

Report by the Business Committee

Introduction

1. The Synod will meet at Church House, Westminster from 2.30 p.m. on Monday 15 February 2016 until 5 p.m. on Wednesday 17 February.
2. This group of sessions follows close on the November 2015 group of sessions. For this reason, the Business Committee has limited the meeting to three days. In planning the Agenda, the Business Committee considered options for fitting the required business into a two-day group of sessions, but took the view that that this was not ideal given members' travel arrangements, venue set-up costs and the need for Synod members to have a longer period to get to know each other in the first February group of sessions of the new quinquennium.
3. Synod members are invited to respond to the questions set out in Annex 2 with regard to their views on the length of Synod meetings.
4. The Business Committee has sought to include as much business that is ready to come to Synod as possible in this first February group of sessions. This is because the Committee is aware that the Shared Conversations are likely to take up the period from Sunday afternoon until Tuesday lunchtime in July 2016, leaving only 1.5 days available for other Synodical business.
5. The Committee will therefore need to give careful consideration at its May meeting to the scheduling of items for the July 2016 group of sessions. Priority will be given to legislation, followed where possible by other urgent and time-critical business. Any remaining business may need to wait until February 2017 or later.
6. 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: Shape of the Agenda

7. The group of sessions will begin with an act of worship and there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall at 9.15 a.m. on the Wednesday morning, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside and preach. On Tuesday morning, worship will take place in small groups before the group work on evangelism begins.
8. The focus at the February 2016 group of sessions is on the first tranche of legislation to come to the new Synod and the developing work on the Archbishops' Renewal and Reform programme. Two Diocesan Synod Motions have also been scheduled at this group of sessions in order to enable them to be taken as early as possible in the new quinquennium. After careful discussion, the Business Committee has agreed not to schedule the Blackburn Diocesan Synod Motion on 'Welcoming Transgender People' for debate at the February group of sessions, but will do so as soon as possible after the July group of sessions. This will allow space for Synod members to engage with the issues that are raised by the Shared Conversations prior to debating this topic.

9. The Agenda includes the following types of business
 - Two items of legislation
 - Group work, a presentation and a debate on the work of the Evangelism Task Group
 - A presentation on the Shared Conversations
 - A presentation and debate on the conversations with the Church of Scotland
 - A presentation and three motions on aspects of the Renewal and Reform programme
 - Two Diocesan Synod Motions (with a third listed as Contingency Business)
 - A Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury
10. Formal business and some legislative business will be taken on the Monday afternoon. After the Report by the Business Committee, there will be a Presidential Address from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Legislative Business includes a draft Measure making a number of changes to legislation to give effect to recommendation of the Simplification Task Group. There will be a short presentation on the Shared Conversations, which will to come to Synod in July 2016.
11. There will be group work on Evangelism on the Tuesday morning followed by a presentation and Q&A on the report from the Evangelism Task Group. Later on the Tuesday there will be a presentation from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland followed by a debate on a motion on a report from the Church of England - Church of Scotland Joint Study Group. In the afternoon, following two Diocesan Synod Motions on Parochial Fees, Synod will debate a motion on the proposed Enabling Measure which forms part of the Renewal and Reform programme.
12. On Wednesday, there will be a Diocesan Synod Motion on ‘The Impact of Sanctions on Benefit Claimants’. There will then be a sequence of items on the Archbishops’ programme for Renewal and Reform, including a presentation from the Task Group leads and debates on two reports on Resourcing Ministerial Education and Resourcing the Future from the Archbishops’ Council.

Order of Business

13. 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. If there is no such business, the contingency business will be taken.

II: Individual Items of Business

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

Monday 15 February

Opening Worship, Presentation of Officers and Appointment of Chair of the Diocese Commission

15. The newly elected Officers of the General Synod will be presented to the Archbishops. There will also be an item to request Synod’s approval of the re-appointment of Professor Michael Clarke as Chair of the Dioceses Commission.

