

# GENERAL SYNOD

## Report by the Business Committee

### Introduction

1. The responsibilities of the Business Committee include settling the agenda for groups of sessions of the Synod and making arrangements for them more generally. It produces a report for each group of sessions, which is the subject of a brief 'take-note' debate at the beginning of the group of sessions, in which the Committee gives some explanation and background information to Synod members about the shape of the agenda and the subject areas under discussion. The report also generally covers a number of other issues relating to the conduct of the Synod's business.
2. This report falls into three parts:
  - Part I introduces the Agenda for the November 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 November 2015 Group of Sessions

3. On Monday 23 November, prior to the Inauguration of the Synod on the following day, there will be an induction seminar. This is aimed primarily at new members but is open to all members who have been re-elected should they also wish to attend. All wishing to attend should book their place in advance by completing the form sent to them in their welcome pack and returning it to the Synod Office at Church House.
4. On Tuesday 24 November, there will be a service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey at 10.45 a.m., at which Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will be present.
5. Following the service, Her Majesty will address the Synod at a brief ceremony in the Assembly Hall of Church House, Westminster. After the Inauguration ceremony, the Synod will adjourn for lunch, reassemble at 2.45 p.m. and will then sit until 7 p.m. On Wednesday 25 November, the Synod will sit from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.
6. The House of Laity will meet after the Synod has concluded its business.

### Synod Worship

7. The liturgical texts for worship at General Synod are displayed on the screens in the Assembly Hall. In addition, PDF copies of the GS worship booklet are published on the website a few days before a group of sessions and may be downloaded by Synod members and visitors who wish to view them on their personal electronic devices. A limited number of paper copies of the worship booklet are available on request from the

Information Desk in the Bishop Partridge Hall for those Synod members who prefer to use them.

8. The new Chaplain to General Synod is the Revd Michael Gisbourne. Any Synod members who would like to be involved in aspects of Synod worship at future groups of sessions should contact the Chaplain via [sue.moore@churchofengland.org](mailto:sue.moore@churchofengland.org)
9. The Continuous Praying Presence will be based in the Church House Chapel and will be present throughout the hours that Synod is sitting. Synod members are welcome to participate in the Praying Presence at any time. Details of those leading the Praying Presence and the prayers used may be found in the Worship Booklet.

### **Legislative Business**

10. This group of sessions has only one item of legislative business, the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2015. The Order, which is one of two fees orders put before the Synod by the Fees Advisory Commission for approval each year, sets the fees for ecclesiastical judges, registrars and others for certain sorts of legal work, including applications to the chancellor for a faculty. On this occasion the form of the Order has been recast considerably. Further details can be found (as is always the case in relation to draft legislation introduced to the Synod) in the ‘Explanatory Memorandum’ accompanying the Order.

### **Private Members’ Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions**

11. As this is the first Synod of this quinquennium, there are no Private Members’ Motions (‘PMMs’) at this time. Notice of any new PMMs that are received during the November group of sessions will be published in a Notice Paper as soon as is practicable. Lists will be available at the November group of sessions for members to indicate their support for any PMM of which notice has been received in sufficient time by adding their signature. Following the end of the group of sessions, members will be able to show their support for PMMs of which notice has been received by emailing the Clerk requesting her to add their names to the lists.
12. Under Standing Order 7 of the Synod’s Standing Orders, Diocesan Synod Motions may be carried over into the new quinquennium. There are currently 7 DSMs from the previous quinquennium listed in Special Agenda IV. These are normally scheduled for debate in the order in which they are received. The three DSMs relating to the Anglican Communion Covenant remain ‘parked’ pending further discussions within the Communion. The DSM from Oxford on ‘Fossil Fuels Disinvestment’ remains on the agenda pending further discussions in the diocese. The two remaining Diocesan Synod Motions are the motion from the Blackburn Diocesan Synod on ‘Welcoming Transgender People’ and the motion from the Leeds Diocesan Synod on ‘The Impact of Sanctions on Benefits Claimants’.

### **Fringe Meetings and Displays**

13. Due to the security arrangements surrounding the Inauguration, only a brief period has been set aside for fringe meetings and displays at this group of sessions. All those organising and participating in fringe meetings and displays are required to abide by the

**Business Committee's policy on fringe meetings and displays**, which may be viewed on the Church of England website at:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2246136/policy%20for%20displays%20and%20fringe%20meetings.docx>

## **II: Individual Items of Business**

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

### **Tuesday 24 November**

#### ***Presidential Address***

15. The Archbishop of Canterbury will give a Presidential Address to open the first group of sessions of the new quinquennium.

