

Report by the Business Committee

Introduction

1. The Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven. Julian Henderson, has been appointed Bishop of Blackburn and will resign as Chair of the Business Committee with effect from midnight on Tuesday 9 July. The process for the election of his successor will take place in the summer and the nominations process is already under way.
2. The current membership of the Business Committee is listed on page 11.
3. This report falls into three parts:
 - Part I introduces the Agenda for this group of sessions (**GS 1888**) and highlights distinctive features.
 - Part II comments on individual items of business where necessary.
 - Part III reports on the recent work of the Business Committee.

I: The July 2013 Group of Sessions

4. The Synod will meet at the University of York from 4.15 p.m. on Friday 5 July until 1 p.m. on Tuesday 9 July. (On Friday 5 July the House of Laity will meet at 1 p.m.).

Shape of the Agenda

5. The Agenda for this group of sessions has been shaped around the need to enable Synod members to have time, both in groups and in plenary, to consider how best to proceed following November's vote on the draft legislation to enable women to become bishops. The Business Committee has decided to set aside the whole of Saturday morning and afternoon for facilitated discussions in groups and plenary. As the Synod will not be in session at these times the discussions will be in private.
6. The Agenda contains a significant amount of varied legislative business. There will be an opportunity for the Synod to take stock of progress on the three themes for the quinquennium – growing the Church, contributing to the common good and reimagining ministry, and a debate on welfare reform. The Synod will also consider the recommendations for national action arising from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commissaries in their reports on safeguarding in the Diocese of Chichester.
7. In the light of the extended group work and the estimated time required for the transaction of the legislative business (some of which is time critical), the Business Committee has decided to include only one Diocesan Synod Motions in what is already a packed and complex Agenda. It has scheduled the London Diocesan Synod Motion on the Review of the Workings of the General Synod as contingency business.
8. The Business Committee has decided that the Southwark Diocesan Synod Motion on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod should be parked again, pending the decisions on

the new process of preparing fresh legislative proposals to enable the ordination of women bishops.

9. Two Private Members' Motions have attracted more than 100 signatures (which is the required threshold for debate): Mrs Andrea Minichiello Williams's PMM on the Public Doctrine of Christian Marriage and Mr John Ward's PMM on the Registration of Civil Partnerships. The Business Committee has taken the view that it would be helpful for the two PMMs to be debated at the same group of sessions and that the July group of sessions will not be the right moment for scheduling them given both the pressure on the agenda and the sensitive nature of the other matters to be resolved.
10. 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

11. This section of the Report offers comments, where necessary, on individual items of business. They are discussed in chronological order.

Friday 5 July

Introductions, welcomes, progress of legislation

12. There will be the usual introductions of new members and other formal announcements. The newly elected Prolocutor of the Convocation of York will be presented to the Presidents.
13. The following Anglican and ecumenical guests will be present as observers on this occasion:

The Rt Revd Trevor Williams, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Church of Ireland
The Rt Revd Kristján Valur Ingólfsson, Assistant Bishop in Skálholt, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland
14. Bishop Kristján Ingólfsson will deliver a brief greeting to the Synod on behalf of the ecumenical guests on Friday afternoon.

Approval of Appointments

15. The Synod will be asked to approve the appointments listed below; the biographies of the appointees and other relevant information have been circulated in background papers.

i. Clerk to the Synod (GS 1890)

The Business Committee has appointed Dr Jacqui Philips as Clerk to the Synod, in succession to Dr Colin Podmore. Under Standing Order 123A the appointment is subject to the approval of the General Synod. Dr Philips took up the post of Director of the Central Secretariat on 8 April and has been Acting Clerk to the Synod pending the Synodical approval of her appointment.

ii. Chair of the Appointments Committee (GS 1891)

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding's term of office as Chair of the Appointments Committee ended in February after a total of ten years. Under Standing Order 116, following consultation with the Archbishops' Council and the Appointments Committee, the Archbishops' have appointed Canon Margaret Swinson to succeed him. This appointment is subject to the approval of the Synod.

iii Appointed member of the Archbishops' Council (GS 1892)

