

**GENERAL SYNOD
November 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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CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Mr Andreas Whittam Smith to reply as First Church Estates Commissioner:

The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q1. Have the Church Commissioners yet considered, should the draft Bishops and Priests (Ordination and Consecration of Women) Measure become law, whether to fund the legal expenses of a female bishop should a PCC seek redress through Judicial Review for action contrary to the proposed Code of Practice and whether, were funding to be provided, it would be subject to any financial limit?

The Revd Canon Simon Killwick (Manchester) to ask the Church Commissioners:

Q2. What costs have been incurred by the Church Commissioners in the use of the Lambeth Palace website to run the 'Enough Waiting' campaign in support of the draft Women Bishops legislation?

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

- Q3.** Has more up-to-date guidance on the implementation of the Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972 been issued since the notes issued by the Commissioners in January 1972, which state that “occupants should carry out by their own initiative and at their own expense such minor tenants’ duties as rewashering of taps, replacement of blown fuses, repair of the odd broken window and so on” and does such guidance give any indication as to the maximum cost expected to be borne in connection with such ‘minor tenants’ duties’ in any one year?

ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL

Mr Andrew Britton to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

Mr Samuel Margrave (Coventry) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops’ Council:

- Q4.** Can an assessment be made of the savings that would be generated if all clergy (including bishops) received a stipend, and all employees of the National Church Institutions and the dioceses received a salary, of an amount equal to the national minimum stipend?

Mr Samuel Margrave (Coventry) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops’ Council:

- Q5.** With the Government proposing a change to Gift Aid from 2013 allowing up to £5000 of giving on the plate to count for Gift Aid (a reclaim of up to £1250) how much will the Church of England and our parishes benefit from this if every parish takes it up?

The Revd Paul Ayers (Bradford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops’ Council:

- Q6.** In the light of the statement in the report of the Archbishops’ Council as Central Stipends Authority in November 2011 that “effectively the gain in the value of stipends when dioceses achieved *Generosity and Sacrifice* Aspiration 2 in 2006 had all been lost” and that “The CSA will engage with dioceses and the Church Commissioners as to how to address the ground that has been lost” (GS Misc 1006 page 1), what progress is being made towards addressing the lost ground?

The Revd Paul Ayers (Bradford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q7. In the light of the statement in the report of the Archbishops' Council as Central Stipends Authority in November 2011 that "effectively the gain in the value of stipends when dioceses achieved *Generosity and Sacrifice* Aspiration 2 in 2006 had all been lost" and the increasing insistence of the Church that clergy are responsible for providing their own housing in retirement, has the Council consulted the Pensions Board about:

- (a) ensuring that stipend levels become adequate to allow for saving towards retirement, particularly for those without other means, inheritance or savings from previous careers; and
- (b) helping clergy to get into the housing market earlier during their ministry, and to making progress towards the other recommendations of GS Misc 1010?

The Revd Canon Simon Killwick (Manchester) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q8. Have any of the staff for whom the Archbishops' Council is the managing employer been involved in running the 'Enough Waiting' campaign in support of the draft legislation on Women in the Episcopate?

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply on behalf of the Presidents:

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

Q9. Having regard to

- (i) the objectives of the Weddings Project and;
- (ii) the recent repeal of the statutory requirement that marriages must take place between the hours of 8am and 6pm,

has consideration been given, or if not will it now be given, to bringing forward a draft amending Canon to remove or relax that requirement in respect of marriages conducted according to the rites of the Church of England?

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q10. In view of the proven link between Christian community action and church growth, and its clear witness to the unconditional love of God in action, particularly for those who have little or no other contact with the Christian faith, will the Archbishops' Council raise the profile of our substantial contribution to community service within any promotional and public relations activity planned over the next year, making reference where possible to the Church of England's website www.churchofengland.org/how2help?

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

Q11. Bearing in mind that the *Turning up the Volume* task group on ethnic diversity in senior appointments has now started its work, what progress has the Archbishops' Council 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 suffragan bishops, deans, archdeacons, residentiary canons, directors of ordinands, examining chaplains, bishops' advisers for selection conferences and other diocesan officers?

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

The Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett (Southwark) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:

Q12. In the light of the CMEAC *Unfinished Business* report of July 2011 (GS 1844), can the Archbishops' Council give any information on the intentional steps being taken to increase the potentiality of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic clergy taking up senior leadership positions in our national, diocesan and local church structures?

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

Q13. What steps are being taken to provide pastoral and liturgical resources on mental health matters for parishes, chaplaincies and dioceses?

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

- Q14.** What progress has been made with preparing new strategies for re-imagining ministry and turning the rhetoric of lay involvement into reality since the last Group of Sessions and when can General Synod expect to receive some definite proposals in that connection?

