GENERAL SYNOD JULY 2012 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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HOUSE OF BISHOPS

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The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

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

Q1 Arrangements are being set in place to enable dioceses to input and include their own Community Action initiatives directly onto the www.churchofengland.org/how2help website: will the House of Bishops support sharing best practice in this way?

The Bishop of Oxford to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

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

Q2 In the light of the scheme operating in at least nine schools in Southampton, in which over 1700 girls aged 13-14 received a contraceptive implant last year without the knowledge of their parents, is any response planned by the House to promote the Church's teaching that marriage is the proper context for sexual relations?

The Bishop of Coventry to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q3 Will the House consider whether its 1993 guidance on multi-faith worship properly reflects the centrality of Christ in Christian worship and, if it concludes that it does not, will it bring forward fresh guidance which does so?

The Archbishop of York to reply:

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

What were the findings of the report from the Review Group on Civil Partnerships, referred to in paragraph 9 of HB(12)M1?

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

What is the status of the Archbishops' Foreword on pages 1 to 3 and of the Report of the Working Group on pages 4 to 13 of GS Misc 1007 and do they form part of the "Illustrative Draft Code of Practice to be made by the House of Bishops Under Section 5 of the Bishops and Priests (Consecration and ordination of Women) Measure 20[--]" which is on pages 15 to 49 of GS Misc 1007?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Canon David Banting (Chelmsford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

*Q6 In the Archbishops' Foreword to GS Misc 1007 (January 2012), it was stated (in the third principle bullet-pointed on page 2) that the Archbishops and Bishops "commit themselves to seeking to maintain a supply of Bishops able to minister" (to parishes under diocesan schemes). In view of the defeat of the Archbishops' amendment in Synod, how and when does the House intend to deliver on this principle?

Mr Adrian Vincent (Guildford) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q7 The House of Bishops – Summary of Decisions HB(12)M1 records that the House, at its meeting on 21-22 May, rejected an amendment "designed to add to clause 5 of the draft Measure a requirement that the code of Practice should give guidance on ... non-discrimination in relation to the discernment of vocations." What do the full minutes of the House of Bishops' meeting record regarding the House's discussion of this matter?

The Ven Tim Barker (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q8 Given the welcome transparency of General Synod members' voting, with the recording and subsequent publication of names of those participating in electronic votes, what is the reason (legal or otherwise) for not disclosing the names of members of the House of Bishops voting for and against motions considered by the House of Bishops (such as the recent decision to amend the legislation about the ordination of women to the episcopate), and will the procedure be changed?

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

What consideration is being given, for any future meeting of the House of Bishops discussing legislation for women bishops, to (a) whether that discussion will exclusively involve the members of the House and those with rights to attend and speak (including the PEVs), (b) whether the suffragans might be included in discussions and at what stage, and (c) what arrangements will be in place to ensure that the voice of women is heard in the discussion?

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply:

The Revd Canon Anne Stevens (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q10 The latest issue of Halsbury's Laws of England describes the Church of England as "an aggregate of individuals." It comments "The church may also be considered as an organised operative institution, although the Church of England is not a corporation." Given this, what was the body which issued *A Response to the Government Equalities Office Consultation* from 'the Church of England' and on what legal basis did it believe that it had authority to speak in the name of the Church of England?

The Revd Professor Richard Burridge (Universities) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q11 Given the dispersed understanding of authority within the Anglican tradition, could the Chairman provide a brief explanation of the theological and/or ecclesiological basis of the current processes for public statements which are then seen as "the view of the Church of England" such as the recent statement on gay marriage – which was unsigned, in contrast to previous statements issued in the name of, for example, the Archbishops' Council, or the Mission and Public Affairs Council, or other such bodies?

The Revd Michael Parsons (Gloucester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q12 What was the membership of the group that produced the submission to HM Government on same-sex marriage?

The Very Revd David Brindley (Deans) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q13 Who is the author of GS Misc 1027, and what consultations were held by the House prior to its discussion and approval of that paper?

Mr Tom Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

When the House of Bishops endorsed in a general way its response to the Government's consultation on same-sex marriage, were there votes taken and, if so, with what results; were all the detailed suggestions made carried through into the final form of the submission to the Home Secretary; and what were the grounds in tradition and law on which the detailed deliberations of the House on the matter were not made available to other General Synod members?

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

Whilst grateful for its robust defence of the institution of marriage, who was consulted when the Church of England's response to the Government Equalities Office Consultation *Equal Civil Marriage* was drawn up?

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q16 Who was consulted prior to the making of the recent response to the Government's proposals to change the legal definition of marriage?

Mr Robin Hall (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q17 In preparing a response on behalf of the Church of England to the Government's consultation on equal civil marriage, were any bodies other than the Archbishops' Council and House of Bishops consulted?