Report by the Business Committee

16. There will be the usual debate on the Report from the Business Committee on the Agenda.

Legislative Business

17. In addition to enacting Amending Canon No. 34 (which deals with a range of matters relating to safeguarding and clergy discipline), the Synod will be asked to give First Consideration to the draft Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure. The Measure will make amendments to a number of pieces of legislation in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Simplification Task Group, which were welcomed by the Synod in February 2015.

Presentation on the Shared Conversations followed by Q&A

18. There will be a presentation by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Director for Reconciliation on the developing plans for the Shared Conversations, which are due to reach the Synod in July 2016. The Business Committee has agreed to allow an opportunity for questions following the presentation.

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 Wednesday 3rd February 2016**. Questions sent by email should be addressed to questions@churchofengland.org.
20. 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.
21. The day will conclude with evening worship.

Tuesday 16 February

Group work

22. Synod members will be meeting in small groups for worship and group work using materials provided by the Evangelism Task Group.

Presentation on the work of the Evangelism Task Group

23. Following the group work, the Synod will receive a presentation from the Archbishop of Canterbury (Chair of the Evangelism Task Group), the Bishop of Burnley, the Revd Elizabeth Adekunle, Beth Keith and Canon Mark Russell. This will be followed by a 'take note' debate on a report from the Task Group.

Presentation from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland followed by a Debate on the Report of the Church of England – Church of Scotland Joint Study Group

24. The Church of England – Church of Scotland Joint Study Group was set up following the Synod debate on a previous report, *Our Fellowship in the Gospel* (GS 1792), in July 2010. The document it has produced has four parts, the first setting out important background, the second agreement in faith between the two churches, the third areas where they can grow in partnership for mission and the fourth the 'Columba Declaration' of shared Acknowledgements and Commitments. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Revd Dr Angus Morrison, will give a presentation outlining the significance of the proposed agreement between the churches before the Bishop of Chester, as Co-Chair of the Joint Study Group, introduces the debate.

Diocesan Synod Motions: 'Parochial Fees'

25. These two related Diocesan Synod Motions from Worcester Diocesan Synod request that the statutory fees for funerals and weddings should include heating costs and the costs of providing a vergger.

Motion seeking approval for the introduction of the proposed Enabling Measure

26. This item of business will give the Synod the opportunity to decide whether to give a mandate for the introduction, in July, of the proposed 'Enabling Measure'. The Measure would facilitate the aim of reducing the burden of Church legislation by allowing Measures to be amended or repealed by orders made by the Archbishops' Council and approved by the Synod, provided certain conditions are met. Further details of the proposals are given in GS 2018.

Wednesday 17 February

27. The day will open with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall.

Diocesan Synod Motion: 'The Impact of Sanctions on Benefit Claimants'

28. The Leeds Diocesan Synod Motion calls on the Mission and Public Affairs Council to study the impact of sanctions on benefit claimants and refers to *Feeding Britain*, the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry Report into Hunger in the UK.

Update on Renewal and Reform

29. The Renewal and Reform work stream leads will give short presentations on progress since the November group of sessions. This will be followed by an opportunity for questions.

Renewal and Reform: Resourcing Ministerial Education: Debate on a Motion from the Archbishops' Council

30. The Bishop of Sheffield will report back on consultations undertaken since the February 2015 group of sessions, the proposals for future funding arrangements and the next stages of detailed work on implementation. The debate allows Synod members to consider the proposals for encouraging growth in numbers and quality of ministers in the context of Renewal and Reform. The motion for this debate will be circulated on a notice paper.

Renewal and Reform: Resourcing the Future: 'Take Note' Debate on a Report from the Archbishops' Council

31. Canon John Spence, the Chair of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee, will introduce the debate, which serves to fulfil Synod's request for scrutiny of the Resourcing the Future implementation plans. The 'take note' debate will allow Synod members to consider the detail of how the new arrangements will be put into practice.