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Archbishop of York to reply as Chairman of the Standing Committee:

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

- Q15.** When can the Synod expect to receive reports of the outcome of (a) the review by the House of its pastoral statement on civil partnerships and (b) the work of the group established by the House to advise it on human sexuality?

Miss Rachel Beck (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

- Q16.** Can assurances be given to Synod, given the concern expressed at the last meeting of Synod that the full diversity of beliefs on the issue of same-sex marriage that exist within the Church were not fully represented in the response submitted to HM Government's consultation on the issue of same-sex marriage, that the members of the group established to advise the House on human sexuality will be encouraged to look at the subject in all its fullness, a fullness which includes debating the possibility of blessing same-sex marriage?

The Revd Clare Herbert (London) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

- Q17.** Does the group advising the House of Bishops on issues in Human Sexuality, chaired by Sir Joseph Pilling, given the subject matter under review, contain any members at all who are openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?

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

Q18. Is it the case that the Faith and Order Commission has been invited by the House of Bishops to undertake work in relation to the Church's teaching on marriage and, if so, who will be conducting that work on the Commission's behalf?

Miss Rachel Beck (Lincoln) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q19. Given the concern expressed at the last group of sessions that the full diversity of beliefs on the issue of same-sex marriage that exist within the Church were not fully represented in the response submitted to HM Government's consultation on the issue of same-sex marriage, can the House ensure that in any request for work in this area to the Faith and Order Commission, that it would be encouraged to look at the subject in all its fullness, a fullness which includes debating the possibility of blessing same-sex marriage?

Mr Colin Slater (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q20. Has the House considered the report of the independent panel, chaired by the Bishop of Liverpool, which has examined afresh the events surrounding the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy of 15 April 1989 and, if it has, does it share the bereaved families' hope that a just outcome may now be realised?

The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q21. In the light of the recommendations made in the Interim Report of the Commissaries appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in relation to the Visitation in the Diocese of Chichester, is consideration being given to the action that might be taken if a priest declines to undergo a risk assessment in relation to safeguarding?

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the House of Bishops:

Q22. Has consideration been given to whether further amendment of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 might be appropriate as a result of the Interim Report of the Commissaries appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in relation to a Visitation in the Diocese of Chichester and, if so, what amendments are being considered and by whom are they being considered?

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

Q23. Bishop Martin Warner has said on the Chichester diocesan website, "We need to ask whether our provision and national structures are sufficient to deliver the standards of action that our statutory and voluntary partners rightly expect of us in the area of safeguarding." What action is being taken nationally to ensure that these issues of national structures and provision are adequate and that accountability within dioceses is fit for purpose?

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr William Fittall to reply:

The Revd Simon Cawdell (Hereford) to ask the Secretary General:

Q24. What plans are there to review the process for nominating an Archbishop of Canterbury once the present process has been concluded?

The Revd Canon Giles Goddard (Southwark) to ask the Secretary General:

Q25. In view of the public perception of confusion over the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury, will consideration be given to a review of the CNC process with a view to introducing greater clarity and transparency?

Mr Nick Harding (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Secretary General:

Q26. Could consideration be given to the possibility of involving children and young people in the selection and appointment process for new diocesan bishops, as is becoming the practice for appointments of clergy in some parishes?

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to ask the Secretary General:

Q27. With regard to the Church of England's representatives on the Anglican Consultative Council:

- (i) how are they appointed;
- (ii) has consideration been given to enhancing their democratic legitimacy by their being elected by General Synod;
- (iii) if so, why was that option rejected; and
- (iv) if that possibility has not been considered, why not?

The Revd Stephen France (Chichester) to ask the Secretary General:

Q28. In what ways has the Clerk to the Synod been directly involved in the process of producing papers and recording meeting notes in relation to the draft Women in the Episcopate legislation over the past two years?

The Revd Stephen France (Chichester) to ask the Secretary General:

Q29. In what ways will the Clerk to the Synod be directly involved in the process of producing papers and recording meeting notes in relation to the draft Code of Practice accompanying the Women in the Episcopate legislation to the end of March 2013?

Mrs Mary Johnston (London) to ask the Secretary General:

Q30. Given that the present Clerk to the Synod currently fills several, quite distinctive roles, how is the task of replacing him to be processed?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Secretary General:

Q31. Has the Charity Commission been asked to explain why it takes the view – as recently quoted in a letter to the Plymouth Brethren, according to the *Daily Telegraph* of 4 November – that it makes no presumption that religion within the Church of England is for the public benefit, given that the charitable object of each PCC is ‘Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church’, and that numerous passages of scripture highlight the importance of followers of Jesus having a positive impact on their neighbours?

Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Secretary General:

Q32. What representations have been made to the Public Administration Select Committee, in connection with its current investigation into the Regulation of the Charitable Sector and the Charities Act 2006, in relation to the question of the public benefit requirement?

Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Secretary General:

Q33. Given the apparent uncertainty over whether the Food Standards Agency and the churches’ Legislation Advisory Service are correct in interpreting EU law as banning the sale of jam in re-used jam jars by voluntary organisations, and the need for such rules to be based on robust evidence, is it known whether there have been any instances where the sale of jam in a re-used jam jar in church fetes associated with any of the Church of England’s 16,000 churches has ever caused anyone to become unwell?

CLERK TO THE SYNOD

Dr Colin Podmore to reply:

Mrs Debra Mclsaac (Salisbury) to ask the Clerk to the Synod:

Q34. On what basis and by whom are members of the public invited to sit on the platform during General Synod debates and is there a protocol for introducing them and their interest in the matter to be debated?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Bishop of Oxford to reply:

Canon Peter Smith (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q35. In the light of the decision of the Department for Education to withdraw “top up” funding for small schools in the near future, can the Board of Education confirm its continued active support for small rural Voluntary Aided schools and report what representations have been made to the DfE to that end, concerning the effect the withdrawal of “top up” funding is likely to have?

Miss Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Board of Education:

Q36. With reference to the answer given by the Chief Education Officer in July 2012 (during discussion of *The Church School of the Future*) concerning the question in the NCI application form about membership of organisations that are incompatible with the Church of England’s commitment to promoting race equality, will that question be added to application forms for posts in Church schools?

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

Q37. How does the Education Division intend to respond to the recommendations contained in the recent Stonewall report concerning the experiences of gay young people in Britain’s schools in 2012 – where it is reported that more than half of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in Britain’s schools, many of whom attend faith schools, experience homophobic bullying?

MINISTRY DIVISION

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q38. What steps are taken to ensure that the lifestyles of those seeking ordination are within the parameters of the General Synod resolution of 1987 on human sexuality and the House of Bishops' guidelines contained in *Issues in Human Sexuality*?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Ferial Etherington (Carlisle) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q39. What is the current policy for the approval of new proposals for training pathways for ordination?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Ferial Etherington (Carlisle) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q40. What proposals are in place to ensure that the approval of new proposals for training pathways for ordination addresses the requirements of the wider traditions of the Church in all theological education providers?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Dr Timothy Bull (Chelmsford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q41. Regarding Ministry Division's work of inspecting ministerial training institutions, in order to ensure that such inspections are consistent:

- (a) what objective standards are applied when inspecting each institution;
- (b) how are such standards set, monitored and maintained; and
- (c) what training is given to inspectors to ensure such standards are understood and equitably applied?

The Revd Eva McIntyre (Worcester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q42. With reference to paragraph 33 of GS Misc 1025, what progress has been made with the pilot project on black and minority ethnic vocations in Southwark Diocese and when will the further work with other dioceses be started?

The Bishop of Sheffield to reply:

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

Q43. What progress has been made with the Common Awards process since the last Group of Sessions?

Mrs Mary Durlacher (Chelmsford) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q44. What specific provisions are so far in place or planned for theological colleges and courses to apply for training pathways to be treated as exceptions to the suite of Common Awards validated by Durham University?

Dr Peter Capon (Manchester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q45. What progress has been made in making it possible for all suitably qualified independent students at Church of England training institutions to register for University of Durham awards?

The Bishop of Norwich to reply:

Professor Anthony Berry (Chester) to ask the Chairman of the Ministry Division:

Q46. In the light of the considerable cost of theological journal subscriptions and the need to manage costs, could the Ministry Division consider arranging a national, neutral cost scheme for access to electronic journals for all clergy, licensed ministers, candidates in training and staff of courses and colleges?

The Revd Alastair Cutting (Chichester) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q47. Given the value to the Church of that most valuable asset, who holds a national list of those curates who remain without a new post on completing IME, and what are the numbers of those who have found themselves in that position in the last two years?

The Revd Alastair Cutting (Chichester) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q48. What pastoral support structures, and subsequent training opportunities, are there locally and nationally for curates who, having had so much invested in their training, remain without an appointment on completing IME?

REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Bishop of Ripon & Leeds to reply:

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q49. Recommendation (xiv) in the Report on the second phase of the work of the Review of Clergy Terms of Service (GS 1564) was to the effect that those appointed to interim posts pending pastoral reorganisation should be appointed as rector or vicar on Common Tenure, with the prospect of reorganisation mentioned in the instrument of an appointment, and that, if displaced, such clergy should be entitled to compensation of the kind proposed in the report for priests in charge displaced by pastoral reorganisation. Has this recommendation been implemented and, if not, what reasons have been given for not doing so?

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

Q50. Does the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee consider it part of its role to offer guidance to clergy and dioceses on the liability of clergy in relation to minor repairs to the houses they occupy by virtue of their post? If so, when was any such guidance last issued?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Jeffrey Stokoe (Sheffield) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q51. Giving figures on a diocesan basis, how many diocesan and suffragan bishops and parochial clergy who were in post when it was introduced now hold office on Common Tenure?

