

**GENERAL SYNOD  
November 2013  
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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**MINISTRY COUNCIL**

*The Bishop of Sheffield to reply as Chair of the Ministry Council:*

**The Revd Canon David Banting (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:**

**Q1.** What ability do DDOs have to restrict an ordinand's choice of theological college, particularly in ways which bear on the candidate's theological integrity?

**The Revd Canon Jennifer Tomlinson (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:**

**Q2.** In the last five years, how many ordination candidates have not been recommended for ordination by their training institution?

**The Revd Canon Martin Wood (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:**

**Q3.** Has consideration been given to how the Church of England can ensure that stipendiary clergy are deployed proportionally across the dioceses given that the Sheffield formula no longer provides the constraints that it once did?

**The Revd Prebendary Stephen Coles (London) to ask the Chair of the Ministry Council:**

- Q4.** Will advice be issued to dioceses on the content and use of the 'Register of Ministers' form which is in widespread use throughout the Church, including with a view to ensuring compliance with legal requirements concerning the obtaining and use of information (especially as regards a cleric's marital status)?

**REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE**

*The Bishop of Manchester to reply as Chair of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:*

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

- Q5.** Given that Regulation 2(3) of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 states that "where an office holder holds an office in pursuance of a contract to employment, these Regulations shall not apply to the office holder in respect of that office, without prejudice to the application of the Regulations in respect of any other office held by that office holder", what guidance has been issued to diocesan human resources staff to ensure that all contracts of employment given to clergy afford them rights that are at least equivalent to those they would enjoy under Common Tenure?

**The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee:**

- Q6.** What conversations have been undertaken with HMRC regarding the ability of clergy who minister wholly or partly under a contract of employment to claim heating, lighting and cleaning allowance and to avoid being taxed on the value of their housing as a benefit in kind?

## **MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

*Mr Philip Fletcher to reply as Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:*

**Mr Robert Key (Salisbury) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q7.** Where do matters stand in relation to the Churches' Mutual Credit Union and can a full report on its work be provided to the Synod at the July 2014 group of sessions?

**Mr Robin Lunn (Worcester) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q8.** How many food banks which the Church of England is involved in, now exist, and what growth has been seen from a year ago?

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

**Q9.** What steps is the Council taking to respond to the recommendations made by ResPublica in its July 2013 report 'Holistic Mission: social action and the Church of England', that the MPA should set up a social action unit, which should – among other things – encourage each diocese to set up its own Social Action Team *“to review the social needs and assets of the locality, and draw up a co-ordinated local response to them and plan of action for their local community”*?

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

**Q10.** In the light of the Diocesan Environment Officers' recent Declaration on Shrinking the Footprint and General Synod's 2005 vote on energy reduction, how will the church's energy reduction programme be financed from now on?

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

**Q11.** What number and types of meetings has the House of Bishops or a Church of England representative had with Government ministers in regard to the formulation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals?

**Mr John Freeman (Chester) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q12.** What progress has been made towards implementing the November 2012 resolution of Synod regarding the Living Wage and what, in particular, is the situation for workers employed by companies contracted to the National Church Institutions to provide services?

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q13.** What arrangements are in place throughout the country to provide support and ministry for Looked After young people and their carers, and do these arrangements extend to providing a point of stable reference for care leavers, for example through lay chaplaincies?

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mr Robin Lunn (Worcester) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q14.** How closely does the Church engage with Citizens' Advice Bureaux around England, and could we work more closely together to assist those in our Parishes who desperately need assistance?

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council:**

**Q15.** Is it known whether all cathedrals who pay children for their work ensure that they pay the children's minimum wage, and is any advice offered to them to help them ensure that they do?

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

*Canon Sue Booy to reply as Chair of the Business Committee:*

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Revd Jonathan Frais (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the Business Committee:**

**Q16.** Has any thought been given to using 'AD' (anno Domini; in the year of our Lord) with the first mention of the year in the date on every piece of Synodical literature as a way of witnessing to the reality of the risen Lord today?

