

**GENERAL SYNOD
November 2014
QUESTIONS**

of which notice has been given under Standing Orders 105-109. Questions for written reply are marked with an asterisk.

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CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

The Archbishop of York to reply

Mrs Anne Martin (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the Crown

Nominations Commission:

Q1 In view of the fact that the Prime Minister now always accepts the first name of the two submitted to him by the Crown Nominations Commission for the appointment of a Diocesan Bishop, will procedures be reviewed to consider whether only one name should go forward, and whether it would be appropriate to re-interview if for any reason the chosen candidate cannot be appointed?

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission:

- Q2** (a) What procedures are followed when one or more of the ‘central six’ members (elected by General Synod) of the CNC are not able to attend meetings concerning a particular vacancy;
- (b) how are ‘substitutes’ identified and who chooses them;
- (c) since the start of the current quinquennium, on how many occasions have individual members of the ‘central six’ not been able to be present and have therefore been replaced by a ‘substitute’; and
- (d) are attendance records kept and can they be published?

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission:

- Q3** Has the Crown Nominations Commission considered the implications for its policies, processes and practices of the many calls, including those made in Parliament, for women priests to be ‘fast-tracked’ (a) into episcopal office and (b) onto the benches of the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords?

The Revd Dr Jo Spreadbury (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission:

- Q4** Has the Commission considered why one name consistently appears in the media as having been under consideration by it and whether, where such reports appear, the Commission might in the interests of fairness release the names of all those who were in fact on the shortlist for the appointment concerned?

FAITH AND ORDER COMMISSION

The Bishop of Coventry to reply

Dr William Belcher (Gloucester) to ask the Chair of the Faith and Order Commission:

- Q5** Are there any plans to consider proposing to the Synod fuller recognition of the Anglican Church of North America by the Church of England? If so, what is the proposed timescale? If not, why not?

Mrs Susie Leafe (Truro) to ask the Chair of the Faith and Order Commission:

Q6 In the light of the investiture of the Most Rev Dr Foley Beach as Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America and the warm welcome he received as a “fellow primate of the Anglican Communion” by primates representing over 50 million Anglicans worldwide, what steps have been taken by the small group established to explore the relationship between ACNA and the Church of England, by the Council for Christian Unity (Questions Nov 2012)?

The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Faith and Order Commission:

Q7 In the light of the Synod resolution of February 2010 to “recognise and affirm the desire of those who have formed the Anglican Church in North America to remain within the Anglican family” has the ACNA Catechism (published in 2013) been evaluated by the Church of England and, if so, has it been found to be compliant with the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it?

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Faith and Order Commission:

Q8 A recent survey published in the Independent indicated that 2% of Church of England clergy hold to a non-realist view of God and some recent speeches in this Synod have advocated a doctrine of the eternal submission of the Son to the Father. Is it part of the remit of the Faith and Order Advisory Committee to advise on whether such views are within the range of Anglican doctrine and if so, how is this done?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith to reply as First Church Estates Commissioner

WRITTEN REPLY

The Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes (Bishops) to ask the Church Commissioners:

***Q9** The decline in the bee population is one of the most serious environmental issues facing the UK, and on 4th November the government published a 'National Pollinator Strategy'. As one of England's largest landowners, and in the light of the fifth mark of mission, can the Church Commissioners endeavour to demonstrate leadership in this issue both in regard to the land it manages directly and land managed via its tenants?

The Revd Canon Robert Cotton (Guildford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q10 Will the Church Commissioners clarify the decision making process by which an additional sum of over £2 million pounds has just been approved, for expenditure between 2014 and 2016, for the ministerial development of Bishops, Deans and a select number of clergy with "high potential"?

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q11 Given that "the EIAG positively recommends investment in companies with responsible employment practices, best corporate governance practice, conscientiousness with regard to human rights, sustainable environmental practice and sensitivity towards the communities in which the business operates", can the Church Commissioners give examples of companies in which it has large investments that meet these criteria, and how can this information be more widely known in dioceses and parishes?