#### ***Business Committee Report***

16. 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.

#### ***Introduction to Synod Worship by the Synod Chaplain***

17. The new Synod Chaplain, the Revd Michael Gisbourne, will introduce himself and outline his duties. He will set out his future plans for Synod worship and seek Synod members' engagement and participation in the worship at future groups of sessions.

#### ***Reform and Renewal Presentation followed by Questions***

18. The Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee will moderate a presentation by some of the leaders of the different strands of the Reform and Renewal programme (see <https://churchofengland.org/reform-renewal.aspx> for more information). This will be followed by an opportunity for questions from the floor.

#### ***Questions***

19. 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 deliver notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod by **12 noon on Thursday 12 November**. Questions sent by email should be sent to [questions@churchofengland.org](mailto:questions@churchofengland.org)
20. More information regarding the procedure for tabling questions and asking supplementary questions may be found in the Synod Guide on the resources section of the website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members'-resources.aspx>

## **Wednesday 25 November**

### ***Loyal Address***

21. It has been the custom since 1970 for the Synod to submit a Loyal Address at the inauguration of each new Synod. The Archbishop of Canterbury will therefore move that a Loyal Address should be presented to Her Majesty the Queen.

### ***Presentation from the Archbishop of York on Global Warming***

22. There will be a short speech from the Archbishop of York preceded by a video presentation describing his recent visit to Fiji and other islands in the South Pacific to view the impacts of global warming on the environment and local communities.

### ***Debate on a Motion from the House of Bishops on the Migrant Crisis***

23. The Bishop of Durham will introduce a motion from the House of Bishops on the Church's response to the Migrant Crisis. The scope of the motion is likely to include both the challenges and opportunities in the Middle East and in Europe, and a practical focus on how our parishes and dioceses will work collaboratively with other local bodies to support migrants who arrive in England. The final form of the motion will be decided as close to the group of sessions as possible in order to reflect what may be a rapidly changing context on the ground. The Business Committee welcomes this initiative from the House of Bishops in ensuring that the substance of the motion is as up-to-date as possible.

### ***Legislative Business***

24. The Synod will be asked to approve the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2015 (see paragraph 10 above).

### ***Public Perceptions of Jesus***

25. There will be a 2 minute animation and a presentation from the Bishop of Bristol setting out the background to a report on public perceptions of Jesus. This will be followed by a presentation on the report by Gareth Russell of BARNA Global and Dr Rachel Jordan (MPA). There will then be an opportunity for questions from the floor.

### ***Debate on the Report of the Church Buildings Review Group***

26. The Bishop of Worcester will introduce a debate on the Report from the Church Buildings Review Group. This forms part of the wider Reform and Renewal programme. The report provides numerical analysis of the challenges facing the Church of England's 15,700 churches, two thirds of which are in rural areas with only 17% of the population. The report makes recommendations around sustainable government financial support, simplification and strengthening diocesan capacity. It also recommends the creation of a single team at Church House to oversee church buildings and a single more strategically-focused Church Buildings Commission for England.

### ***Farewells***

27. There will be a farewell to the Secretary General, Mr William Fittall.

### **III: Other Work of the Business Committee**

#### **Synod Security**

28. Members' attention is drawn to the new Business Committee Security Protocol. This is published on the website and as Annex 3 to this paper.
29. Information on specific security arrangements for each group of sessions is made available to members via the Security Notice Paper which is published in advance 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.
30. For security reasons, bags and coats are not permitted in the public gallery. A separate room and cloakroom tickets will be provided and this will be staffed by a security officer throughout the group of sessions. No food or drink is permitted in the public gallery, but a water cooler is provided outside the public gallery. All guests and Synod members visiting the public gallery are required to go through the security scanner on the way to the gallery.

#### **Distribution of Papers**

31. All Synod members receive papers electronically unless they specifically request otherwise. Those members wishing to receive papers by post should tick the relevant box on their registration form (found in the welcome pack). Hard copies of the Agenda will be available at the Information Desk for those members who would like them. A limited number of spare copies of individual Synod papers will also be available at the Information Desk.