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

- Q18 The document *A Response to the Government Equalities Office Consultation "Equal Civil Marriage"* is identified as 'A Response from the Church of England. Can clarification be provided as to what is meant by 'the Church of England' in terms of:
 - (a) the process by which this document was prepared; and
 - (b) the bodies which considered it prior to its submission?

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q19 GS Misc 1027 states that one of the benefits of marriage to society is "the possibility of procreation" (para 6) and also that this distinctiveness is "seen most explicitly in the biological union of man and woman which potentially brings to the relationship the fruitfulness of procreation" (para 10). Despite the clarification at the end of para 10, does this mean that the belief of the Church of England is that any marriage without the possibility or intention of procreation is flawed?

The Revd Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q20 In the light of the response from the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops to the Government consultation on same-sex marriage, are there any plans for General Synod to debate this so that the current mind of the Church of England can be discerned?

Mrs Joanna Monckton (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

What plans does the House/Council have for a meeting with Government ministers about proposed legislation on same sex marriage in the light of the excellent consultation response issued by the Church?

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

- Q22 In discussions with Her Majesty's Government on the proposals to legislate to change the legal definition of marriage, has the House of Bishops questioned:
 - (a) what mandate the Government claims to make the changes it proposes;
 - (b) what evidence the Government has that there is any significant demand from the public for the proposed changes; and if so, what answers were received?

The Revd Prebendary Roderick Thomas (Exeter) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q23 Following the excellent submission made by the Archbishops to the Home Office in response to the Government's consultation on same sex marriage, are there any plans to request a meeting with the Home Secretary in order to secure a direct response to the compelling arguments the Archbishops have made?

Mrs Joanna Monckton (Lichfield) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q24 Has any legal advice been sought to answer the question of whether Church of England clergy will be able to refuse to marry same sex couples in church should the proposed legislation to allow such marriages be passed?

HOUSE OF CLERGY

The Revd Canon Glyn Webster to reply:

The Revd Dr Meg Gilley (Durham) to ask the Chairman of the House of Clergy:

What consideration is being given to informing clergy of the existence of the new Church of England Clergy Association, which has been formed out of dialogue with a working group of the House of Clergy Standing Committee and in response to successive motions of the House in July 2010 and July 2011?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply:

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Secretary General:

Q26 If it is the case that there is no mechanism by which all or part of a churchyard which has been closed by an Order in Council may be reopened for further burials and over-burying, what steps (legislative or otherwise) would need to be taken to permit the further use of all or part of a churchyard which has been formally closed for burials, who could initiate such steps, and how much time would be required before they could take effect?

CLERK TO THE SYNOD

Dr Colin Podmore to reply:

Mr Tom Sutcliffe (Southwark) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

Since the basic cost of a second class mailing to all General Synod members is now about £240, which constitutes a severe disincentive for casual or inessential mailings, on what grounds is the price General Synod members are charged to purchase a set of mailing labels still set at a level higher than the cost of materials and staff time, and has it been considered whether it would be more convenient and cheaper to invite all members to opt in under the Data Protection Act to the dissemination, by electronic means such as CD-ROM, of members' emails and postal addresses necessary for mutual communication and sharing information between sessions?

The Revd Canon Sue Booys (Oxford) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

What was the cost of mailing the papers for this group of sessions of the General Synod?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Oxford to reply:

Mr Nick Harding (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q29 What was the result of the Education Division restructuring, which involved the proposed removal of the full-time youth and full-time children's adviser posts, to be replaced by one 'Going for Growth' officer?

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q30 What arrangements are in place to respond to the special needs of children and young people in care, including advocacy, and to complement educational provisions such as the 'virtual head teachers' scheme which provide continuity of contact during what is often a very unsettled adolescence?

Mr Robin Hall (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q31 In producing new resources for the teaching of Christianity, will the Board, working with the National Society, seek to identify examples of good practice in community schools as well as church schools?

MINISTRY DIVISION

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

The Revd John McGinley (Leicester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q32 In 2007 the *Engaging Young Vocations* report was published, with proposals that over the next 5 years initiatives would be introduced to encourage people to consider a call to ordained ministry much earlier in life. What plans does the Ministry Division have to assess the success of these initiatives and learn lessons from the past 5 years?

The Revd John McGinley (Leicester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q33 In what ways have the Ministry Division considered the links between internship schemes within local churches and younger people discerning a call to ordination, and are there any plans to introduce a national internship scheme or provide funding for dioceses to develop such schemes?