PENSIONS BOARD

Dr Jonathan Spencer to reply

The Ven Dr John Applegate (Manchester) to ask the Chair of the Pensions Board:

Q12 I understand that the Pensions Board has recently introduced 'target rents' for the CHARM Rental Scheme so that they are fair in relation to the local property market, together with a scheme for incrementally moving existing rents to their new targets.

Is the chairman of the Pensions Board aware of the hardship and feelings of unfairness felt by some retired clergy, widows and widowers – principally in the north – facing small annual decreases in their rent to significantly lower target rents and will the Pensions Board move more quickly to the target rents they regard as fair in order to alleviate the financial hardship faced by those with rents that are significantly higher than their target?

CENTRAL READERS COUNCIL

The Bishop of Sodor and Man to reply

WRITTEN REPLY

Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Central Readers Council:

***Q13** What plans are there for reviewing the content and operation of the Bishops' Regulations for Reader Ministry (2000)?

ETHICAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Revd Canon Professor Richard Burridge to reply on behalf of the Chair

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group:

Q14 What are the terms of reference of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group and do they exclude the Group from considering economic or financial issues along with ethical ones (for example whether fossil fuel companies are financially sound investments, as their current share values are partly based on reserves that collectively contain five times as much carbon as the atmosphere can safely absorb and will therefore become valueless)? If the terms of reference contain such an exclusion, what steps would need to be taken to remove it?

Dr Paula Gooder (Birmingham) to ask the Chair of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group:

Q15 In the light of the 2014 General Synod resolution on Climate Change and Investment could you advise Synod on the progress the EIAG has been making to publish the report of its review by the end of 2014, as requested?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply on behalf of the Presidents

Dr Paula Gooder (Birmingham) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q16 In the light of the 2014 General Synod resolution on Climate Change and Investment could you advise Synod what progress (if any) has been made in reconstituting the Shrinking the Footprint working group, so that it reports direct to the Council, to monitor, facilitate co-ordination and promote the responses of all parts of the Church of England to environmental challenges?

Dr John Dinnen (Hereford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q17 How is the Archbishops' Council ensuring that the Church of England is supporting the vital work of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q18 How is the gathering of data from churches being used to work towards the Archbishops' Council's objective of numerical growth in our church?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Presidents

Mr Robin Hall (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q19 The 2012 Ministry Statistics report, published by the Archbishops' Council, reveals that more clergy left active ministry in 2012 (classed by the report as "other losses") than the combined number of clergy who retired or died in service. Considering the cost of training clergy and their value to the mission of the Church, what steps are being taken to enquire of these clergy their reasons for stepping away from ministry and how might we learn from them?

The Archbishop of York to reply

The Revd Canon Perran Gay (Truro) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q20 In the light of the resignation of the Secretary to the Liturgical Commission and Worship Development Officer after less than a year in this half-time role, can the Archbishops' Council reassure Synod

- a) that this post will be re-appointed as a matter of urgency; and
- b) that serious consideration will be given to restoring it to a full-time post, so as to be a more effective resource for the National Church Institutions in fostering the 'spiritual growth' that is a primary element among the Archbishops' Council's Quinquennium Goals?

The Revd Dr Jo Spreadbury (St Albans) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q21 If the post of Worship Development Officer and Secretary to the Liturgical Commission continues to be funded as only a half-time post, can we therefore conclude that worship and prayer is a low priority in the life of the Church of England?

Canon Christine McMullen (Derby) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q22 Since the post of Secretary to the Liturgical Commission will soon be vacant again, what additional support can the Archbishops' Council offer the Liturgical Commission to resource its current work of training and resourcing clergy to engage with, and maintain good liturgical practice in, the parishes?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Bishop of Coventry to reply on behalf of the Chair

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q23 In recognition of the role that reason plays in all aspects of modern life but particularly in the education of young people, and in order to support the call for apologetics in Intentional Evangelism, would the House of Bishops consider issuing new doctrinal guidance on the relative emphasis to be placed on Reason and Tradition in Anglican teaching of the Christian Faith?