After consultation with the Appointments Committee and the Archbishops' Council, the Archbishops have appointed Canon John Spence to succeed Mr Andrew Britton, who is stepping down as a member of the Archbishops' Council and Chair of its Finance Committee at the end of September. Under the provisions of the National Institutions Measure 1998 the appointment is subject to the Synod's approval.

iv. Chair of the Pensions Board (GS 1893)

Dr Jonathan Spencer was appointed Chair of the Pensions Board from January 2009, until the end of 2013. The Synod is being asked to re-appoint him for a further five years with effect from 1 January 2014.

v. Archbishops' Council's Auditors (GS 1894)

Since 2008 the Archbishops' Council's auditors have been BDO. Earlier this year, it was agreed that it was timely to retender the appointment. Following a competitive retendering exercise the Council agreed with the recommendation of a panel of members of its Audit Committee that BDO LLP should be re-appointed as its auditors. Under the National Institutions Measure 1998, the Council's accounts must be audited 'by such person as may be appointed by the Council with the approval of General Synod'. Accordingly, the Synod is invited to approve the appointment of BDO LLP as the Council's external auditors.

Presidential Address

16. After the debate on the Report by the Business Committee and other initial items of business, the Archbishop of Canterbury will give his first Presidential Address to the Synod.

Questions

17. On this occasion the Business Committee has allocated an hour and a half to Question Time.
18. Any member wishing to ask a question of any of the bodies or persons specified in SO 105 must deliver notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod **by 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 25 June**. Questions sent by email should be addressed to questions@churchofengland.org
19. Members are reminded that **all questions will be presumed to be for written answer** unless an oral answer is specifically requested.

Saturday 6 July

Work in groups and plenary session on Women in the Episcopate

20. Members will receive written briefing in due course about the practical arrangements for the facilitated conversations on Saturday. They will continue through the morning and for part of the afternoon before a plenary session at the end of that afternoon.
21. The discussion will be facilitated by a team led by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Director for Reconciliation, Canon David Porter. There will be 24 groups, with an outside facilitator in each. The facilitators will be briefed by the Coventry Cathedral Ministry of Reconciliation; they are all trained in group facilitation and conflict management and most of them are practising Anglicans (with some coming from other Churches). The object of the exercise is to enable members through facilitated conversations to take responsibility for the opinions they hold and to move towards a solution that can command a wide measure of support.

Progress on Meeting Challenges for the Quinquennium

22. The take note debate will be an opportunity for the Synod to review progress on the three themes set at the start of the quinquennium. The Synod will have before it a report from the House of Bishops and the Archbishops' Council (**GS 1895**).
23. The debate will allow members to assess and critique the ways in which the three goals are being pursued, to contribute local insights and experiences which could help inform the work through the rest of the quinquennium, and to reflect in particular on the mission challenge facing the Church of England, which Synod debated in July 2011 and on which a separate paper – *Making new Disciples* – is being circulated (**GS Misc 1054**). There will be further debates on themes from the quinquennial report at future groups of sessions.

Sunday 7 July

Legislative Business

24. The Legislative Business for this group of sessions is set out in Special Agenda I. It will be taken on Sunday afternoon, on Monday and on Tuesday morning.
25. The draft Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure and draft Amending Canon No. 31, which make miscellaneous amendments to ecclesiastical law, return to the Synod following their revision in committee.
26. There are then various items that are consequential on recent pieces of legislation. Following the coming into force of the Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Measure 2013, approval will be sought for changes to the two sets of procedural rules, and the Code of Practice, made under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003, to give effect to changes introduced by the 2013 Measure and other matters. Similarly, a draft scheme amending the constitution of the Diocese in Europe to reflect the effect of the Diocese in Europe Measure 2013 is being laid before the Synod for approval.
27. Approval will be sought for the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2013. In part giving effect to the recommendations of the group chaired by the Chair of the Church Buildings Council on ways in which the faculty system might be reformed, they also update and simplify the current rules (which were made in 2000) in various respects, not least with the aim of making them easier to understand and use.
28. Finally, as usual in July, approval will be sought for the orders which specify the fees payable to diocesan registrars and other legal officers.

