launched on 21 November 2016.

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
16 February 2016	Report from the Evangelism Task Group (GS 2015)	Called on the Synod to take note of the Report from the Evangelism Task Group.	General Synod Dioceses, deaneries and parishes	The Archbishops' invitation for all churches across England to pray for evangelism in the week leading up to Pentecost has been taken up in the most extraordinary way. Churches from every tradition, and from inner-cities to rural areas, have engaged with the call. Both in the six centrally organised Beacon Events and in many more local churches looking to follow the national lead, cathedral and churches have responded to the invitation with grace, tenacity, vision and most of all faith. Churches have hosted whole weeks of 24/7 prayer, prayer days, special events and half nights of prayer. Schools have put on special assemblies, and engaged in other creative ways. The demand for tickets for the Beacon Events at Winchester, St Paul's, Durham and Canterbury Cathedrals was so great that overspill areas with big screens had to be organized. Thousands of parish churches, from England, as well as the USA, Bermuda, Brussels, New Zealand and Israel, have joined in.
16 February 2016	Report of the Church of England – Church of Scotland Joint Study Group (GS 2106)	The Council for Christian Unity to oversee the implementation of the Commitments contained in the Columba Declaration, as set out in paragraph 38 of the report, and set up the Contact Group proposed by it, ensuring that the Scottish Episcopal Church is invited to appoint a representative to attend its meetings.	Council for Christian Unity, Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal Church	Report was debated and approved at Church of Scotland Assembly 25 May; Council for Christian Unity has reviewed formal responses to the report from the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church, and taken forward matters relating to implementation, including Terms of Reference, initial priorities and membership for the Contact Group, following liaison with the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
16 February 2016	Proposed Enabling Measure (2016)	Invited the Archbishops' Council to introduce legislation at the July 2016 group of sessions	Archbishops' Council	First Consideration of draft Enabling Measure will be introduced to General Synod in July 2016.
16 February 2016	Diocesan Synod Motion on Blood and Organ Donation (GS2022A and GS 2022B)	Calls on all Church of England parishes to encourage their members to become blood and organ donors.	Church of England parishes	<p>The February 2016 General Synod debate on blood and organ donation came at the end of a period of sustained activity by MPA. The Church of England has contributed to four major policy debates in recent years and has taken part in six national initiatives, including being a founder associate of the Flesh and Blood (FAB) Churches campaign, working in collaboration with NHSBT as well as other faith communities (see below).</p> <p>The Bishop of Carlisle and MPA's policy adviser on medical ethics and health and social care policy have also conducted a series of one-day seminars for clergy, lay leaders and ordinands on end of life issues, including organ donation. In all, twelve such seminars have been conducted, six since the February 2016 General Synod.</p> <p>Currently, MPA officers are in contact with NHSBT, investigating issues surrounding Living Donation, particularly with regard to BME groups and individuals, with a view to exploring ways in which Living Donation might become an increasingly acceptable option for individuals to consider.</p>

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
17 February 2016	Diocesan Synod Motion on 'The Impact of Sanctions on Benefit Claimants' (GS2019A and GS2019B)	Called on HMG to implement the recommendations set out in <i>Feeding Britain</i> in respect of the use of sanctions upon benefit claimants, to initiate a full independent review of the impact and efficacy of the sanctions and conditionality regime and to 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.'	Her Majesty's Government, dioceses and parishes	<p>MPA continues to monitor the link between the growth in food banks and the operation of the benefits system, focusing on the recommendations in its <i>Emergency Use Only report</i>, co-authored with Oxfam, Trussell Trust and Child Poverty Action Group.</p> <p>MPA's policy adviser on economics and social policy spoke at an All Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty event on food poverty in July 2016, highlighting concerns about the impact of sanctions and other benefit-related issues. He was also on the Trussell Trust's advisory group for research project by the University of Oxford, examining the growth in the use of food banks. This study, published in October 2016, found a strong association between sanctioning and the use of foodbanks: for every 10 additional people sanctioned, on average five more people were referred to a food bank in the local authority area.</p> <p>In addition, we have played an active role in helping to establish the Food Poverty Alliance, a group of voluntary sector and faith organisations committed to tackling food poverty in the UK, led by Church Action on Poverty and Sustain. The End Hunger UK campaign, which was initiated by CAP and other members of the Alliance, includes a call for Government to "to review the policy on benefit sanctions to ensure that it is (... ctd)</p>

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				<p>proportionate and does not cause undue harm or destitution to those affected.”</p> <p>The Lords Spiritual have raised this issue in the House of Lords, most recently the Bishop of Newcastle in November 2016, who asked Ministers to commit to a substantial review of the use and implementation of sanctions, following the National Audit Office’s report on the effectiveness of the sanctions system.</p>