The Bishop of Durham to reply on behalf of the Chair

The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q24 Further to the Archbishop of York's 'Inquiry into the Church of England's response to child abuse allegations made against Robert Waddington' which was published last month, what processes are being followed in light of the Observations (Chapter 15) and the Recommendations (Chapter 16), so that the Church of England, its dioceses and parishes, can continue to strive and uphold best practice?

The Bishop of Rochester to reply on behalf of the Chair

The Revd Canon Philippa Boardman (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q25 How is the House of Bishops reflecting on the impact of the participation of the eight senior women among their number and what plans are there to make use of this learning when the first bishops who are women take their place in the House?

Dr William Belcher (Gloucester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q26 Following the indication in GS Misc 1079 (June 2014) that the appointment of a Conservative Evangelical bishop, who holds to a complementarian view of headship, would be made within a 'matter of months', what are the causes of the apparent ongoing delays in making such an appointment?

Mrs Mary Durlacher (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q27 In view of the Archbishop of Canterbury's welcome assurances in his closing speech to the Women in the Episcopate debate in July, that the House of Bishops would 'act on its words' to ensure the appointment of a complementarian Conservative Evangelical bishop, (paragraph 30 of the Declaration), what progress has been made?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Chair

Mrs Pamela Bishop (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q28 In light of the generally positive response to the use of facilitated conversations, what are the plans for setting up a proper process, including an agenda and time line, so that General Synod members can discuss/debate issues around human sexuality and the implications for the Church of England in the context of such conversations?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q29 What lessons were learnt from the College of Bishops' 'shared conversations' around sexuality in September, and has that experience led to any changes to the plans or programme for the next phase of such conversations in the dioceses?

Mr Robin Hall (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q30 Which dioceses have already embarked on the process of Shared Conversations on Sexuality, Scripture and Mission?

Mr Thomas Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q31 Considering the Pilling Report's neglect of the challenge posed by bisexuality (as opposed to simple homosexuality) to the Church's pastoral work and teaching on orientation issues, as well as noting the Business Committee's continued parking of PMMs relating to the matter, and in light of the frankness to which Pope Francis committed the Roman Catholic church in both the recent and forthcoming Synods of Bishops in Rome, will the House of Bishops be considering what timely contribution the Church of England can make to Christian interdenominational discernment regarding human sexuality?

Mrs April Alexander (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q32 Since I last asked in July this year about progress towards a more tolerant attitude to homosexuality in sub-Saharan Africa on the part of the Anglican Church, approximately half a million more people will have died of AIDS. Absence of prejudice is viewed by Lord Fowler (*Aids: Don't die of prejudice*) as a pre-requisite for controlling the disease. Has the House considered the extent of progress made on this since then?

The Revd Jonathan Frais (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q33 During the facilitated discussions on sexuality, what place is given to the resolution of General Synod in 1987 that “sexual intercourse is an act of total commitment which belongs properly within a permanent married relationship” and that fornication, adultery and homosexual genital acts are to be met by “a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion”?

The Revd Jonathan Frais (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q34 During the facilitated discussions on sexuality, what place is given to Resolution 1.10 of the Lambeth Conference 1998 which stated that “abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage” and, “while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all”?

The Bishop of Ely to reply on behalf of the Chair

The Ven Clive Mansell (Rochester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q35 What discussions have taken place in the House to enable those bishops who sit in the House of Lords to express concerns relating to new Regulations for schools which reportedly could lead to Church Schools or other schools with a Christian or other faith foundation being downgraded by OFSTED solely on the basis of not sufficiently ‘actively promoting’ the Government’s ‘British values’, and what representations have been made in Parliament or to Government as a result?

