

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2015 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.05 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2015

WORSHIP

The Revd Michael Gisbourne (Chaplain to the General Synod) led the Synod in an act of worship.

INTRODUCTIONS

1 The following were welcomed by the Synod:

All newly elected members.

The Rt Revd Christine Hardman (Bishop of Newcastle).

Mr Matthew Frost (Archbishops' Council), who was attending his first meeting of the Synod.

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher (Bishop of Dorchester), acting for the Bishop of Oxford during the Vacancy in See, the Rt Revd John Holbrook (Bishop of Brixworth), acting for the Bishop of Leicester during the Vacancy in See, and the Rt Revd Clive Gregory (Bishop of Wolverhampton), acting for the Bishop of Lichfield during the Vacancy in See.

Ecumenical Representative

The Revd Philip Cooper (Moravian Church), who was attending his first meeting of the Synod.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

2 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2006)

3 The motion

‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

was carried.

INTRODUCTION TO SYNOD WORSHIP BY THE CHAPLAIN TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

4 The Revd Michael Gisbourne (Chaplain to the General Synod) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

RENEWAL AND REFORM (GS Misc 1124)

5 Canon John Spence (Archbishops’ Council), the Bishop of Sheffield, the Bishop of Truro, the Bishop of Willesden and Mr Matthew Frost (Archbishops’ Council) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

QUESTIONS

6 Supplementary questions in respect to questions 1 to 42, as set out on the Questions Paper, were answered.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing at 7.05 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2015 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 1 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

MORNING WORSHIP

The Revd Michael Gisbourne (Chaplain to the General Synod) led the Synod in an act of worship.

LOYAL ADDRESS

7 The motion

“That a Loyal Address be presented to Her Majesty The Queen.”

was carried.

GLOBAL WARMING

8 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK and Margaret Sentamu gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

THE MIGRANT CRISIS (GS 2009)

9 The motion

“That this Synod, recognising that almost 60 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict or generalised violence, a fifth of them because of the tragic conflict in Syria, and noting the compassionate response of British people to the suffering and needs of those displaced by conflict and other causes:

- (a) urge parishes and dioceses to work closely with local authorities and other community partners, to provide

practical and sustainable resources and structures for the resettlement of vulnerable refugees and to pray for all those seeking to address the causes as well as the symptoms of this crisis;

- (b) welcome both the scale of the aid provided by Her Majesty's Government to those suffering as a result of the conflict in Syria and its decision to resettle vulnerable Syrian refugees, while calling on it to increase the number significantly beyond its initial target of 20,000 over five years;
- (c) call upon the Government to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that vulnerability to religiously motivated persecution is taken into account when determining whom to receive into Britain; and
- (d) call upon the Government to work with international partners in Europe and elsewhere to help establish safe and legal routes to places of safety, including this country, for refugees who are vulnerable and at severe risk."

was moved.

14 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

15 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

9 The motion as amended

"That this Synod, recognising that almost 60 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict or generalised violence, a fifth of them because of the tragic conflict in Syria, and noting the compassionate response of British people to the suffering and needs of those displaced by conflict and other causes:

- (a) urge parishes and dioceses to work closely with local authorities and other community partners, to provide practical and sustainable resources and structures for the resettlement of vulnerable refugees and to pray for all

those seeking to address the causes as well as the symptoms of this crisis;

- (b) welcome both the scale of the aid provided by Her Majesty's Government to those suffering as a result of the conflict in Syria and its decision to resettle vulnerable Syrian refugees, while calling on it to increase the number significantly beyond its initial target of 20,000 over five years;
- (c) call upon the Government to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that vulnerability to religiously motivated persecution is taken into account when determining whom to receive into Britain;
- (d) call upon the Government to work with international partners in Europe and elsewhere to help establish safe and legal routes to places of safety, including this country, for refugees who are vulnerable and at severe risk; and
- (e) call upon the Government to take a fair and proportionate share of refugees now within the EU, particularly those with family already legally resident in the UK."

was carried after a division of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	333
AGAINST	0

3 abstentions were recorded.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS
(FEES) ORDER 2015 (GS 2007)**

Order made under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986

500 The motion

“That the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2015 be approved.”

was carried.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF JESUS (GS Misc 1126)

- 10 The Bishop of Bristol, Mr Gareth Russell (UK Vice President, BARNA Global) and Dr Rachel Jordan (Mission and Public Affairs Division) gave a presentation under Standing Order 107.

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2015 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 4.30 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

CHURCH BUILDINGS REVIEW (GS 2008)

11 The motion

“That this Synod, acknowledging both the blessing and the burden of the Church of England’s stewardship for so many historic buildings:

- (a) welcome the report from the Church Buildings Review Group;
- (b) commend it for discussion in dioceses, deaneries and parishes; and
- (c) 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, in the case of those proposals which require legislation, to schedule the start of the relevant legislative process by July 2016.”

was moved.

16 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

17 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

18 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

19 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

11 The motion as amended

“That this Synod, acknowledging both the blessing and the burden of the Church of England’s stewardship for so many historic buildings and the missional opportunities provided by our buildings, whatever their age:

- (a) welcome the report from the Church Buildings Review Group;
- (b) commend it for discussion in dioceses, deaneries and parishes;
- (c) 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, in the case of those proposals which require legislation, to schedule the start of the relevant legislative process by July 2016; and
- (d) 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.”

was carried.

FAREWELLS

- 12 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to William Fittall, Secretary General of the Archbishops’ Council, who was attending his last meeting of the Synod. Mr Fittall made a reply.

PROROGATION

- 13 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod at 4.30 p.m.