

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2010 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.03 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2010

PRAYERS

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY opened the Synod with prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS

1 The following were welcomed:

All newly elected members.

The Rt Reverend Stephen Cottrell (Bishop of Chelmsford) and the Rt Reverend James Langstaff (Bishop of Rochester), who were both attending their first group of sessions.

Ecumenical Representative

Revd Jan Mullin (Moravian Church)

Representatives of the Church of England Youth Council

Miss Charlotte Cook

Mr Edward Keene.

Representatives of Deaf Anglicans Together

Mrs Patricia Callaghan

Ms Susan Myatt

Revd Catherine Nightingale.

and the sign interpreters present at this group of sessions.

The Rt Reverend David Thomson (Bishop of Huntingdon), acting for the Bishop of Ely during the vacancy in See; the Rt Reverend Mark Bryant (Bishop of Jarrow), acting for the Bishop of Durham during the vacancy in See; the Rt Reverend Richard Cheetham (Bishop of Kingston), acting for the Bishop of Southwark during the vacancy in See; and the Rt Reverend Stephen Conway (Bishop of Ramsbury) acting for the Bishop of Salisbury during the vacancy in See were also welcomed by the Synod.

The Secretary General and other senior officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland; and Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, and representatives of other faiths sitting in the public gallery were also welcomed by the Synod.

PROGRESS OF MEASURES AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY reported that:

the remaining provisions of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2010, except for section 8, had come into force on 1st September 2010;

subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 11 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009 had come into force on 27th September 2010;

it was intended that the Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure 2010 and section 2 of the Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure should come into force on 1st January 2011;

the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2010, the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2010, the Parochial Fees Order 2010, the Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2010, the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Directions 2010 and the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 had been laid before Parliament and would come into force on 1st January 2011;

the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and draft Amending Canon No 30 had been referred to diocesan synods under Article 8 of the Constitution of the General Synod; and

the Ecclesiastical Committee having been reconstituted for the present Parliament, the Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure, the Mission and Pastoral Measure and the Care of Cathedrals Measure have been committed to the Committee.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

3 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 1803)

4 The motion

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

was carried.

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(a)(i) the order of business for the current sitting was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod to insert immediately after Item 5 a rubric that “Item 6 will be taken not later than 5.45 p.m.”.

THE BIG SOCIETY: REPORT BY THE MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GS 1804)

5 The motion

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

was carried.

10 The motion

‘That this Synod, in recognition of the Coalition Government’s interest in partnering with voluntary organisations in building local communities and the Church of England’s successful existing partnership role in the provision of education throughout England, request the Archbishops’ Council to:

- (a) acknowledge and celebrate all those within the Church who are currently involved in building better neighbourhoods, in either diocesan, deanery or parish bodies, other agencies or an individual capacity, and request their support in the development of new partnerships with government;
- (b) establish a dialogue with the government and other Churches to explore the potential for new partnerships in a variety of respects, affirming the work already undertaken in this respect as set out in GS 1804;
- (c) undertake a feasibility study with benefactor funding and in association with other Churches and Christian agencies prepare business templates for various options which could be used by dioceses and others who choose to make such partnerships a reality in their local area without delaying while progress with ‘Near Neighbours’ is assessed, in view of the severe economic circumstances and the government’s need for action; and
- (d) report to General Synod as soon as such a feasibility study has been completed or during 2012, whichever is sooner.’

was moved.

The motion

‘That the debate be now adjourned and resumed at the February 2011 group of sessions.’

was lost.

10 The motion

‘That this Synod, in recognition of the Coalition Government’s interest in partnering with voluntary organisations in building local communities and the Church of England’s successful existing partnership role in the provision of education throughout England, request the Archbishops’ Council to:

- (a) acknowledge and celebrate all those within the Church who are currently involved in building better neighbourhoods, in either diocesan, deanery or parish bodies, other agencies or an individual capacity, and request their support in the development of new partnerships with government;
- (b) establish a dialogue with the government and other Churches to explore the potential for new partnerships in a variety of respects, affirming the work already undertaken in this respect as set out in GS 1804;
- (c) undertake a feasibility study with benefactor funding and in association with other Churches and Christian agencies prepare business templates for various options which could be used by dioceses and others who choose to make such partnerships a reality in their local area without delaying while progress with ‘Near Neighbours’ is assessed, in view of the severe economic circumstances and the government’s need for action; and
- (d) report to General Synod as soon as such a feasibility study has been completed or during 2012, whichever is sooner.’

was carried.