Canon Anne Foreman (Exeter) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q36 Given that, in the House of Lords debate on the Women Bishops Measure on October 14th, the Archbishop of Canterbury referred to Lord Green's group as having ... "completely reviewed the way in which those who are seen as potential bishops are developed and selected ...", what are the implications of Lord Green's work for

- a) the criteria for Selection for Training for Ordained Ministry;
 - b) the way CMD is delivered by Dioceses;
 - c) the way Ministerial Development Reviews are carried out;
- and how is the work of Lord Green's group going to be disseminated to those responsible for a), b), and c)?

Canon Christine McMullen (Derby) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q37 In the House of Lords' debate on the Women Bishops Measure (October 14th) the Archbishop of Canterbury said that Lord Green's group had 'completely reviewed the way in which those who are seen as potential bishops are developed and selected'. Will this review affect the CNC criteria for nominations and/or the criteria used by Diocesan Bishops when appointing Suffragan Bishops and, if so, when will the review be made more widely available to enable this work to happen?

The Revd Canon Philippa Boardman (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q38 Has the work undertaken by Lord Green's group to completely review the development and selection of future bishops (mentioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the House of Lords on October 14th) been discussed and agreed by the Archbishops' Council, and given that it has such significance, when will this work be made available to members of the General Synod for their consideration?

The Revd Canon Jane Charman (Salisbury) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q39 The memorandum 'Recently Established Task Groups' which was circulated to General Synod members in April describes the remit of a number of Task Groups including the Group chaired by Lord Green. Given that this Group has now finished its work and given what the memorandum refers to as the 'connectedness' of that work with the work of the other Groups, how can Synod members access its report 'Talent Management for Future Leaders and Leadership Development for Bishops and Deans', and to whom should they address any questions and comments about the proposals it contains?

The Revd Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q40 Since it was Archbishop Justin himself who told the College of Bishops and their senior women colleagues (meeting in Oxford) that they should follow his example and always count heads in order to assess whether there was fair representation, could the Chair of the House of Bishops please clarify why the membership of the Lord Stephen Green's Group comprised 10 men and 2 lay women – and not a single ordained woman?

Mrs Mary Johnston (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q41 Given that no ordained woman contributed to the work of Lord Green's group, how confident are those responsible for CMD that the proposed 'talent pool' arrangements outlined in 'Talent Management for Future Leaders and Leadership Development for Bishops and Deans' are suited to the particular development needs of women clergy?

The Revd Canon Jane Charman (Salisbury) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q42 Now that it is possible for women to be candidates for the offices of Diocesan and Suffragan Bishop, what plans are there for reviewing the criteria for appointment so that the different experiences of women candidates, and the transferable skills these experiences have forged, are recognised and taken into account?

The Revd Julie Conalty (Rochester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q43 Will the House of Bishops be ensuring there is consultation with the advisors for women's ministry in the dioceses regarding the proposals from Lord Green's group contained in 'Talent Management for Future Leaders and Leadership Development for Bishops and Deans'?

The Bishop of St Albans to reply on behalf of the Chair

The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q44 In November 2013, General Synod passed a motion recognising the priority of evangelism and making new disciples, calling upon every diocesan synod to spend the bulk of one meeting annually and some part of every meeting focusing on sharing experiences and initiatives for making new disciples. A year later, what consideration has the House given to this motion and its effectiveness?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans) to ask the Secretary General:

Q45 Is there any longer a bar on a man or woman who, having been ordained to the priesthood by a bishop who is a woman in another province of the Anglican Communion or in another Church with which the Church of England is in communion, being given permission to officiate under the Overseas and Other Clergy (Ministry and Ordination) Measure 1967, so as to make them then to be as a priest in the Church of England, given a Licence or permission to Officiate?

The Revd Rosalind Rutherford (Winchester) to ask the Secretary General:

Q46 What steps need to be taken to ensure that all the components of the legislative package for Women in the Episcopate will apply fully in the Isle of Man and in all the Channel Islands; and can you confirm that these steps have been taken so that the legislation can come into force on the same day as that on which it is expected to come into force in England (17th Nov 2014)?