## **CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION**

*The Archbishop of York to reply:*

**The Revd Canon David Banting (Chelmsford) to ask the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission:**

**Q17.** Whose role is it to monitor the wording of advertisements and statements of needs for Diocesan Episcopal appointments and, if necessary, to ensure they are re-written to comply with the non-discrimination provision in the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993 and with the clear recommendations of the Pilling Report of 2007, *Talent and Calling*?

**Mr Andrew Presland (Peterborough) to ask the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission:**

**Q18.** Has the Commission considered gathering evidence to establish whether the Ven Bob Jackson's finding that attendance levels tend to decline in a parish if an interregnum lasts for more than a minimal period applies also at diocesan level, in terms of there being an adverse impact on church growth within a diocese if it has no diocesan bishop for more than a minimal period?

## **DIOCESES COMMISSION**

*Canon Professor Michael Clarke to reply as Chair of the Dioceses Commission:*

**The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Dioceses Commission:**

**Q19.** In view of the decline in people identifying in the Population Census as “Christian” and the ageing Church demographic, leading to lower birth rates and higher death rates than the general population and a consequent fall in numbers of paying worshippers, what strategies and plans are the Dioceses Commission considering to help the Church face the impending human and financial resource challenges to its mission?

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Revd Stephen Pratt (Lichfield) to ask the Chair of the Dioceses Commission:**

**Q20.** As the Church seems to be coping with so many vacant bishoprics, and given the strain on parish finances and the changes in parish ministry, can consideration be given to looking at the number of bishops we need, with a view to either cutting some posts, or re-imagining the ministry of bishops, so that we have more bishops, but with most remaining in parish ministry?

## **LEGAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

*A member of the Legal Advisory Commission to reply on behalf of Chair:*

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Legal Advisory Commission:**

**Q21.** When did the Commission publish its opinion ‘Seeking the consent of the DBF to the sale of PCC property’ (which addresses the responsibilities of a diocesan authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, including the circumstances in which it may properly decline to act on the instructions of the PCC in relation to a proposed disposal of property) and will it make it available to members of the Synod in advance of the debate on the First Consideration Stage for the Church of England (Ecclesiastical Property) Measure?



## LITURGICAL COMMISSION

*The Bishop of Wakefield to reply as Chair of the Liturgical Commission:*

**The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the Liturgical Commission:**

**Q22.** What advice can the Liturgical Commission give to dioceses and parishes in the increasingly frequent cases where parents seeking baptism for their children ask clergy if there can be a role for friends and family who are unbaptized?

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

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

### WRITTEN REPLY

**The Ven Jonathan LLOYD (Europe) to ask the Church Commissioners:**

**Q23.** What evidence do the Church Commissioners have that their large investment in Shell plc is providing an opportunity to question and challenge the board of Shell plc in relation to its new drilling operation in the Arctic regions and the major environmental risks associated with this?

**Mr Malcolm Halliday (Bradford) to ask the Church Commissioners:**

**Q24.** In the light of the recent suggestion by the Chair of the Charity Commission that high salaries risked bringing charities into disrepute, and of the vocational aspect of the work of the national Church institutions:

- (a) how many staff of Church Commissioners are paid salaries in excess of £100,000;
- (b) how many appointments of such staff have been made within the last three years and how many such posts are currently vacant;
- (c) what benchmarks are used by Church Commissioners to determine salary levels; and
- (d) how do the Church Commissioners ensure that salary levels take account of salary levels at diocesan and parish level?

*Mr Andrew Mackie to reply as Third Church Estates Commissioner:*

**The Revd Prebendary David Houlding (London) to ask the Church Commissioners:**

**Q25.** With the appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ecumenical Officer to the See of Ebbsfleet, what priority is being given to ensure that financial resources are available to the Archbishop to secure a full-time post for a priest to serve as the Ecumenical Chaplain on the Archbishop's staff at Lambeth Palace?