III: Other Work of the Business Committee

General

32. Synod members are invited to check the Members' Resources page of the General Synod website at:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/members'-resources.aspx>
33. This contains a number of General Synod policies and practical information which is updated by the Committee on a regular basis, including the General Synod Security Policy, the policy for Fringe Meetings and Displays, Guidance on Dignity and Behaviour for General Synod Members and Staff and other matters.
34. These documents are also available on the General Synod App, which may be downloaded from the Apple and Android App Stores.

Contingency Business

35. The Business Committee has scheduled Contingency Business in the form of a Diocesan Synod Motion from Leeds Diocesan Synod on 'Blood and Organ Donation'.

Forecast of Future Business

36. The forecast of future business annexed to this report provides a forward look to forthcoming groups of sessions in 2016 and 2017. This should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod in 2016 and 2017, especially given the pressures of time anticipated in July 2016.

On behalf of the Business Committee

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

January 2016

Membership of the Business Committee (January 2016)

Chair

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford)

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd Peter Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Revd Canon Graeme Buttery (Durham)

The Revd Prebendary Simon Cawdell (Hereford)

The Revd Canon Joyce Jones (Leeds)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Anne Foreman (Exeter)

Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford)

Mr Clive Scowen (London)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

To be confirmed.

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 group of sessions indicated, particularly given the pressures on time at the July 2016 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).

July 2016

Shared Conversations – Please note: There will be no fringe meetings or displays during the period that the Shared Conversations are taking place in July.

Legislative Business

- Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure – Revision Stage
- Measure giving effect to the recommendations of the Church Buildings Review – First Consideration
- ? Enabling Measure – First Consideration
- Statute Law Repeals Measure – First Consideration (deemed)
- Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches (Consolidation) Measure – First Consideration (deemed)
- Regulations under Canon C 30 in relation to risk assessments
- Usual fees orders (deemed)
- Regulations (or possibly Measure) making pre-consolidation amendments to Church of England Pensions legislation
- ? Amending Rules and Code of Practice under the CDM

General

- Archbishops' Council Annual Budget 2017 – Presentation and Questions
- Archbishops' Council Annual Report (Deemed Item)
- Archbishops' Council Audit Committee Annual Report (Deemed Item)
- Church Commissioners' Budget (GS Misc document)
- Renewal and Reform items 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'

Ecumenical Matters

- Affirmation of the Anglican Consultative Council's Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (CCU)
- Report from the Joint Anglican-Methodist covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

February 2017 and beyond

Legislative Business

- Mission and Pastoral etc. (Amendment) Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Measure giving effect to the recommendations of the Church Buildings Review – Revision Stage
- ? Enabling Measure – Revision Stage
- Statute Law Repeals Measure – Revision Stage – ?Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches (Consolidation) Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Pensions (Consolidation) Measure – First Consideration
- Pensions Regulations

General

- 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
- Debate on a motion from the Mission and Public Affairs council on the Presence and engagement programme

Ecumenical Matters

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

Diocesan Synod Motions

- Blackburn Diocesan Synod Motion on ‘Welcoming Transgender People’
- Leeds Diocesan Synod Motion on ‘Blood and Organ Donation’

Meeting arrangements for General Synod (2019 – 2021)

Introduction

1. Representations to the Business Committee and GS Misc 1094 ‘Optimising the Role of the NCIs’ raise questions for the Business Committee in identifying dates for the General Synod and in deciding Agenda within these dates. The background to these responsibilities and decisions is set out below and Synod members are invited to respond to three straightforward questions set out on page 3 to help this decision-making process.