Safeguarding: Follow-up to the Chichester Commissaries' Reports

29. This debate will offer the Synod the opportunity to consider the follow-up to the national recommendations arising from the two reports of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commissaries on safeguarding in the Diocese of Chichester (**GS 1896**). This will also provide an opportunity to consider the wider issues of safeguarding in the Church of England.
30. The document circulated to the Synod includes a Foreword from the Archbishops of York and Canterbury which offers an apology for the failure of the Church of England's systems to protect children, young people and adults from physical and sexual abuse inflicted by its clergy and others and for the failure to listen properly to those so abused. The Synod motion asks the Synod to endorse this apology and to invite the House of Bishops and the Archbishops' Council to move forward with taking legislative and non-legislative steps to enhance the Church of England's safeguarding arrangements. The rest of the document summarises the proposed legislative and non-legislative changes and includes an Appendix on proposed legal changes to the Clergy Discipline Measure arising from the recommendations made by the Chichester Commissaries.
31. The aim is to consult the dioceses about the legislative proposals and to ask for their comments by the end of September 2013, after which they will be brought to the

Synod in February 2014. In addition, a major programme of work on safeguarding following the Chichester visitation is now under way at national and diocesan levels, and the Synod paper outlines some of this activity.

Welfare Reform and the Church

32. The Coalition Government's goals of simplifying the welfare system and incentivising work have received broad support in principle across the Churches, but the practical measures and accompanying rhetoric of 'strivers and scroungers' have also caused disquiet. Clergy have daily experience of the problems parishioners face as a result of the impact of benefit changes and the vicarage doorstep is still a last resort for many who fall through the net. Benefit claimants are members of many church communities. In this context, both clergy and laity are alarmed at not only at the impact of changes on the vulnerable but also about the way in which such people are often characterised in political debate. The debate will give the Synod a chance to consider these pastoral concerns.
33. This short report from MPA (**GS 1897**) explores some of the theological and historical reasons for the Church's interest in social welfare, seeks to place the debate within the context of the Synod's earlier work on the financial crisis, and draws on the 2010 debate on The Big Society, to argue that serious welfare reform requires the rebalancing of responsibilities between the individual, the state and wider civil society, including new thinking about the proper role of the churches.
34. The aim is to help the Synod think more deeply and strategically about the Church's potential and responsibilities without getting caught up in the party politics or simply engaging in hand-wringing. The short report is accompanied by two papers already produced by MPA in partnership with CUF – Annex 1 sets out welfare changes that are happening, and Annex 2 assesses their impact on claimants and their families.

Monday 8 July

Legislative Business ***Women in the Episcopate***

35. The debate on women in the episcopate will take place during most of the morning of Monday 8 July. The Synod will have before it fresh proposals from the House of Bishops and a motion which will request that draft legislation be prepared and introduced at the November group of sessions to give effect to one of the options identified by the Working Group appointed by the House. A member of the House of Bishops will move the motion on behalf of the House. Synod members will be able to move amendments to the motion. The deadline for amendments will be 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 7 July.

Legislative Business

Draft Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme 201-

36. The Dioceses Commission's draft reorganisation scheme to bring together the existing Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield, and to create a new Diocese of Leeds (also to be known as the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales) is laid before the Synod following the recent decision by the Archbishop of York to authorise that, even though the Wakefield Diocesan Synod had withheld its consent.
37. The Synod will therefore have the opportunity to decide whether to approve the scheme. If it does so, it will be asked to go on to make transitional arrangements for the Vacancy in See Committee of the new diocese.
38. Although the Diocese of Wakefield withheld its consent to the draft scheme, the draft scheme comes to the General Synod with clear support from the other dioceses involved. The draft scheme as proposed is not open to amendment on the floor of the Synod.
39. This will be the first such scheme to be brought to the General Synod since the Dioceses Commission was given additional responsibilities by the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007. Although the Commission has been careful to point out that the scheme should not be regarded as a template for similar reorganisation elsewhere, it is possible that the Synod will wish to reflect not just on the implications of the scheme for West Yorkshire but also for the wider church.
40. Should the Synod give approval to the scheme, the next formal stage would be for the scheme to be confirmed by Order in Council, following which decisions could be made as to when its provisions took effect. The scheme provides for most of its operative provisions to come into force on a day or days appointed by the Archbishop of York. Different days can be appointed for different provisions and the Commission's report envisages the scheme's provisions being brought into force in a series of stages that are described in detail in Annex A to the report.