## **PENSIONS BOARD**

*Mr Jonathan Spencer to reply as Chair of the Pensions Board:*

**The Revd Canon Jane Charman (Salisbury) to ask the Chair of the Pensions Board:**

**Q26.** Can the Pensions Board undertake to provide full and regularly updated contact information for all retired stipendiary clergy to those responsible for the pastoral care of retired clergy in Dioceses?

## **ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL**

*Mr John Spence to reply on behalf of the Presidents:*

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Ven Jonathan LLoyd (Europe) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:**

**Q27.** Why was the Diocese in Europe not consulted, either formally or informally, before the Archbishops' Council decided on a formula for Commissioners' Funding for Dioceses 2014-2016, and why did the formula that was used not include a wider and more equitable range of indicators to take into account the distinct shape of mission in the Diocese in Europe?

**Mr Malcolm Halliday (Bradford) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:**

- Q28.** In the light of the recent suggestion by the Chair of the Charity Commission that high salaries risked bringing charities into disrepute, and of the vocational aspect of the work of the national Church institutions:
- (a) how many staff of Archbishops' Council are paid salaries in excess of £100,000;
  - (b) how many appointments of such staff have been made within the last three years and how many such posts are currently vacant;
  - (c) what benchmarks are used by Archbishops' Council to determine salary levels; and
  - (d) how does the Archbishops' Council ensure that salary levels take account of salary levels at diocesan and parish level?

**The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert (St Albans) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:**

- Q29.** What review arrangements are in place to allow the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council to determine the continuing appropriateness of the dioceses' allocation from the Mission Development Fund, other than the annual need to ensure that expenditure from the Fund is in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998?

*Mr Philip Fletcher to reply on behalf of the Presidents:*

**The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Presidents of the Archbishops' Council:**

- Q30.** In view of the welcome news of more people being included in the great variety of Fresh Expressions, is a list of them kept centrally and can consideration be given to the possibility of introducing a mandatory central register containing details of all Fresh Expressions?

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

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

**Q31.** Table 6 of Ministry Statistics 2012 shows 4.9% of stipendiary assistant curates having minority ethnic backgrounds compared with 2.7% of incumbents. Interpretation of this interesting result is hampered by the larger proportion whose ethnicity is not known (32.2% against 18.8%). What steps are being taken to achieve more complete ethnicity data?

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

**Q32.** The stipendiary clergy ethnicity data in Table 6 of Ministry Statistics 2012 are helpfully presented for the various black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. This is a welcome innovation. But the very useful diocesan tabulation for 2011, given for the first time as Table 22 in the previous publication, has not been repeated for 2012. Can you give an assurance that diocesan clergy ethnicity statistics will be included in future years?

## **HOUSE OF BISHOPS**

*The Bishop of Ely to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

**Mrs Pamela Bishop (Southwell & Nottingham) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q33.** Whilst there have been, in recent years, some welcome developments in the appointment procedures for Deans of Cathedrals, it is still the case that the interviewing process prevents candidates from meeting any colleagues from the Cathedral community. What is the reasoning for this practice?

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

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

**Q34.** In view of the dramatic fall-off in religious affiliation to the Church of England across the age cohorts in the UK population (Over 70's, more than 35%; Under 30's, less than 5% [source: David Voas, University of Essex]), will the House of Bishops undertake a survey (benefactor-funded if necessary) to establish the reasons why young people are more alienated from the established Church than from other or unspecified Christian denominations (where the same survey indicates c. 25% affiliation for under 30's), with a view to establishing how better to engage the next generation?

*The Bishop of Guildford to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

**The Revd Philip North (London) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q35.** Given the unsustainable costs in terms of legal fees and time and the unacceptable levels of stress suffered by many clergy, what plans do the House of Bishops have to review the workings of the Clergy Discipline Measure?

*The Bishop of London to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

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

**Q36.** Following the Bishop of Liverpool's retirement, which members of the House of Bishops will have responsibility for leading on environmental questions, particularly on the increasing risk of major climate change?