Background

2. Under Article 3(1) of its Constitution the General Synod must meet at least twice a year and at such time and places as it may provide or, in the absence of such provision, as the Presidents may direct.
3. Under Standing Order 2(2), the Synod must, on a motion moved on behalf of the Business Committee no later than 1 August in the preceding calendar year, determine the week or weeks during which each group of sessions is to be held. Under Standing Order 2(3) the Presidents, after consulting the Business Committee, must appoint the days and times when, and the place where, each group of sessions is to be held.
4. Under Standing Order 2(4) no official body may meet during the time that the Synod meets, without prior permission of the Clerk.
5. In the light of these considerations, dates for Synod meetings need to be set well in advance. There are also practical reasons for doing so, for example to allow other bodies such as the Archbishops’ Council to set dates for its meetings that do not clash and to allow venues in London and York to be booked sufficiently long before to ensure availability and avoid any late booking charges.
6. The dates for the General Synod meetings from 2016 - 2018 were proposed to the Synod in February 2014 by the Business Committee and were approved at that time.
7. The Business Committee will therefore at their March 2016 meeting need to identify the dates for General Synod meetings between 2019 and 2021. These will be submitted to Synod for approval at the February 2017 group of sessions.
8. This Appendix to the Business Committee report sets out some of the issues which the Committee will be considering when they meet in March and poses some questions to which Synod members are invited to respond to help the Committee with their deliberations.

Cycle of meetings

9. The basis of the present policy is a Private Members’ Motion which was passed by General Synod in November 2001. This read as follows:

That this Synod, concerned at the perceived build-up of urgent business that is then held back for lack of available debating time, and recognizing the unreasonable gap between the November and July sessions, request the Business committee to alter the dates and duration of General Synod to:

- *Up to a week, usually from Monday to Friday, normally in early February, before Lent;*
- *Up to a Friday to Tuesday in July;*

And to keep in reserve provision for a third, shorter group of sessions to be held on the Monday to Wednesday in the week beginning the second Sunday before Advent.’

10. Consequently, a maximum of **thirteen** days are held each year for General Synod groups of sessions. As described above, the Business Committee proposes those dates at least three years in advance. The following number of days are held for potential Synod meetings in any given year:
 - 5 days for a February group of sessions
 - 5 days for a July group of sessions
 - 3 days for a November group of sessions (Contingency Dates)
11. The dates announced represent the ‘envelope’ or maximum length that might be taken up by each group of sessions. The **actual length** of any group of sessions is determined much nearer the time in the light of the business that needs to be transacted.
12. The **February group of sessions** is usually scheduled for Monday – Friday, although it quite often only takes up four days. In 2015 and 2014, the February group of sessions only took up 3 days as the Synod had met the previous November. February Synod meetings tend to be longer if the Synod has not met the previous November and also if there is a substantial body of legislation which needs to be considered.
13. **July groups of sessions** tend to take place over a week-end, starting on the Friday afternoon and finishing on the following Tuesday afternoon. They rarely run shorter than the projected five days.

Length and pattern of meetings

14. July groups of sessions are always scheduled after the ordinations at Peterhead and take account of the availability of the venue at the University of York. February groups of sessions are timed to avoid the date where Ash Wednesday falls. The Business Committee will also do its best in future to avoid scheduling the February group of sessions during a week where the Half Term holiday falls in one of the English regions. November groups of sessions (when they do take place) generally fall in mid-November, except in Inaugural years when they take place later. The aim is also to ensure that November group of sessions take place well before the start of the Advent season.
15. General Synod inaugurations (which take place every five years) always happen in the November of the inaugural year. Outside inaugural years, the expectation has been that there will only be a November group of sessions in exceptional circumstances - thus leaving 10 days a year for Synod meetings in more ‘routine’ years.
16. However, the period from November 2013 – November 2015 has been unusual in having a continuous run of November groups of sessions. This was due to the requirement to take the second tranche of Women in the Episcopate legislation within a compressed timetable, as well as the fact that the new Synod had its inaugural group of sessions in November 2015.
17. This means the last 2.5 years have seen the most intensive run of Synod meetings for 20 years.
18. GS Misc 1094 ‘Optimising the Role of the NCI’s’ was published in January 2015 but has not yet been debated by Synod. A link to the paper may be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2141359/gs%20misc%201094%20-%20optimising%20the%20role%20of%20the%20ncis.pdf>
19. This paper offers an opportunity for Synod members to engage with the statements made in paragraphs 61 – 63 which say as follows:

61. So far as we are aware, **the General Synod meets more than any comparable Anglican body in these islands or in the Anglican Communion**. Given the unique role of the Synod as a legislature, which is making public law, we can see, not least at a time of reform, that it needs to continue to meet twice a year (as the law requires). Otherwise the gestation period for legislation would be lengthened.