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
18 February 2016	Debate on a Motion on Renewal and Reform: Resourcing Ministerial Education (GS 2020)	Re-affirmed the objectives set out in GS1979, welcomed the objectives set out in GS2020, endorsed the funding arrangements agreed by the Archbishops' Council, requested a progress report back to Synod from the Archbishops' Council by July 2018.		<p>Consultations have taken place at eight regional meetings with dioceses and TEIs in June and July 2016 involving 160 participants. Following these, the plans for implementation of the new funding arrangements have been developed and adjustments made to the age bands to include a fourth band. Work is continuing on mixed mode funding and consideration of the pooling arrangements for student family maintenance. Shadow running of the new system began in September 2016 in partnership with 12 dioceses and 6 TEIs. The Ministry Council will review progress at its 27 February meeting and prepare a proposals for the Archbishops Council to consider for approval. September 2017. The Lay Ministries Working Group report "Serving Together" was presented to the November 2016 Ministry Council and a summary of its main findings was published. The Council asked for further work on the recommendations to be considered at its February 2017 meeting. These include proposals for how lay ministries are authorised, resourced and understood more widely and effectively across the church. These will be coordinated with the final version of the RME proposals.</p>

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
18 February 2016	Take Note Debate on a Report on 'Renewal and Reform: Resourcing the Future' (GS2021)	The Synod was asked to Take Note of the report setting out the implementation plans for the Resourcing the Future review of the distribution of the Church's national funds.	Dioceses and parishes	<p>Implementation of the work-stream on Resourcing the Future is well under way.</p> <p>Allocations to dioceses of the new Lowest Income Communities funding (including transitional funding arrangements) have been made, along with the first awards of Strategic Development Funding in the new triennium. 24 awards have now been made to 20 dioceses. The process of Peer Review has been established, and 22 dioceses have taken part to date. We expect the remaining dioceses to participate in 2017.</p> <p>Work is also in hand to set up the new Strategic Investment Board, which takes on the role of the Archbishops' Spending Plans Task Group. The Archbishops' Council also agreed to create a joint Funding Monitoring Group with the Commissioners to advise both bodies on the efficacy of the distribution mechanisms and of the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the use of funds.</p>

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
8 July 2016	Motion on the result of the EU Referendum	The Synod welcomed the Archbishops' call for unity and called in Bishops to identify diocesan champions for unity within local communities.	Bishops and dioceses	MPA set up and hosted the blog site, Reimagining Europe, which brought together contributions from a Christian perspective from both "leave" and "remain" voices and which covered a wide range of perspectives on Europe, the EU and related issues. This was well received as a sane and rational forum in an otherwise heated debate. In the wake of the referendum result, the blog is being continued as a forum for discussion of how our future relationships with European neighbours might evolve, not least in terms of relationships with European churches. In the light of the rise in hate crime that has taken place since the referendum, MPA staff have supported bishops with information and analysis so that local responses could be well-informed.
9 July 2016	Motion on a Vision and Narrative for Renewal and Reform (GS 2038)	Synod welcomed the vision and commended it as a framework for implementation of Renewal and Reform across the Church.	National Church Institutions, Dioceses	The Vision and Narrative has been adopted by all the workstreams as they continue their work under Renewal and Reform.

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
9 July 2016	Take Note Debate on “A Church of England Vision for Education” (GS 2039)	Synod took note of the report.	Bishops, Dioceses, Boards of Education, Schools, Colleges and Universities	The Vision has been well received very widely and has become the underpinning document for the Education Office’s work and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. Further work will help dioceses and educationalists to ensure the vision has impact in their local context. The Education Office is clear in the message that this the Church of England’s vision for education, not restricted to Church of England Schools, and so the vision is at the heart of our attempts to shape and develop policy across the educational landscape.
9 July 2016	“Nurturing and Discerning Senior Leaders” – Report from the Developments and Appointments Group of the House of Bishops (GS 2026)	Synod took note of the report.	Bishops and Dioceses	The GS Misc paper on Renewal & Reform (February 2017) includes the update on relevant activities.

DATE PASSED	MOTION	ACTION CALLED FOR	INTENDED AUDIENCE	FOLLOW-UP
9 July 2016	Draft Inspection of Churches Measure (GS 2028)	Synod adjourned the debate.	Dioceses and parishes	The debate was adjourned. Officers are working on alternative ways of achieving the objectives of this draft Measure. Proposals will be brought to Synod at a future date.