Financial Business

Archbishops' Council Budget

41. The 2014 budget (**GS 1900**) is the fourth budget drawn up under the Archbishops' Council's five-year spending plan, endorsed by the Synod in July 2009 (GS 1731). The Council adopted it after consultation with the Inter-Diocesan Finance Forum. The overall proposed apportionment increase is 0.9%, well within the strategy target of at most an inflationary increase.
42. The apportionment for the largest Vote – Training for Ministry (Vote 1) – is recommended to increase by 3.3%, whilst a decrease of 4.1% is recommended for the next largest Vote – National Church Responsibilities (Vote 2). Increases for the

remaining three Votes are: Grants (Vote 3) 1.2%; Mission Agencies pension contributions (Vote 4) 40.9%¹ and Clergy Retirement Housing (Vote 5) 1.3%.

43. The Synod will be invited to approve the Archbishops' Council's expenditure budget for 2014 and the Council's proposals for apportionment amongst the dioceses, and the usual pooling adjustment in respect of additional maintenance grants to ordinands. There are two alternative motions for the apportionment depending on what decision the Synod will by then have taken on the Dioceses' Commission's draft Reorganisation Scheme. The first motion is based on the current diocesan structure. The second covers the situation if the Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield reorganisation scheme is approved by the Synod and if articles 3 and 4 come into operation during 2014. In this eventuality a revised apportionment table would be used from when articles 3 and 4 come into operation, reflecting the new diocesan structure, including the effect of parish transfers.

Church Commissioners' Annual Report

44. The Church Commissioners have again asked the Business Committee for the opportunity to present their annual report and to take questions from the Synod about the whole range of the Commissioners' work. The First Church Estates Commissioner, Mr Andreas Whittam Smith, will make a short presentation, following which he will be joined by the new Third Church Estates Commissioner, Mr Andrew Mackie, in answering members' questions.

Archbishops' Council's Annual Report

45. The Archbishops' Council will offer a brief presentation on its work. The Synod will then have an opportunity to ask questions of a panel consisting of members of the Council.

Farewell

46. There will be a farewell to the Bishop of Exeter.

Tuesday 9 July

Legislative Business **Elections Review Group**

47. The first report of the Business Committee arising out of the work of the Elections Review Group (**GS 1901**) proposes a number of changes in relation to elections to the General Synod and other aspects of synodical government. An Amending Canon and three instruments will give effect to the Group's proposals, all of which come before the Synod for First Consideration at this group of sessions. The Business Committee has agreed that the instruments should undergo the same Synodical process – including revision – as the Amending Canon.

¹ Due to an increase in the number of qualifying clergy employed by the mission agencies – reversing a long term trend – Vote 4 expenditure in 2014 is forecast to be 14.7% more than 2013. The apportionment increase is significantly more than this at 40.9% as it is planned to fund all 2014 expenditure from the apportionment, whereas £200,000 is forecast to be drawn from reserves in 2013.

48. A second report from the Business Committee (**GS 1906**) considers two matters, namely:

- changing the electorate for the House of Laity; and
- introducing an online facility for nominations and voting in respect of elections to the General Synod.

49. The Synod is being invited to consider the report and to indicate its support by passing a motion requesting legislative proposals to be brought forward at a future group of sessions.

Farewells

50. There will be a farewell to the Bishops of Gibraltar in Europe, Hereford and Liverpool who will be attending the Synod for the last time.

III. Other Work of the Business Committee

51. The Business Committee has met three times since the November 2012 group of sessions – in December, March and May. At its March meeting, the Committee reviewed the correspondence received after the November 2012 group of sessions and reflected on the comments about synodical processes made during the debates on women in the episcopate.

52. The Committee welcomes comments and suggestions from members about the way in which the Synod works. These should be sent to the Clerk to the Synod at jacqui.philips@churchofengland.org

53. A number of the initiatives recently considered and approved by the Committee have now been implemented.

(i) Fringe meetings and displays

A page has been created on the Church of England website, setting out the categories and procedures for applying for fringe meetings and displays:

<http://churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/fringe-meetings-and-displays-at-general-synod.aspx> The page also provides an enquiry form for organisations to register their interest.

