### GENERAL SYNOD July 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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### PENSIONS BOARD

Dr Jonathan Spencer to reply

The Ven Jonathan Smith (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Pensions Board:

What is the predicted cost of the CHARM scheme over the next 40 years and what is the likely cost to dioceses going forward year on year?

### ETHICAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP

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

# The Revd Rosalind Rutherford (Winchester) to ask the Chair of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group:

Because of the power of market forces, international agreements among governments have not yet shown themselves to be effective in limiting carbon emissions. Given the increasingly urgent action needed on climate change, is the EIAG review of investment policy in this area still on track to be completed by the end of 2014, and when is the report likely to be published?

### **ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL**

Mr John Spence to reply on behalf of the Presidents

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

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

\* Q3 Has the Archbishops' Council used any economic methods to evaluate the effectiveness, impact or value for money of any of the grants provided by the Church Commissioners to support the mission of the church, or do they have any plans to do so, using either in-house expertise or commissioned external research?

# Dr Philip Giddings (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q4 How many persons are employed, directly or indirectly, by each of the National Church Institutions on (a) zero hours contracts or (b) at rates of pay below the living wage; and when is it expected that none will be so?

# Mr Geoffrey Hine (Carlisle) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

The ruling by HMRC that all parishes in a diocese are connected charities as they are controlled by diocesan bishops has made the operation of the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme more complicated than was intended. It has also effectively barred those churches with paid staff access to £2,000 National Insurance contribution relief. Will the Archbishops' Council seek to challenge this ruling by Judicial Review?

## Mr Brian Newey (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q6 What progress has been made by the four Task Groups mentioned in the Chair of the Finance Committee's note of 23rd April?

# The Revd Neil Patterson (Hereford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q7 Have any changes been made to the Church's promotional website YourChurchWedding.org as a consequence of the passing of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, and if so, what?

# The Revd Rosalind Rutherford (Winchester) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

What progress has been made to date in reconstituting and making more effective the "Shrinking the Footprint Group", as requested in the Synod's resolution of February 2014?

The Ven Christine Hardman to reply on behalf of the Presidents

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

Has the Council given any consideration to the amount or amounts below which consent will not be required under new clause 4A of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956? If so, is it willing to make this available before the debate in the Revision Stage of the Draft Church of England (Ecclesiastical Property) Measure? If not, what processes, including for wide consultation, are proposed for such consideration, assuming that the Measure is passed?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Presidents

### The Revd Canon Dr Simon Taylor (Derby) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q10 What is the status of the so-called 'Sheffield formula' for deployment of clergy, and are there any other means by which an equitable share of clergy across the Church of England is enabled?

## The Revd Stephen Pratt (Lichfield) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q11 What progress is the Archbishops' Task Group on Evangelism making on the recommendations following the November 2013 debate on 'Intentional Evangelism' (GS 1917) and are they keeping to the proposed timetable?

### **HOUSE OF BISHOPS**

The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply

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

Q12 Will the House of Bishops, under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury, endorse and recommend *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis's frank and original exhortation on evangelizing in the contemporary world, to all Church of England members as one of the most hopeful and practical ecumenical signs in recent decades?

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

What steps have been taken or are being contemplated by the House of Bishops to reconcile The Episcopal Church of the USA and the Church of Canada to a wider and more open sharing by member churches of the wider Anglican Communion in a positive and welcoming relationship with the See of Canterbury in its foundational role, that could before too long include the Anglican Church of North America under its newly elected Archbishop?

The Bishop of Coventry to reply on behalf of the Chair

# The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q14 With the departure of Dr Martin Davie last December, what provision is now made for theological support for the House of Bishops?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Chair

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

Q15 Will the House of Bishops please explain what the facilitated conversations recommended by the Pilling Report are meant to achieve?

# The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q16 Can the House of Bishops give an assurance that the purpose of the facilitated conversations following on from the Pilling Report is not to bring about a change of the theology and practice of the Church of England with regard to same-sex sexual relationships?