62. But even allowing for the importance of time for deliberation and relationship building we seriously question whether 9 days (plus an additional 3 contingency days) [in fact 13 are held] need to be set aside in the diaries of 470 members and many staff every year. The opportunity- quite aside from the actual- cost of this in terms of time that could be spent on other work for the Kingdom is huge.

63. We offer as a basis for discussion the proposal that **Synod should (save for the inaugural Synod once in five years) normally meet for a maximum of 6 days a year**. This might perhaps be Tuesday to Thursday in London in February and Friday afternoon to Monday lunchtime in York. This will provide an ample allowance for legislation to be dealt with and for other matters to be considered whether in debates or smaller groups.

Areas for Discussion

20. GS Misc 1094 suggests keeping to the usual pattern of two groups of sessions per year, but with both groups of sessions only lasting three days. Whilst such an arrangement would make Synod meetings less time-consuming for members to attend, it would mean that there would be less time available to deal with a heavy legislative or other workload.
21. A further refinement to this suggestion which the Business Committee has considered in recent months following representations made to it by members of the House of Laity is for Synod meetings in London to take place at least in part over a week-end, in order to make attendance more practicable for people in employment. This could mean London groups of sessions running from Thursday until Saturday, rather than Monday to Thursday as at present, or Tuesday to Thursday as suggested in GS Misc 1094.
22. Synod members are therefore asked to indicate the following:
 - Whether they are content with the current length and pattern of Synod meetings.
 - Whether they are in favour of the suggestion made in GS Misc 1094 for **three-day** groups of sessions in February and July **providing that the necessary business can be fitted into this slot**.
 - Whether they are in favour of London groups of sessions being held in part over a week-end.
23. Responses should be sent to the Chair of the Business Committee via the Clerk at jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org. Alternatively, comments may be submitted directly in the relevant section of the Synod App.
24. The Business Committee will review comments received and discuss them during 2016, reporting back to Synod in February 2017.

The Revd Canon Sue Booy
Chair of the Business Committee

January 2016

RECORD OF BUSINESS DONE IN 2015-2020 QUINQUENNium

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”.

The Business Committee agreed at its meeting in May 2015 that it would be helpful for the Synod to receive before each group of sessions a report of all **legislative and non-legislative business** completed by that point in the quinquennium. Following the positive feedback received from Synod members to this initiative, the Business Committee has decided to continue with this practice in the current quinquennium

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.

On behalf of the Business Committee

The Revd Canon Sue Booy

Chair of the Business Committee

January 2016

SECTION ONE - LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CONCLUDED IN THE 2010-2015 QUINQUENNium

DATE OF FINAL APPROVAL	DATE ENACTED	LEGISLATION
25 November 2015		Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2015 (GS 2007)

**SECTION TWO -
NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CONCLUDED IN THE 2010-2015 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	Many parishes have decided to join or form local refugee welcome groups. Dioceses and parishes, often in the context of local ecumenical networks, are negotiating with local authorities and other partners to support resettlement of refugees. Some church leaders and dioceses are engaging actively with the government's development of a scheme for community sponsorship of refugees, and also with the government's efforts to include the victims of religiously motivated persecution among those resettled in the UK. Many parishes and dioceses are working to raise awareness of the need for the UK to take a share in meeting the resettlement needs of some of the most needy refugees who are currently in Europe, not least unaccompanied minors.
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	Report presented to various groups within and outside the Church to support public consultation, which is open to 29 January 2016. Work begun on implementation of recommendations, including launch of a Festival Churches Association.