

GENERAL SYNOD
AMENDING CANON NO. 41
Explanatory Memorandum

Amending Canon No. 41 facilitates the use of electronic service registers and makes other miscellaneous amendments to the Canons of the Church of England.

Paragraph 1 Register book of services

1. Paragraph 1 of the Amending Canon amends Canon F 12 to facilitate the use of electronic service registers. This implements a proposal that originated from the Simplification Task Group.
2. The use of an electronic service register will be permitted; but there will be no requirement to use an electronic register and paper registers may still be used if preferred.
3. It will additionally be possible for the General Synod to approve other forms of register in the future.
4. Where the register is kept in electronic form, or in a form approved by the General Synod, it must be kept subject to any conditions approved by the Synod. This would, for example, enable the Synod to impose conditions as to how the data forming the register is to be stored.
5. The amendments made by paragraph 1 of the Amending Canon also create a new requirement to record in the service register the number of persons attending the service and, so far as it is practicable to ascertain, the number aged under 16 and the number aged over 16. See the new paragraph 2(c) of Canon F 12. While most existing service registers do provide for the recording of that information, there is currently no canonical requirement to record it; the current requirement as to recording numbers relates only to the number of communicants.

Paragraph 2 Ministers exercising their ministry

6. Paragraph 2 of the Amending Canon amends Canon C 8 to take account of the provision concerning the conduct of funerals made by section 4 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure (which is being considered for final drafting and final approval at the July 2018 group of sessions).

Paragraph 3 The Ecclesiastical Courts etc: updated statutory references

7. Paragraph 3 of the Amending Canon updates various references in the Canons to take account of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.

Paragraph 4 General Synod and Convocations: replacement of outdated references

8. Paragraph 4 of the Amending Canon amends Canon H 1 so that references to the Prolocutor and Pro-prolocutor of the House of Laity become references to the Chair and Vice-Chair of that House. (See also the amendments to the Constitution of the General Synod to be made by clause 11 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) (No. 2) Measure.)

Paragraph 5 Minor corrections

9. Paragraph 5 of the Amending Canon makes minor corrections to various canonical provisions.

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