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

Q17 In the forthcoming process of shared conversations what procedures and process are the House of Bishops establishing to ensure that sufficient confidence is given to its gay members to enable them to safely declare their sexuality?

# Mr Christopher Fielden (Salisbury) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q18 During the presentation at the last Synod of the Report of the Pilling Group, a question was raised about the need to ensure that clergy participating in the facilitated conversations may be able to do so openly and honestly without risk to their future ministry. Could the House of Bishops please tell the Synod what steps are being taken to enable this?

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

Q19 Is the House of Bishops considering any form of structure for pioneer ministry which would enable it to co-exist alongside conventional ordained ministry, bearing in mind not only the very different needs of Generation Y but also the difficulty pioneer ministers have experienced in being accepted for ordination?

The Bishop of Durham to reply on behalf of the Chair

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

Q20 The Church Growth Research Programme findings released this January gave more evidence of the critical need to raise and retain children and youth in the Faith if the Church is to have any long-term future. Synod heard in February how this is already motivating young people's mission academies and further research, but what is being done to ensure that these findings sufficiently shape wider diocesan priorities, policies, culture and spending?

The Bishop of Willesden to reply on behalf of the Chair

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

Q21 Given the impact of the House of Bishops' February pastoral statement would have on the morale of many clergy – and also those in discernment or training – did the House consider the pastoral needs of those who were to be forbidden from exercising their civic rights and marrying their loved ones? If so, what support did the House think appropriate and how was this communicated?

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

Q22 What consideration did the House give before issuing the Pastoral Guidance on Same Sex Marriage to the effect it would have on the Church's mission to those under the age of thirty?

# Mr Samuel Margrave (Coventry) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q23 Has the Church of England 'dropped' its opposition to same sex marriage, as reported in a rolling *Sky News* report on March 29th earlier this year?

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

Q24 Now that the House has declared policies of not ordaining those in same-sex marriages or who are members of the British National Party and the National Front, in both cases on the ground that their actions are in contradiction to the teaching of the Church of England; will the House consider adopting a similar policy in relation to those who choose to campaign for, or to support, assisted dying?

## The Revd Mark Steadman (Southwark) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q25 Has the House of Bishops considered the application of

(i) its own guidance on *Marriage in Church after Divorce* to those previously married to a person of the same gender and who are now desirous of being married to a person of a different gender;

and

(ii) Canon C4 to a candidate for Holy Orders who is married to a person of the opposite gender but whose spouse was formerly married to someone of the same gender;

and if not, when might such consideration be given and guidance issued to the clergy and those responsible for discerning vocations?

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

Q26 Given Sir Elton John's recently reported comments on Jesus' view of equal marriage and his criticism of the Churches' current position, will the House invite Sir Elton to assist with the forthcoming shared conversations?

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

Q27 In view of the House of Bishops' very clear guidance that it is not consistent with their role and vocation for clergy to enter into same-sex "marriages", what action can and will now be taken (i) to discipline those clergy have "married" a person of the same sex and (ii) to enforce that guidance in the future?

## Mrs Alison Ruoff (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q28 Has the House of Bishops considered how its members should respond when their clergy enter into same-sex marriages, including in future by converting from a civil partnership?

# Mrs Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q29 In its Pastoral Guidance, issued on 15th February 2014, the House of Bishops issued a statement which indicated in s.27 of its Appendix that clergy of the Church of England should not enter into same-sex marriages, nor would a person in a same sex marriage be considered for ordination. Given recent cases of ordained clergy entering into same sex marriages, will the House be offering further guidance to ensure its earlier statement is upheld by all bishops with consistency and that all clergy uphold the church's historic teaching of marriage being between one man and one woman?

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

Q30 In its deliberations on same sex relationships has the House taken account of what Lord Fowler identifies in his book *Aids: Don't Die of Prejudice* as the major factor contributing to the appallingly slow progress of the fight against AIDs in sub-Saharan Africa and the views he expresses as to the culpability of the Church of England in not dissociating itself from pronouncements made there about gay people which in his view greatly exacerbate the problem?