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield) to ask the Secretary General:

Q47 Bearing in mind the big reduction in both electoral roll numbers and stipendiary clergy since the introduction of synodical government, and the increasing difficulty of many deaneries in filling their allocated places on diocesan synod, has any consideration been given to removing the requirement in the Church Representation Rules for each deanery (however tiny) to have a minimum of four places (two clergy and two laity) on its diocesan synod?

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Secretary General:

Q48 Since the House of Bishops has said that same sex marriage for its clergy is inappropriate, what penalties could be imposed under the Clergy Discipline Measure in relation to clergy who nonetheless enter into a same sex marriage, if they consent to the imposition of a penalty by their bishop or are found by a bishop's disciplinary tribunal to have engaged in misconduct for the purposes of the Measure?

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Secretary

General:

Q49 Has consideration been given to restructuring, so that there is in future a Ministry and Evangelism Division, and a Public Affairs and Theology Division?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Ely to reply

Mrs Mary Judkins (Leeds) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q50 Many members of General Synod will know about the 1277 initiative 'Make them Count'. What advice can the Board give on what we can do to support this as a means of mission and encourage our own churches to at least pray intelligently?

Mrs Rosemary Lyon (Blackburn) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q51 What is the progress of 'The Christianity Project' since its launch at Lambeth Palace last year?

Mrs Mary Durlacher (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q52 Following the National Society's excellent submission to the Government's consultation on the proposed new standards for schools, is the Board of Education able to give any assurance that the new requirements will not jeopardise the long-standing legal protections for church schools to freely uphold their ethos founded on the Christian values which have served our children and our country so well for so long?

The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q53 Has the Board of Education made a substantial response to the new reported guidelines being used by Ofsted in their evaluation of faith schools?

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Cox (Blackburn) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q54 What response has or will the Board of Education made or make to the Government's 'British Values' Agenda as interpreted by Ofsted in recent pronouncements and inspections of faith schools?

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Cox (Blackburn) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q55 Newspaper reports suggest that Faith Schools are being singled out by Ofsted and criticized for not celebrating other faiths' festivals or inviting in other faiths' leaders. What is the Board of Education doing to promote the requirement of the 1944 Education Act to hold acts of worship of a "wholly or mainly Christian Character" in the light of Ofsted's approach, which seems to be inconsistent with the Act, and its failure to promote this aspect of the Act in non-faith schools?

The Ven Clive Mansell (Rochester) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q56 In the light of reports of the willingness of OFSTED inspectors to downgrade a school at inspection, following the introduction of new Regulations for schools brought forward after the 'Trojan Horse' controversy in certain non-Church schools in Birmingham, for failing to 'actively promote' certain Government-defined 'British values', what steps have been taken by the Church of England at national level to ensure that Church schools may teach in accordance with Church of England teachings and not in any way in contradiction of their trust deeds and, in particular, that Church of England schools will continue to be able to uphold marriage as a union between a man and a woman, as set out in the Canons of the Church of England, its liturgies and its teaching documents and not be required to promote lifestyles contrary to such teachings?

MINISTRY COUNCIL

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply

***WRITTEN REPLY**

Mr Adrian Vincent (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q57 Paragraph 15 of the 19 July 2014 Consistory Court Judgment in the matter of Emmanuel Church, Leckhampton states:

“The Priest in Charge said that she knew about faculties regarding church building, but that: ‘At no time in my experience as an ordinand, curate, or vicar have I ever been aware of anyone telling me that I need a Faculty to sell an item of church property.’”

What steps are the Ministry Council taking in respect of the content of Initial Ministerial Education, to ensure that such a situation can never occur again?

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q58 What steps is the Ministry Council taking to encourage vocations to ordained ministry among women under 30?

Canon Anne Foreman (Exeter) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q59 How many Dioceses are participating in the Young Vocations Initiative and how many young women and young men have had their vocations tested as a result of the Initiative?

