

GENERAL SYNOD

February 2005 Group of Sessions

Report by the Business Committee

1. The Convocations, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity will be meeting in the afternoon of Monday 14 February, before the Synod convenes at 5 pm.

Dates and Hours of Sitting

2. The February meeting of the General Synod will take place at Church House, Westminster, **from 5 pm on Monday 14 February to 7 pm on Thursday 17 February 2005.**

Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

3. The agenda for the February Group of Sessions has three particularly high profile debates, namely the Report of the Bishop of Rochester's Working Party on Women in the Episcopate, the Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion, and the second report of the group reviewing Clergy Terms of Service. There is also one major piece of liturgical business – the Revision Stage of the Ordinal, and a substantial Private Member's Motion on Senior Church Appointments. There are, in addition, two major debates on subjects which affect the Church's engagement with the wider community, on the Environment and on issues in Higher Education. (As regards the debate on the future plans of the Church Urban Fund, previously scheduled for February, this

will now take place in July, when CUF's business plans have been fully considered by the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops.) There is a relatively small amount of legislative business and there are a few items of other business, mainly of a domestic character. In a busy and crowded agenda, the Business Committee has ensured that time is provided for a celebration of the Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall.

4. Principal debates at the February Synod (with reference to paragraphs later in this report) are as follows:

- **Higher Education and the Church's Mission** (para 27)
- **Review of Clergy Terms of Service** (para 29-32)
- **Women in the Episcopate** (para 36-37)
- **Ordinal: Revision Stage** (para 38)
- **Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission** (para 41-43)
- **Senior Church Appointments** (para 47)
- **Environmental Issues** (para 48-49)

5. The Business Committee has considered what item of contingency business to list for this Group of Sessions. As regards Private Members' Motions, the next item in the list is the Revd Dr Richard Turnbull's motion on Inter-Diocesan Mutual Support, but this subject is currently under active discussion between the National Church Institutions and the dioceses, and will come to the Synod when these discussions are completed. All the other Private Members' Motions have received fewer than 100 signatures, which, in the light of Standing Order 6(e), the Business Committee considers

is a reasonable threshold for scheduling a Private Member's Motion for debate.

6. Several of the Diocesan Synod Motions concern issues awaiting the outcome of respective reviews: Women in the Episcopate, the Clergy Freehold and the Anglican Communion will be the subject of debates at this Group of Sessions. The subject matter of the Southwark Diocesan Synod Motion on Carbon Dioxide Emissions is being incorporated in the debate sponsored by the Mission and Public Affairs Division on the Environment, also in February. The debate on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod is related to the eventual outcome of the debate on Women in the Episcopate. The issues raised by the London DSM on the Apportionment will be considered in the context of the follow-up to the Spending Review in July. There is at present one other DSM, from Oxford on Parochial Fees, and the Committee has decided to schedule this motion as the item of contingency business for the February Group.
7. A financial comment has been prepared by the Finance Division on items of Synod business which have significant financial implications. This will be circulated on a Notice Paper.

The Business Committee's other recent work

8. The Business Committee and the Standing Orders Committee have responded to the outcome of the debate in July on *Making Synod's Procedures More Effective* (GS 1542). It is understood that the Standing Orders Committee will accordingly be bringing forward

proposals for amending the Standing Orders in respect of speech limits and amendments in its next report to the Synod. The Committees have also given particular consideration to issues concerning access to the General Synod by people with disabilities, and the Standing Orders Committee (with the support of the Business Committee) will be proposing to the Synod an amendment to the Standing Orders to facilitate the appointment to the Synod of three (non-voting) representatives of the Deaf Church Conference.

Electronic Voting

9. Preparatory work on electronic voting has progressed. However, it is now clear that an amendment to the Synod's Constitution (contained in a schedule to the Synodical Government Measure 1969) will be required to facilitate the introduction of electronic voting (followed by consequent changes to the Synod's Standing Orders), and a permissive provision has accordingly been included in the draft Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure, which returns to the Synod in February for its Revision Stage. (It therefore seems unlikely that electronic voting can be introduced until after Church House is refurbished, in February 2007.) A further report to the Synod on the practical and procedural aspects of electronic voting will be made to the Synod in due course.

Correspondence received following the July 2004 Synod

10. Much of the correspondence following the July Group of Sessions focused on the outcome of the debate on the

report of the Clergy Discipline (Doctrine) Group, expressing concern that a motion which would have been passed on a division of the whole Synod was narrowly defeated on a division by Houses, and requesting that the matter be brought back to the Synod as soon as possible. In this context, there was some regret about the lack of a separate take-note debate on the report, and questions were raised about the value of including illustrative draft legislation and about the terms of the financial comment. Other letters focused on the forthcoming debate on the report of the Bishop of Rochester's Working Party on Women in the Episcopate and expressed the hope that the legislative process could be expedited. Further correspondence highlighted aspects of the debate on Making the Synod's Procedures More Effective, with diverse views on electronic voting, speech limits and amendments.

The February Synod: explanatory information

Security

11. **Members are asked to wear their Church House passes at all times** and to study the security notice which will be circulated on a Notice Paper.