The Bishop of Rochester to reply on behalf of the Chair

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

The Bishop of Norwich expects "constitutional change ... on a massive scale" after the Scottish referendum (Hansard; 11 June 2014) and both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Leicester support the notion of a Constitutional Commission (+Derby; Hansard; 19 June 2014). In the light of that, will the "Expanded Group" be reconvened to discuss the Church of England's role in constitutional reform, thus including laity and clergy in the discussions as Synod determined in February 2012?

## Mr Simon Baynes (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q32 Can the Synod be informed of the theme, objectives and agenda for the National Conference on Penal Affairs and Criminal Justice, how many dioceses are currently committed to take part, and how dioceses which have not yet registered can do so?

# Mr Simon Baynes (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

What general initiatives does the Church have under way to help improve prisoner rehabilitation?

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

Q34 Since the Archbishops have acknowledged in paragraph 10 of GS Misc 1079 that the normal process for appointing diocesan and suffragan bishops is unlikely to result in the appointment of a bishop "who holds the Conservative Evangelical view on headship", can it be clarified with whom the consultations referred to in the following paragraph 11 are taking place, with a view to ensuring that the aspiration becomes a reality?

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

Q35 In view of the recent admission (in GS Misc 1079) that due process has not only failed to appoint a Conservative Evangelical bishop, who holds to a complementarian view of headship, but is also unlikely to do so in a reasonable timescale, what specific approach is being adopted to ensure that such an appointment is made "within a matter of months"?

### SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply

#### WRITTEN REPLY

#### Mr Adrian Vincent (Guildford) to ask the Secretary General:

\* Q36 Item 508 on the General Synod Agenda for Saturday 12 July will move that Amending Canon No.31 (GS 1877D) be "promulged and executed". Paragraph 8 of the Amending Canon will reinstate, in a modified form, Canon C 19 (Of guardians of spiritualities). If the Synod agrees to promulge the Amending Canon, will the Legal Office be producing a guidance note on Canon C 19, and will it be published on this page of the Church of England website <a href="http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/canons.aspx">http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/canons.aspx</a> so that future readers of the Canon, who are unable to understand its meaning, can have ready access to a guidance note as to its meaning?

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

#### Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Secretary General:

\* Q37 Can a best estimate or calculation be provided of the amount of person hours spent on preparing for the Women Bishops legislation between (a) 2000 and the final vote in November 2012, and (b) December 2012 and July 2014 (it would be helpful if that total figure could be broken down in some way, eg between proceedings in Synod, formal Committees and the House of Bishops and in unofficial meetings; and between General Synod members (as volunteers), staff and consultants)? If so, is it possible to put a cost on the time and expenses incurred?

### Mrs Lorna Ashworth (Chichester) to ask the Secretary General:

Q38 How many ordained people currently employed to teach and/or research by a Church of England college or course recognised for ordination training are members of the General Synod?

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Bishop of Oxford to reply

#### WRITTEN REPLY

### The Revd Canon Gary Jenkins (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

\* Q39 Has the Board of Education published any guidance to Church schools on how the Church of England's doctrine of marriage can be presented and explained positively to the students, staff and governors of Church schools?

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

Q40 Given that all forms of bullying are contrary to the ethos of Church of England schools, could the Board of Education explain the reasons why, in the opinion of the Board, *Valuing All God's Children* focuses only on homophobic bullying?

## Dr Rachel Jepson (Birmingham) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:

Q41 Given the educational context in which, and with whom the Valuing All God's Children materials will be used, did the Board of Education consider some other terminology than the phrase "falls short of the ideal" as a way of describing committed same sex relationships?

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

Q42 The guidance on challenging homophobic bullying in Church of England schools – *Valuing all God's Children* - published in May recommends that Diocesan Boards of Education and Multi-Academy Trusts should monitor homophobic incidents in their schools. Will this data now be collated at national level?