11 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the opportunities for churches and individual Christians to serve their neighbours in the name of Christ which the Big Society agenda (and the Near Neighbours project proposal in particular) will afford;
- (b) affirm that it is necessary for churches and Christians engaging in such service to be free to articulate and commend the faith in Christ which motivates them and to speak prophetically in Christ’s name to society and to those in power; and
- (c) request the Archbishops’ Council in its dealings with the Government concerning the Big Society agenda to ensure that the freedoms referred to in (b) above are secured.’

was not moved.

QUESTIONS

6 Questions 1 to 56, as set out in the Questions Notice Paper, were answered.

Under Standing Order 14(e) the sitting was extended by not more than five minutes by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod.

6 Questions 57 and 58, as set out in the Questions Notice Paper, were answered.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing at 7.03 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2010 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.59 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2010

MORNING WORSHIP

The Revd Dr Tim Stratford led the Synod in prayer.

LOYAL ADDRESS

9 The motion

‘That a Loyal Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen.’

was carried, after having been added to the agenda for the sitting at the direction of the Presidents under Standing Order 4(b). A draft text of the Loyal Address had been circulated to members on the Fifth Notice Paper.

SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
DRAFT ACT OF SYNOD ADOPTING THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION
COVENANT (GS 1809)
(Article 7 and Article 8 Business)

504 The motion

‘That the draft Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant be considered.’

was moved.

The motion

‘That the debate be now adjourned and resumed at the July 2011 group of sessions.’

was lost.

504 The motion

‘That the draft Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant be considered.’

was carried after a division by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	39	0
Clergy	145	32
Laity	147	25

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 11 in the House of Clergy and 8 in the House of Laity.

505 The amendment (Item 505 Order Paper II) was lost.

506 The amendment (Item 506 Order Paper II) lapsed.

507 The motion

‘That this Synod, recognising and affirming the difficult issues addressed by the Anglican Communion Covenant:

- (a) request that the date determined by the Presidents for the reference of the draft Act of Synod to the dioceses under Article 8 should be no earlier than November 2011;
- (b) direct the Business Committee to ensure that the documents circulated to diocesan synods for the purposes of the Article 8 reference include a range of briefing material, properly reflecting the diversity of views on the Covenant within the Church of England; and
- (c) invite the House of Bishops to encourage in the dioceses a process of widespread education about, and engagement with, the substance and text of the Covenant.’

was moved.

Under Standing Order 14(e) the sitting was extended by not more than ten minutes by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod.

507 The motion

‘That this Synod, recognising and affirming the difficult issues addressed by the Anglican Communion Covenant:

- (a) request that the date determined by the Presidents for the reference of the draft Act of Synod to the dioceses under Article 8 should be no earlier than November 2011;
- (b) direct the Business Committee to ensure that the documents circulated to diocesan synods for the purposes of the Article 8 reference include a range of briefing material, properly reflecting the diversity of views on the Covenant within the Church of England; and

- (c) invite the House of Bishops to encourage in the dioceses a process of widespread education about, and engagement with, the substance and text of the Covenant.'

was lost.

508 The motion

'That this Synod resolve that Final Approval of the Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant shall require the assent of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.'

was not moved.

The Chair adjourned the sitting at 12.59 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER 2010 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 3.40 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2010

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(a)(i) the order of business for the current sitting was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that Items 501 and 502 would be taken before Item 500, and Item 503 would be taken immediately after Item 500.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICES (TERMS OF SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) REGULATIONS 2010 (GS 1806)
Regulations made under section 2 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2010 for Approval

501 The motion

‘That the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2010 be approved.’

was carried.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICES (TERMS OF SERVICE) (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) ORDER 2010 (GS 1807)
Order made under section 11 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2010 for Approval

502 The motion

‘That the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010 be approved.’

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) MEASURE (GS 1805)
Draft Measure for First Consideration

500 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure stood automatically committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be submitted to the Clerk to the Synod not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th December 2010.

FAREWELLS

- 7 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to the Rt Reverend John Saxbee (Bishop of Lincoln), who was attending his last meeting of the Synod.

PROROGATION

- 8 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod at 3.40 p.m.