#### **Communications of General Synod Proceedings**

32. Synod proceedings will be available as a live video feed and audio feed via the Church of England Website. Members may also choose to follow the General Synod Twitter feed either by following the official @synod twitter account or alternatively by following the hashtag #synod. The Communications Department upload a summary of the business completed to the CofE website after every session.
33. After Synod a special editions of "In Review" and "in Focus" are produced for churches and parish magazines, with both available to download from the CofE website.
34. The CofE weekly podcast also features highlights from Synod during weeks when it is in session.

#### **Other Information**

35. More general information and background for new and existing members on the General Synod is available on the "Member Resources" page of the General Synod website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members'-resources.aspx>

## **Concluding Remarks**

36. This is the last report of the Business Committee from the members elected from 2010 – 2015. It is our hope that the new Synod will go on to build on the work of listening, learning from one another and seeking to live out Paul’s instructions in Ephesians 4.2 “to bear with one another in love, and to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” The new Synod will have a particular calling to ensure that this aspiration becomes a reality in the new quinquennium.

On behalf of the Business Committee

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

**Membership of the Business Committee 2010 - 2015**

*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) – until October 2015

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

*Elected by the House of Laity*

Mrs Anne Foreman (Exeter)

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich) – until October 2015

Mr Gerry O'Brien (Rochester) – until October 2015

*Appointed by the Archbishops' Council*

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield) – until October 2015

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans) – until October 2015

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 2016 and 2017. 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).

### February 2016

- Debate on a report from the Church of Scotland
- Report from the Evangelism Task Group with group work
- Preparatory Presentation on the Shared Conversations
- Reform and Renewal items, to include:
  - Resourcing Ministerial Education
  - Resourcing the Future
  - Discerning and Nurturing Senior Leaders
  - Motion for Debate on the proposed Enabling Measure

#### *Diocesan Synod Motions*

- “Welcoming Transgender People” – Blackburn Diocesan Synod Motion
- “Impact of Sanctions on Benefit Claimants” – Leeds Diocesan Synod Motion

#### *Legislative Business*

- Enactment of Amending Canon No. 34
- Simplification: Mission and Pastoral etc (Amendment) Measure

### July 2016

- Shared Conversations (Sunday pm – Tuesday pm)

#### *Other Business*

- Affirmation of the Anglican Consultative Council's Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (Council for Christian Unity)
- Report from the Joint Anglican-Methodist Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group
- Report from the Development and Appointments Group of the House of Bishops on the progress of the actions set out in GS 1982 'Discerning and Nurturing Senior Leaders
- Debate on a motion from the Mission and Public Affairs Council on the Presence and Engagement programme

#### *Legislative Business*

- ?Simplification: Enabling Measure – First Consideration



## **2017 and Beyond**

- Debate on inter-changeability of ministries between the Anglican and Methodist Churches
- Debate on the Anniversary of the Reformation
- Follow-up to “Unfinished Business” from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and group work on Unconscious Bias
- Report from Task Group on Lay Leadership

Church House  
Westminster, SW1P 3AZ  
October 2015

Dr Jacqui Philips  
Clerk to the Synod

## GENERAL SYNOD SECURITY POLICY

### Introduction

1. Under SO 125(6)(c), the Business Committee is responsible for all the operational workings of Synod, including overseeing the security arrangements at each group of sessions. These measures are in place to ensure the safety and security of all those attending Synod, whether Synod members, guests, members of the public or staff.
2. All Synod members, guests and visitors are reminded of their responsibility to comply with this policy in order to ensure the safety of all. They are encouraged to remain vigilant and to report any concerns to security staff or staff on the Information Desk.
3. This document sets out the security arrangements in place at General Synod meetings for information and reassurance for Synod members and visitors. Any queries should be directed to the Clerk to the Synod at the email address at the end of this document.

### General Security Arrangements

4. There is ample signage both at Church House and York University to indicate which areas are reserved for Synod members or available to wider public access by the general public. Security personnel are stationed at strategic points near to such signage to ensure that no unauthorised persons enter secure areas.
5. Synod members and visitors are reminded that they should not leave any items unattended to avoid triggering a security alert. Security staff retain the right to remove any suspicious items for attention. Any Synod members who wish to report a suspicious package should contact a member of the Security staff or speak to the staff on the Synod Information Desk.
6. Members of the public wishing to sit in the gallery in either venue are required to leave bags and heavy coats in a designated, supervised cloakroom.