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

What form of contact did those compiling the *Valuing All God's Children* guidance have with those people struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction, and what use did they make of it?

### CHURCH BUILDINGS COUNCIL

Mrs Anne Sloman to reply

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

# Mr Adrian Vincent (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the Church Buildings Council:

\* Q44 Regarding the 14 April 2014 Judgment of the Arches Court of Canterbury 'In re St Lawrence, Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence', where the Church Buildings Council won its case, thereby preventing the sale of a helmet by the parish church, on what grounds did the CBC decide that they would be furthering the mission of the Church of England by objecting to the sale of a piece of armour, which paragraph 26 of the Judgment describes as an "entirely secular object"?

# The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Church Buildings Council:

Q45 In November 2013, General Synod was told that the Cathedral and Church Buildings Council certainly did not have "hibernation" in mind as a possible strategy to deal with church buildings that threaten to be more of a burden than a benefit to the Church's mission. I understand from the Bishop of Norwich and the Archdeacon of Norfolk that there is now hope for hibernation as an option. Can the Synod be updated on this matter, so that dioceses can be kept informed of any additional strategic options for the care of church buildings?

### **MINISTRY COUNCIL**

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

## Mr Robert Hammond (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

\* Q46 Can figures be supplied for each diocese for each of the past 5 years for the number of candidates attending a BAP and the number of candidates who were subsequently recommended for training?

### Mrs Lucy Docherty (Portsmouth) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q47 During the training programme for new clergy how much time is allowed for discussion of and learning about issues of gender and human sexuality? Are clergy under training given any support and guidance on how to manage situations where they are asked for pastoral support on these issues?

### The Revd Stephen Pratt (Lichfield) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Division:

Q48 Has the Council made an assessment of the impact, in terms of time, finance and relationships with previous validation bodies, that moving to the 'Common Awards' national validation agreement has had on the theological colleges and courses?

# The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q49 How many employed teaching staff on colleges and courses recognised for training for ordination in the Church of England hold post graduate Masters degrees, how many hold Doctorates, and what percentage of the total employed teaching staff do these numbers represent?

## Mrs Lorna Ashworth (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q50 How many ordained people are currently employed to teach and/or research by a Church of England college or course recognised for ordination training?

### Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

**Q51** What guidance has the Council issued for the method of appointment, the definition of duties, and the training of lay leaders and enablers of worship in the Church of England?

# The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:

Q52 Are the Ministry Division planning another conference similar to the excellent conference they organised for the fiftieth anniversary of the first ordinations from the Southwark Ordination Course, and (if they are) with whom are they working on this, and what are the intended outcomes?

# REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Manchester to reply

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

Miss Emma Forward (Exeter) to ask the Chair of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

\* Q53 Can the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee confirm that, following the introduction of Common Tenure in 2011, it is no longer possible to appoint clergy to licensed posts on a fixed or limited term basis unless one of the conditions specified in Regulation 29 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 applies and indicate the extent to which the practice in the dioceses accords with that position?

# Mr William Seddon (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Remunerations and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q54 Following the significant reduction in ill health retirement benefits available through the Church's pension scheme to clergy who are relatively young and have a low number of years of service within the Scheme, what arrangements are the Church putting in place to assist such clergy, should the need for ill health retirement arise?

### MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply

The Revd Prebendary Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

What plans does the Mission and Public Affairs Council have to ensure that the lack of sufficient and adequate affordable housing in this country is high on the agenda of all political parties for the General Election next year, and what recommendations would they give to dioceses and parishes to ensure that this happens at a more local level as well?

## Dr Jackie Butcher (Sheffield) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q56 How will the Church of England voice the injustice of climate change and the need for effective policies, with the main political parties, as they draw up their manifestos for the 2015 election?

## The Revd Canon Susan Penfold (Blackburn) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q57 What work is the Mission and Public Affairs Council undertaking or planning in order to support dioceses needing to respond to the ethical and practical issues around fracking?