(ii) Synod circulations

A letter has been sent to members and other recipients of Synod circulations asking if they wish to receive printed copies of Synod papers or download papers electronically. A significant number of those who have responded so far have opted for receiving hard copies only of the Agenda and books; this is encouraging and is expected to help reduce the printing and postage costs.

(iii) Register of Synod members

Another new page created on the Church of England website:

<http://churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/about-general-synod/list-of-membs.aspx> lists members of the Synod by House, with an additional category for non-voting representatives (ecumenical representatives, Deaf Anglicans Together, and the Church of England Youth Council). Members are listed alphabetically within their dioceses, with a rubric indicating that they can be contacted through their Diocesan Office (or, in the case of the special constituencies, through the Synod Secretariat or the Secretary of the relevant House).

(iv) Private Members' Motions

The new arrangements under Standing Order 6, whereby members are able to submit and sign Private Members' Motions between groups of sessions, have been implemented and members have been taking advantage of the new procedures. Members are reminded to watch the relevant deadlines.

<http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/agendas-and-papers/private-members'-motions.aspx>

(v) Use of electronic devices during Synod sessions

The Committee has reviewed the current policy with regard to the use of electronic equipment in the Public Gallery during Synod meetings in Church House, Westminster. It has taken the view that the ban has become unsustainable and has decided to lift it. After discussion with the University of York, the ban on the use of electronic equipment in the Public Gallery in the Central Hall has also been lifted. The ban on photography from the Public Gallery (and from the floor of the Chamber) has not been lifted.

Forecast of Future Business

54. The forecast of future business annexed to this report provides a forward look to the November 2013 and February 2014 groups of sessions. This should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod in the future.

On behalf of the Business Committee

Julian Henderson
Chair

May 2013

Membership of the Business Committee

Chair

The Ven Julian Henderson, Archdeacon of Dorking (Guildford)

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford) – *Vice-Chair*

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark)

The Revd Charles Razzall (Chester)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Anne Foreman (Exeter)

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Gerry O'Brien (Rochester)

Appointed by the Archbishops' Council

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield)

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans)

The Secretary to the Committee is the Clerk to the Synod (Dr Jacqui Philips)
and the Assistant Secretary is Eva Sadowski.

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 2013 and 2014. 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).

Legislative business

November 2013

- MPM / Amending Canon No 31– Final Drafting and Final Approval
- Women in the Episcopate legislation – First Consideration
- Measure making changes to the faculty jurisdiction – First Consideration
- Measure amending the PCCs (Powers) Measure etc – First Consideration
- Amending Vacancy in See Committee Regulation (to give effect to Bradford DSM)
- Amendments to the Church Representation Rules proposed by the Simplification Group

February 2014

- Amending Canon No. 32 and Amending Resolutions relating to GS elections etc – Revision Stage
- Measure and Amending Canon in relation to the Chichester Visitation recommendations – First Consideration
- Pensions (Amendment) Measure [to extend CC's power to resort to capital for pensions liabilities] – First Consideration
- Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order
- Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order

July 2014

- Women in the Episcopate legislation – Revision Stage
- Amending Canon and Amending Rules relating to GS elections etc – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Measure and Amending Canon in relation to the Chichester Visitation recommendations – Revision Stage
- Measure making changes to the faculty jurisdiction – Revision Stage
- Measure amending the PCCs (Powers) Measure etc – Revision Stage
- Pensions (Amendment) Measure – Revision and Final Drafting/Final Approval
- Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order
- Usual fees orders

Liturgical business

- Additional Texts for Holy Baptism

Reports

- Quinquennium Goals – follow-up report on Evangelism and Church Growth
- The Church School of the Future (Education Division)
- Fresh Directions in Local Unity in Mission (Council for Christian Unity)
- Re-imagining Ministry (Ministry Division)
- Debate on the Economy (Mission and Public Affairs Council)
- Anglican-Methodist Covenant: Report from the Joint Implementation Commission
- Aspects of Rural Church Life (Mission and Public Affairs Council)