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:

Q52. Nationally, how many bishops who held the freehold before the introduction of Common Tenure have voluntarily exchanged their freehold for Common Tenure and what percentage of bishops now hold office under Common Tenure?

COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Bishop of Guildford to reply:

Miss Prudence Dailey (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Council for Christian Unity:

Q53. Has consideration been given to whether the Church of England is in full and unimpaired communion with Bishop Mark Lawrence and the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina?

Mrs Lorna Ashworth (Chichester) to ask the Chairman of the Council for Christian Unity:

Q54. Following the recent issue of a Certificate of Abandonment of the Episcopal Church in relation to the Rt Revd Mark J Lawrence, Bishop of South Carolina, and recognising that Bishop Lawrence has been one of the declining number of theologically conservative bishops who has sought to remain and to keep his people within TEC, in the light of paragraph 6 in the statement offered to the Synod in GS Misc 1011 in 2011 by the Archbishops, are there any plans to consider proposing to the Synod fuller recognition of the Anglican Church of North America than has been considered to be appropriate up to this point?

CHURCH BUILDINGS COUNCIL

The Bishop of London to reply:

The Revd Simon Cawdell (Hereford) to ask the Chairman of the Church Buildings Council:

Q55. Does the Church Buildings Council monitor the variations between dioceses in the operation of the faculty system, and would it be willing to undertake work to promote best practice nationally in the light of the Synod business relating to the process forecast for next July?

MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The Bishop of Bristol to reply as Vice-Chairman:

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q56. In his speech during the debate in July 2012 on Israel and Palestine, the Bishop of Manchester warned of the serious impairment of Jewish/Christian relations should the motion pass unamended. Given that the motion did pass in an unamended form, have there been any concrete signs of such impairment and, if so, what response has the Church of England made?

Mr Robert Hurley (Oxford) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q57. Given the recent cancellation of the visit of the Bishop of Newcastle to an EAPPI-sponsored Holy Land conference in Gateshead, what work is being done to improve relations with the Jewish Community, after their disappointment at the EAPPI motion passed by the General Synod in July?

Mr Philip Fletcher to reply:

Canon Peter Smith (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q58. What is the current position regarding the *Climate Justice Fund* launched in September 2009 in conjunction with TEAR Fund as its webpage relates to events in 2010 and e-mails to its dedicated address are returned? Is this an initiative that failed despite the ongoing *Shrinking the Footprint* campaign?

The Revd Stephen Trott (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q59. What representations have been made by the Mission and Public Affairs Council to her Majesty's Government concerning the so-called "Liverpool Care Pathway" and its use in the treatment of patients nearing the end of their lives?

Ms Susan Cooper (London) to ask the Chairman of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:

Q60. How many full time stipendiary Anglican chaplains are employed at airports in England?

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Archdeacon of Dorking to reply:

Mr Nick Harding (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q61. What steps would need to be taken to make it possible for the three Youth Council representatives on General Synod, who are elected from the Church of England Youth Council, to have full voting rights instead of the limited speaking rights they currently enjoy?

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

Q62. 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, has the Elections Review Group in its recent work paid attention to the need for adequate representation of lay people from the northern province so that views and perspective from across the nation may be heard?

Mr Brian Wilson (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q63. In view of the importance of the Anglican Communion, has consideration been given to inviting Primates of the Communion to address General Synod on a regular basis, for instance once a year?

Mrs Debra McIsaac (Salisbury) to ask the Chairman of the Business Committee:

Q64. To encourage chairs, where possible, to call a wider pool of members to speak, will the Business Committee consider producing a cumulative report, updated after each sitting of Synod, listing 1) by Chair, the members called to speak and 2) by member, the number of times a member has been called to speak?

DIOCESES COMMISSION

The Archdeacon of Nottingham to reply as Vice-Chairman:

The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Chairman of the Dioceses Commission:

Q65. How many dioceses now share administrative functions?

LITURGICAL COMMISSION

The Bishop of Wakefield to reply:

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

The Revd Stephen Trott (Peterborough) to ask the Chairman of the Liturgical Commission:

Q66. Has consideration been given by the Liturgical Commission to the publication for use in the Church of England of the forms of worship for use with those grieving for the loss of a beloved animal, produced earlier this year by the Episcopal Church of the United States?

ETHICAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Mrs Jenny Humphreys to reply on behalf of the Chairman:

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chairman of the Ethical Investment Advisory Committee:

Q67. What outcomes can the Ethical Investment Advisory Group report from its conversations with Veolia regarding the company's ongoing involvement in – through its divisions and subsidiaries – providing transport, refuse and other services to illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied West Bank?