## The Revd Canon Giles Goddard (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q58 How is the Church of England using its influence to encourage Government to take a positive approach to the climate change talks in Lima in December 2014, which will prepare for the Paris talks in November 2015?

### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The Revd Canon Sue Booys to reply

## Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

What are the estimated costs and savings of each of the main elements of changing the culture of General Synod, including providing facilitators for the group discussions at the July 2013 York Synod; upgrading the backdrop at York this year; and meeting less often in the future?

## Canon Janet Perrett (Ely) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

Since concerns were expressed in 2010 that the information supplied by candidates for the House of Laity had not covered the same matters consistently or clearly, leaving the Electoral College feeling poorly informed about candidates, and since elections for the 2015-2020 Sessions of the General Synod will be held next year; has any consideration been given to issuing guidance for those wishing to stand for the House of Laity?

## Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

Q61 In the light of the hope expressed by the Standing Orders
Committee in paragraph 26 of its 49th Report, what consideration
has the Business Committee given to scheduling a debate at a
future Group of Sessions on the question whether Revision
Committees should be required to meet in public?

## The Revd Canon Karen Hutchinson (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:

What consideration has the Business Committee given to the urgent need for Synod to reflect on the impact of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 on the conduct and liturgy of Church of England weddings?

### LITURGICAL COMMISSION

The Bishop of Sodor and Man to reply as Acting Chair

### Ms Susan Cooper (London) to ask the Chair of the Liturgical Commission:

Q63 In the light of increasing faith diversity, where a non-Christian sometimes attends liturgy alongside their Christian partner, what plans does the Liturgical Commission have to review our liturgies for sensitivity to these situations (such as the intercessions in the Good Friday liturgy, which include in the same section prayers for those who are Christian, alongside prayers for those who persecute Christians)?

### Mr Keith Malcouronne (Guildford) to ask the Chair of the Liturgical Commission:

In the light of the important celebration last month of the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Samuel Ajayi Crowther as the first black Anglican bishop, what are the steps that would need to be taken to secure his inclusion as the first missiology pioneer bishop from Africa in the Calendar of the Church of England?

### **CHURCH COMMISSIONERS**

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith to reply as First Church Estates Commissioner

#### **WRITTEN REPLY**

### The Very Revd David Brindley (Deans) to ask the Church Commissioners:

\* Q65 What have been the episcopal legal costs borne by the Church Commissioners in relation to the recent discussions between the Diocese of Winchester and the Channel Islands about safeguarding issues and episcopal oversight?

## The Revd Mark Steadman (Southwark) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q66 In the light of the decision of the Archbishops' Council regarding the See House in Wells, what discussions have the Commissioners had and decisions have they made, as to how they will now approach the question of other see houses?

## Mrs Pamela Bishop (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Whilst acknowledging the considerable and effective work of the Church Commissioners, will the First Estates Commissioner explain the reasoning behind the decision, as reported in the *Church Times* on 30 May 2014, that the most highly paid staff member at the Church Commissioners be awarded a bonus of £91,000, bringing that salary to £334,000 a year?

### Dr Philip Giddings (Oxford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

What conversations are the Commissioners holding with companies with whom, directly or indirectly, they have invested funds about the numbers of persons employed by those companies who are on (a) zero hours contracts or (b) employed at rates of pay below the living wage; and what progress are those conversations making towards eliminating these and other unjust employment practices?

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

**Q69** 

In their policy of 'positive engagement', how far have the Church Commissioners got in their discussions with all the fossil fuel companies in whom they invest, on the issue that the current reserves held by all fossil fuel companies contain five times more carbon than the earth's atmosphere can safely absorb without global temperatures rising more than two degrees Celsius, which is the climate change target agreed by nearly all governments, and how far have they reached in persuading these companies to stop exploring for more reserves, to diversify into other forms of energy and to develop carbon capture and storage (CCS)?