

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2012

TWELFTH NOTICE PAPER

DEBATE ON NIGERIA

In view of the recent serious violence in Nigeria, the Bishop of Durham travelled to the country at short notice on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury to meet members of the Church of Nigeria and others caught up in the deteriorating situation there.

Following the Bishop's return, the Presidents have exercised their powers under Standing Order 4(b) in relation to urgent or other specially important business to direct the addition to the Agenda of a short debate on the plight of Christian communities in parts of Nigeria. This will enable the Synod to hear from the Bishop of Durham, to consider his report (GS 1861) and, if it agrees, to pass the short motion that the Bishop will move.

The following item is accordingly added to the Agenda for **Wednesday 8 February** immediately after the Holy Communion:

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA

The Bishop of Durham to move on behalf of the Presidents:

'That this Synod, gravely concerned at the desperate plight of Christian communities in parts of Nigeria, as described in GS 1861, request the British Government to do all it can to support those in Nigeria seeking to protect religious minorities of all faiths and enable them to practise their religion without fear.'

The deadline for amendments to this motion is **10.00 a.m.** on **Tuesday 7 February**.

(If the Chichester Diocesan Synod Motion is not reached or is not completed before the timed business at 11.20 am it will be given priority over the Contingency Business in the event that a gap appears in the Agenda.)