Mr Nick Harding (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q60 Following the findings of From Anecdote to Evidence relating to the urgency of the need to work with children, young people and families, are there any plans as part of ‘Common Awards’ to make training for this essential area of ministry mandatory for all ordinands at all institutions?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q61 What forecasts of future requirements for numbers and types of clergy (e.g. stipendiary, NSM, pioneers) is the Task Group for Resourcing Ministerial Education using in its work on identifying the right resources for training them?

REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Manchester to reply

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield) to ask the Chair of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q62 How many clergy have voluntarily surrendered their freehold (whilst remaining in the same post) and transferred to common tenure, and how many clergy still retain freehold? What are the advantages for freehold incumbents of moving to common tenure, and what steps are Ministry Division taking to persuade freehold clergy of the benefits of transferring?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q63 What progress has been made in the last 18 months in equipping young people in our parishes for evangelism, through Mission Academies and other means?

Dr John Dinnen (Hereford) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q64 What response has the MPA Council or the Archbishops' Council made to the 'Kairos Britain' call for action, following the 'Kairos Palestine' cry for support in 2009?

Mrs Rosemary Lyon (Blackburn) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q65 Has consideration been given to what more the Church can do to proclaim the benefits of Christian marriage and the traditional family?

Mrs Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q66 Have any representations been made on behalf of Church of England to Her Majesty's Government regarding gender selection abortions and assisted suicide?

Mrs Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q67 Have any representations been made on behalf of the Church of England to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's 'Call for Evidence' as part of its current research project concerned with freedom of religion and belief in the United Kingdom?

Mrs Mary Judkins (Leeds) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q68 At Christmas the Anglican church in New Zealand, through the good offices of CMS, is celebrating 200 years of the arrival of Christianity in that country. What is the Church of England doing, as part of the Anglican Communion, to contribute to their celebration, and how are the churches in England being informed of this event other than through CMS?

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Revd Canon Sue Booy to reply

The Revd Prebendary Stephen Lynas (Bath & Wells) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

Q69 As part of the Business Committee's look forward to elections next year and a new Synod next November, what plans do they have for re-working the excellent *A Survival Guide to General Synod* to update it and ensure new members can participate as fully as possible and as quickly as possible?

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Business

Committee:

Q70 In GS 1902-5Y para. 98, the Revision Committee for the draft Synodical Government Legislation expressed the view that dioceses should be encouraged by guidance “to recognise that, in the light of technological advances, there are other means than the traditional hustings meeting to allow candidates to engage with the electorate and to be creative in their use of the range of alternatives to such meetings.” What steps have been taken towards encouraging dioceses to explore the practical possibilities of using electronic media in time for the General Synod Elections in 2015, as pioneered by Bristol and Gloucester in 2010?

Mrs April Alexander (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Business

Committee:

Q71 The [You.Gov](#) website says “You should not ask someone for their date of birth on an application form. People selecting candidates...should not be influenced by someone’s age.” This being the case, is there any reason why we should not stop doing so on applications to stand for elections to General Synod or to any of its sub-committees and can this stipulation be enforced?

The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

Q72 In November 2013, the General Synod passed a motion recognising the priority of evangelism and making new disciples and calling upon every diocesan and deanery synod and every PCC to spend the bulk of one meeting annually and some part of every meeting focusing on sharing experiences and initiatives for making new disciples. What consideration will the Business Committee give to reviewing the effectiveness of such motions, priorities and calls?

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC to reply

Mr Thomas Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Standing Orders Committee:

Q73 Will the Committee seek views on the desirability of the discretion enjoyed by the Business Committee over the timing of debates on Private Members' Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions, with a view to its considering whether a restoration of some form of the autonomy and initiative provided by a distinct Standing Committee, or alternatively a specific power provided in Standing Orders to require particular business to have to be debated, might serve the General Synod's role as a sounding-board and discussion chamber better?