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q34 In the year that ended in June 2012,

- how many people attended a Bishops' Advisory Panel;
- how many did not receive a recommendation for training; and
- how many non-recommendations were over-ruled by the sponsoring Bishop?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply:

Mrs Sarah Finch (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q35 Has any assessment been made, in connection with the proposed validation partnership, of the extent of the experience of Durham University's Theology and Religious Studies Department in the area of work-based learning, and if it has been made, what has been the result?

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q36 What further progress has been made since the last Synod regarding the introduction of a common suite of awards other than the selection of the University of Durham as the Church of England's HE partner?

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q37 Has the Ministry Division or any of its sub-committees considered the impact on Reader ministry and training of the decision of some dioceses to introduce shorter courses of training leading to licensing to preach and/or lead worship?

The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

What criteria will training institutions now have to meet in order to gain exemption from the requirement to use the 'sole validator' under the agreement made with the University of Durham announced in GS Misc 1031?

The Revd Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q39 In view of the difference between dioceses in the number of years required for stipendiary ministers to serve in their title posts and the problems this is causing in enabling some to move between dioceses for their next appointment, is there any intention to create a more uniform pattern throughout the Church of England?

The Revd Simon Cawdell (Gloucester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q40 What steps are being taken by the Ministry Division to review the development and effectiveness of OLM in the Church of England?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

- **Q41** Of those who have been selected for training as pioneer ordained ministers:
 - (a) how many have now been ordained;
 - (b) how many are in a title post (i) in a fresh expression, (ii) in an "inherited church" setting;
 - (c) how many have failed to find a title post;
 - (d) how many, having completed a title post, are now serving in licensed ordained ministry (i) in a fresh expression, (ii) in an "inherited church" setting; and
 - (e)how many are no longer in licensed ordained ministry in the Church of England?

The Revd Richard Hibbert (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q42 What plans has the Ministry Division considered for the effective deployment in ministry of the increasing number of retired ministers?

REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

Dr Jackie Butcher (Sheffield) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q43 Is it possible for a priest to be appointed as an incumbent (rather than as Priest in Charge) on the basis that they receive a 0.5 stipend, in circumstances in which that post is not held in conjunction with any other post?

Mr Jim Cheeseman (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q44 In view of the revising of the age at which the state pension can be received, and increases in retirement ages generally, is consideration being given to raising the compulsory retirement age for clergy beyond 70?

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

What consideration is being given to the degree of recognition that the Church of England considers it appropriate to give the newly formed Church of England Clergy Association, which offers representation to all clergy working for the dioceses of the Church of England and was formed partly as a result of debates and discussions in the House of Clergy and its Standing Committee?

COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Bishop of Guildford to reply:

The Ven Clive Mansell (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the Council for Christian Unity:

Q46 Following the Danish Parliament's reported recent decision to require the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the state Church, to conduct samesex marriages, will a Statement be issued to indicate the implications of this, actual or potential, for our relations with that Church and its clergy under the Porvoo Agreement and, if so, when will such a Statement be forthcoming?

CATHEDRALS AND CHURCH BUILDINGS DIVISION

The Bishop of London to reply:

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chairman of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division:

Q47 What steps have been taken to press the Government to speed up measures against metal theft?

The Ven Tim Barker (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division:

Q48 What advice can be given to parishes in the continuing difficulties of protecting their church buildings from the theft of metal?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Paul Ayers (Bradford) to ask the Chairman of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division:

*Q49 What is the Council's response to the new requirement from EIG that churches use Smartwater on all external metal (bearing in mind the cost in money and time), and what advice and help can be provided to churches which may struggle to fulfil this requirement?

The Revd Canon Sue Booys (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division:

Q50 How is it to be assured that the additional money paid by the Government to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be targeted properly so as to recompense all churches whose VAT on repairs to Church Buildings would have been refunded under the scheme now ending, and when will the mechanism for application be made public?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply:

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

*Q51 Persecution of Christians in other countries is increasing. What is being done to prepare the Church in England for such an eventuality in this country, given much recent publicity about Christians taken to court for sharing their faith, with the key question being: When does defence of personal freedom become suppression of individual conscience and conviction?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Ven Cherry Vann (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

*Q52 Following the publication of the Bailey Report in 2011 on the sexualisation and commercialisation of children and the All Party Parliamentary Group report on Body Inage in May 2012, has any work been done on a comprehensive theology of the body to promote more wholesome attitudes to the human body, and will the Council be considering what further steps might be taken to encourage healthy attitudes to the human body as an antidote to the issues raised in these reports?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

*Q53 A four year old young leaders strategy called 'Fresh' from *Share Jesus International* is aiming to train 1000 young people for Christian leadership by 2015. What plans does the Church of England have not only to put its name to it, but to use it to promote greater ecumenical cooperation in leadership development for mission and evangelism for the Church of the 21st Century, regardless of denominational affiliation?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q54 Has the Council considered whether the recently-published book Church Growth in Britain from 1980 to the present, based on work by researchers at Cranmer Hall, provides sufficient evidence to disprove the widespread belief that Britain is inexorably becoming a more secular country?