### Issuing Synod Passes

7. Everyone who has business at Synod (members, staff, guest speakers, fringe meeting organisers/speakers and those staffing displays) **must** have a photo pass to identify them and give them the appropriate level of access. Security passes are required to be worn at all times during groups of sessions and the photograph must be visible at all times.
8. All Synod members are issued with a photo pass at the beginning of their time on Synod. These are dated and valid for the whole synodical quinquennium (Synodical term). The background colour of these passes is changed for each quinquennium (returning members will therefore find that their previous pass is no longer valid).
9. Specific passes are issued fringe meeting organisers/speakers and those staffing displays. These are valid for one group of sessions only.

## Arrangements in London

10. Church House is staffed on a 24 hour basis by the Corps of Commissionaires on behalf of the Corporation of the Church House. Additional security personnel are drafted in to cover core Synod times.
11. Additional security personnel are on duty at both North Door and Dean's Yard reception areas. They carry out bag searches of all visitors entering the building. Coats and bags must be left in the designated cloakroom. Synod members may use the basement cloakroom. Visitors to the public gallery must use the Herbert Baker Room on the ground floor behind the Dean's Yard reception desk, which will be supervised by a member of the security team.
12. Members and staff only are permitted access into or through the Bishop Partridge Hall. Press (who may not film or record) and display stand personnel have access to the Hoare Memorial Hall (tea room). Members of the public who have been invited by a member to observe Synod may go into the Hoare Memorial Hall provided they are accompanied by the Synod member. The reception desks at Dean's Yard or North Door issue temporary 'visitor' stickers to validate this access.
13. During London groups of sessions Synod members who have lost or forgotten their photo pass may request a 'blank' pass (ie without photograph), upon confirmation of their name, diocese and Synod number.
14. Replacement passes are **not** available for external personnel involved in fringe meetings or displays as these have to be pre-registered. Fringe speakers or organisers who request entry without displaying a pass will not be admitted.

## Arrangements in York

15. Synod security is currently provided by a local company. Security personnel are stationed at strategic points around the entrance to the Central Hall. Only Synod members, staff and media are permitted into the Concourse and its terrace. Media representatives must not film or record activity in the Concourse. Those visitors who are staffing displays or fringe meetings have no right of access to the Concourse.
16. For visitors to the public gallery in York, the security personnel at Central Hall issue a ticket and explanatory note for the morning, afternoon or evening sitting of Synod on a first-come, first-served basis. Access is only via the scanner arch and external staircase. Those staffing displays or fringe meetings must obtain a ticket in order to go into the public gallery. Heavy coats and bags must be left in a separate cloakroom which is staffed by a member of the security team.
17. Replacement photo passes are available in York for Synod members who have lost or forgotten their permanent pass. The same arrangements for checking lost passes are in place as in London.
18. Replacement passes are **not** available for external personnel involved in fringe meetings or displays as these have to be pre-registered. Fringe speakers or organisers who request entry without displaying a pass will not be admitted.

## **Access to the Public Gallery**

### *Church House*

19. The public gallery is the first two blocks on the left past the entrance from the main staircase, totalling 80 seats. It is reached from the stairs from the Dean's Yard entrance. Signage is in place to indicate the extent of the public gallery.
20. Staff at the reception desks issue a public gallery ticket and explanatory note for the morning or afternoon sitting of Synod on a first-come, first-served basis. Those staffing displays or fringe meetings must obtain a ticket in order to go into the public gallery. Access is only via the stairs from the Dean's Yard reception area. An additional scanner arch will be in place on the landing immediately outside the gallery doors.

### *York University*

21. The public gallery is a flat area at the top of the central section of the raked seating, totalling 80 seats. There are 'buffer' areas on either side of it to keep it separate from the members' seating area and the press gallery (occupied by the stenographers and the indicators desk). It is reached via the external staircase/gallery (with an airport-style scanner arch and hand-held wand security check at the foot of the stairs, and security personnel stationed at key points along the route).
22. Members of the public both in London and York should refrain from disturbing Synod's proceedings by making any excessive noise or movement.

## **Queries**

23. The Business Committee reserves the right to update and amend this Security policy prior to each group of sessions. Any queries should be directed to the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk to the Synod at: [jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org](mailto:jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org).

On behalf of the Business Committee:

The Revd Canon Sue Booy  
Church House, Westminster, SW1P 3AZ  
November 2015