*The Archbishop of York to reply:*

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

**Q37.** Given that several senior members of the House of Bishops were present in Nairobi last month when over 330 bishops and archbishops of the Anglican Communion gathered with over one thousand of their clergy and laity for the Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON2), will the Standing Committee of the House of Bishops place on the agenda of the next meeting of the House, a consideration of how the House might deepen and strengthen their links with fellow bishops in the Global South?

*The Bishop of Rochester to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

**The Revd Canon Jonathan Alderton-Ford (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q38.** Is the House of Bishops aware of the article by Will Adam, Editor of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal on "Women bishops and the recognition of Orders" as posted in Law and Religion UK on the 25th of September 2013 and has this article played any part in its recent deliberations on the ordination of women to the episcopate, and the scope of their ministry, given that there may be clergy ordained by women bishops from Ireland who will seek to be deployed in England?

*The Archbishop of Canterbury to reply:*

**The Very Revd Andrew Nunn (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q39.** When will the report of the group chaired by Sir Joseph Pilling be published?

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

**Q40.** Will the House of Bishops give Synod an assurance that when the Pilling Report is published, it will carry a suitably prominent statement to the effect that any proposals or recommendations the report contains are not the official position of the Church of England unless and until they are endorsed by a vote of the General Synod?

**The Revd John Cook (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q41.** Can the Synod be assured that, if the House of Bishops having considered the Pilling Report are minded to make any changes to the Church of England's position on human sexuality, it will ensure Synod is given an opportunity to debate these matters before any changes are brought into effect?

**The Revd Jonathan Frais (Chichester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q42.** Given General Synod's resolution of 1987 saying that adultery, fornication and homosexual acts are to be met with "a call to repentance", what steps will be taken to make clear that the Pilling Report, when it is published, has not replaced this stance unless and until the General Synod itself so resolves?

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mrs Penelope Allen (Lichfield) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q43.** Is the House considering tasking the Liturgical Commission with the preparation of suitable liturgy for the blessing of civil partnerships in church?

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mrs Penelope Allen (Lichfield) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q44.** What progress has been made by the group established by the House to advise it on human sexuality in producing its report and, when it is produced, is it intended that it should be the subject of debate at the same time as the private member's motions on the Public Doctrine of Christian Marriage and Registration of Civil Partnerships?

*The Bishop of Sheffield to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

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

**Q45.** Recent research by the Transformations Research and Implementation Group showed that young male ordinands outnumber female ordinands by seven to two. What, precisely, is being done to encourage more vocations in young women?

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

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

**Q46.** Recent research by the Transformations Research and Implementation Group also shows that young male ordinands are predominantly attending Conservative Evangelical and Traditionalist colleges. What steps are being taken to match the intake to likely future requirements for clergy both in respect of numbers and of deployability?

*The Bishop of Coventry to reply on behalf of the Chair:*

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

- Q47.** As the cathedral is the seat of the diocesan bishop, has the House of Bishops issued guidance on the use of the sacred space in cathedrals for worship by other faiths which includes ceremonies that consecrate that space in the tradition of another faith?

## **SECRETARY GENERAL**

*Mr William Fittall to reply:*

**The Revd Charles Read (Norwich) to ask the Secretary General:**

- Q48.** When was the 'Pilling Report' (ie 'Talent and Calling', GS 1650) debated by the General Synod, with what result and where may current members find the report and the transcript of the Synod debate?

**The Revd Christopher Hobbs (London) to ask the Secretary General:**

- Q49.** Is there is a consistent pattern across the dioceses in terms of the eligibility of those who are part of Bishop's Mission Order communities for membership of deanery synods and for the other usual rights in relation to participation in church governance and, if there is not, can consideration be given to the possibility of standardising the position in that respect?

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

- Q50.** Has any assessment been made of (a) the policy case for requiring all land held or acquired by a PCC (other than a short lease) to be vested in the diocesan authority (including any legal, accounting or ecclesiological considerations) or (b) the cost to dioceses of doing so (including time spent on administration and fees for professional advice and services), and if so, can this assessment be supplied to Synod members before the debate on the First Consideration of the Draft Church of England (Ecclesiastical Property) Measure (GS1921)?



## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mrs Mary Durlacher (Chelmsford) to ask the Secretary General:**

**Q51.** What response has the Church of England made to the Ministry of Justice consultation on the process for using religious buildings shared by more than one religious denomination for the solemnisation of marriages of same sex couples?

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Revd Canon Dr Simon Cox (Blackburn) to ask the Secretary General:**

**Q52.** Will advice be given as to whether, following the re-definition of marriage by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act, an incumbent may decline to solemnise any marriages or make his or her church unavailable for the solemnisation of marriages?

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**The Revd Canon Dr Simon Cox (Blackburn) to ask the Secretary General:**

**Q53.** Will advice be given as to whether, following the re-definition of marriage by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act, it will be possible for steps to be taken so that a parish church ceases to be one in which any marriages may be solemnised?

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*The Bishop of Oxford to reply as Chair of the Board of Education:*

## **WRITTEN REPLY**

**Mrs Mary Judkins (Wakefield) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:**

**Q54.** After the Ofsted report on RE and the Review on RE published recently, what is the Board of Education doing as follow-up, and what can General Synod members do to keep up pressure on the Government?

**The Revd Eva McIntyre (Worcester) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:**

**Q55.** In the answer to Question 63 at the July 2013 group of sessions, confidence was expressed about Church of England schools taking their responsibilities about combatting racism seriously. Has any check been made whether there are any teachers in Church of England schools who are members of the British National Party or the English Defence League?

**The Revd Canon Dr Christopher Sugden (Oxford) to ask the Chair of the Board of Education:**

**Q56.** In his Foreword to the RE curriculum framework of the Review of Religious Education in England by the Religious Education Council made public on October 23rd, the Secretary of the State writes on page 5 that “the Review has the endorsement of a very wide range of professional organisations and bodies representing faiths and other world views.” Is the Church of England Board of Education which is listed as a member body of the RE Council, included among the bodies representing faiths and other worldviews which the Secretary of State says have endorsed this RE curriculum framework?

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

**Q57.** Which resources does the Board of Education recommend to be used with both staff and students in all Church of England schools to address LGBT bullying?

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

**Q58.** Given the Archbishop of Canterbury’s call in July for a “a commitment to stamp out” homophobic bullying in Church of England schools, what work has been undertaken to log or track the number of incidents of homophobic bullying in our schools?

## **CATHEDRAL AND CHURCH BUILDINGS DIVISION**

*The Bishop of London to reply as Chair of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division:*

**The Revd Dr Patrick Richmond (Norwich) to ask the Chair of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division:**

**Q59.** “Fewer clergy are now ministering to a larger population and having to oversee a roughly similar number of buildings, with fewer worshippers to pay for them.” (GS Misc 1054) In view of the ageing Church demographic, leading to increasing retirement of clergy and lower birth rates and higher death rates than the general population, with consequent further falls in numbers of clergy and paying worshippers, what strategies and plans are the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division considering to reduce the burdens of maintaining buildings and to aid mission in the future?

## **COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

*The Bishop of Peterborough to reply as Chair of the Council for Christian Unity:*

**Dr Edmund Marshall (St Albans) to ask the Chair of the Council for Christian Unity:**

**Q60.** What response is being made on behalf of the Church of England to the Report, "The Challenge of the Covenant: Uniting in Mission and Holiness", published in September 2013 by the Joint Implementation Commission for the Anglican-Methodist Covenant?

**The Revd Tony Redman (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chair of the Council for Christian Unity:**

**Q61.** In the light of the departure of the Archbishop of Canterbury's former Ecumenical Officer on his consecration to the episcopate, the vacancy in the See of Gibraltar in Europe and the main business before the Synod at this group of sessions, what strategic steps are the Council taking to maintain dialogue with the Orthodox churches, especially the Russian Orthodox?