The Revd Richard Hibbert (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

What plans are in place for the effective distribution of the Mission and Public Affairs Council's materials and resources to Dioceses and to individual parishes?

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Revd Prebendary David Houlding to reply:

Mrs Pamela Bishop (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the Appointments Committee:

Q56 In the light of the recognised widening socio-economic divide between the North and South of England resulting from the impact of the financial and economic crisis, is attention being paid to a balanced geographic representation of Synod members on the Archbishops' Council and its committees, and on working parties of the General Synod, so that views and perspectives from across the nation may be expressed in their work?

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Ven Julian Henderson to reply:

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q57 Has the Business Committee considered introducing an additional category into the hierarchy for allocating space for a display stand at meetings of General Synod (as set out in GS Misc 685 dated June 2002) of bodies initiated or encouraged by Archbishops' Council or the General Synod, or one of its Houses, to have priority over the final category of "other bodies", so that organisations like the Church of England Clergy Association, which has been encouraged at meetings of the House of Clergy, and groups promoting reports like "Dignity at Work: Working together to reduce incidents of bullying and harassment", which was published by Ministry Division in 2008, are allocated a stand ahead of outside bodies?

Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q58 Will the Committee give a progress report on the thorough review of how the House of Laity of this Synod and the houses of laity of diocesan synods are elected, requested by General Synod in July 2011?

DIOCESES COMMISSION

The Ven Peter Hill to reply as Vice-Chairman of the Commission:

The Very Revd David Brindley (Deans) to ask the Chairman of the Dioceses Commission:

Q59 Has the Commission discussed with the Church Commissioners the section 21, 22 and 23 funding of three cathedrals in the proposed new diocese of Leeds?

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Timothy Walker to reply as Third Church Estates Commissioner:

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Church Commissioners:

*Q60 How many orders have been made since 8 July 2011 under Section 47 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 in each diocese respectively?

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

The Revd Eva McIntyre (Worcester) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q61 In June 2011 the Archbishops issued GS Misc 995 – Challenges for the New Quinquennium – Next Steps. In the section on 'Reimagining Ministry' a policy is stated to reassess current arrangements "with a view to sustaining and growing a Christian presence in every community and attracting more and younger ordinands from diverse social and ethical backgrounds." What progress has been made in implementing this policy?

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q62 In moving forward with the strategies for turning the rhetoric of lay involvement into reality (paragraphs 81 and 82 of GS 1815), how and to what extent are the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops actively consulting and involving a wide spectrum of experienced and relevant lay people in the Church?

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q63 In moving forward with the strategies for turning the rhetoric of lay involvement into reality (paragraphs 81 and 82 of GS 1815), what are the main obstacles and hindrances that have been identified that need to be overcome?

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply:

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

What progress has been made in preparing a draft National Mission Strategy for the Church of England for consideration by General Synod, and will it be informed by best practice of those engaged in mission and evangelism at local level?

Miss Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

What progress has been made with the request in the Synod's resolution of July 2011 that, in order to provide a baseline against which to measure the progress to be reported in 2014, the Archbishops' council collect and publish for each diocese the current number of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (i) clergy and (ii) laity in specified significant roles, including bishops, deans, archdeacons, residentiary canons, directors of ordinands, examining chaplains, bishops' advisers for selection conferences and other diocesan officers?

Miss Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q66 Is a cultural audit (ie a study and examination of an organisation's cultural characteristics, such as its assumptions, norms, philosophy, and values, to determine whether they hinder or support its vision and mission) of the Church of England available to guide those who prepare reports, convene round tables or are in other ways responsible for shaping or implementing policies?

Mr Jim Cheeseman (Rochester) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q67 Is consideration being given to the collection of attendance statistics in a month other than October, in view of the fact that now two or three Sundays fall when schools are on half term holiday?

Mr Adrian Vincent (Guildford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

In the light of the object of the Archbishops' Council in the National Institutions Measure 1988 to "promote" and "co-ordinate", has the Council considered whether to promote greater transparency in the National Church Institutions by recommending changes – for example to change the approach taken in the 'Year in Review' in *The Church of England Year Book*, so as not only to draw attention to those church attendance statistics that show an increase, but also to refer to the figures that show a decrease?

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

Q69 In the light of the national press reporting on the Council for Mission and Public Affairs' submission to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee on the future of the EU, will copies of the submission be made available for General Synod members, and was it agreed by the Archbishops' Council or merely submitted on its behalf?