Worship

12. Outline information about services in the Church House Chapel is given on the inside front cover of the Agenda. There will be a **service of Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall at 9 am on Wednesday 16 February**, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside and preach.

Order of Business

13. The business each day will follow the order set out in the daily list given in the Agenda, except where it is necessary to modify this. Every effort will be made to give the Synod the longest possible notice of any variations which it is proposed to make in the timetable and to keep such changes to a minimum. Members are, however, reminded that if at any time within the Group of Sessions an unexpected gap opens in the Synod's agenda, business earlier in the Agenda which has not been reached or completed within the period allotted, can be called by the Chairman, unless other provision has already been made for it.

14. If there is no such outstanding business and an unexpected gap opens in the Synod's agenda, then unless the adjournment is carried, the Business Committee has decided that the next item to be taken will be the contingency business set out in paragraph 6 above (i.e. the Oxford Diocesan Synod Motion on Parochial Fees). Members are reminded that the rubric 'not later than' in the Agenda does not prevent an item coming on significantly earlier than the time stated, depending on the progress of the preceding business.

Private Members' Motions

15. Notice of Private Members' Motions received is contained in Special Agenda III. Any future notices of Private Members' Motions will be published in notice papers and will be available for signature at the February Group of Sessions only if they are received **no later than 5.30 pm on Monday 14 February**.

Content of Business

Introductions (Monday, 14 February)

16. There will be the customary introduction of new members, as well as the three newly elected (non-voting) representatives of the Church of England Youth Council: Laura Pickering (Chester), Simon Butterworth (Manchester), and Tom Belshaw (Blackburn). The Board of Education will be producing a paper with information about the Church of England Youth Council and about its first meeting in November 2004.

Report by the Business Committee

17. This will provide the customary opportunity for members to raise points about the Agenda for this Group of Sessions or about the Synod's business generally.

Appointments

18. Six places on the Archbishops' Council are filled by nominations made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Appointments require the approval of the General Synod. The end of Ms Jayne Ozanne's term of office in December 2004 has created a vacancy and, following a process of advertisement and interview, the Archbishops will be seeking the Synod's approval to the appointment of Mr Mark Russell. A background note has been circulated (GS 1565).
19. The Synod will be asked to approve the extension of the appointment of Mr Allan Bridgewater as Chairman of

the Pensions Board for a further two years. His present term of office is due to come to an end on 31 December 2005.

Ecumenical Canon B44: Diocesan Synod Motion: Ely

20. Canon B44 is one of two canons put in place as a consequence of the Ecumenical Relations Measure 1988. It permits the diocesan bishop, subject to a careful process of consultation within the relevant parishes, to agree with designated partner Churches to the formation of ‘Local Ecumenical Projects’ (LEPs - now generally known as ‘Local Ecumenical Partnerships’). One model of LEP is that of a single congregation which is at the same time the congregation of a Church of England parish (or part of a parish) and of a church of one or more other denominations with which the Church of England is not ‘in communion’. Partnerships can include shared worship and mission, shared buildings and a measure of shared ministry short of full ‘interchangeability’. It is possible for a bishop to license a minister of one of the partner denominations to be ‘engaged in the cure of souls’ and have effective sole charge of such a congregation.
21. The motion from Ely Diocese seeks to delete paragraph 5 from Canon B 44. Earlier in the canon, the diocesan bishop is permitted to exercise his powers under Canon B14A to give LEP parishes a degree of dispensation from the disciplines of Canon B14, which requires Church of England services of Holy Communion in every parish church every Sunday and on principal Feast Days, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

Canon B 44 makes clear that services of Holy Communion conducted by ministers of partner denominations are not ‘Church of England services’. Paragraph 5 gives the bishop a necessary framework for making his dispensation and specifically insists on Church of England services of Holy Communion in the LEP on five significant occasions in the Church’s calendar, including Christmas and Easter.

22. A background note for the Ely Diocesan Synod Motion has been circulated (GS Misc 763A), together with a background note from the Council for Christian Unity (GS Misc 763B).

Legislative business (Tuesday, 15 February)

23. The volume of legislative business at this Group of Sessions is relatively light, as most of the legislation intended to be introduced this quinquennium has now been completed. However, several items still require the Synod’s attention.
24. As regards items of legislation previously considered by the Synod, the draft Pastoral (Amendment) Measure, which will facilitate the community use of churches which continue in use for worship, returns to the Synod for Final Approval; and the Revision Committee for the draft Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure will report to the Synod on its work, following which the Revision Stage will be taken.
25. Additionally, in completion of the long process of synodical government reform, the Synod will be asked to promulge Amending Canon No 26 (which alters the

composition of the Houses of Bishops and Clergy), and to approve the Convocations (Election to the Upper House) (Amendment) Rules (which will make changes consequential upon the Synod's earlier decision to reduce the number of suffragan bishops elected to the Synod).

26. Finally, since the Synod rejected the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order put before it for approval in July, a fresh order in different terms will be laid before it for approval.

Higher Education and the Church's Mission

27. This debate will examine the purpose of higher education and whether it is to expand horizons and develop a person's potential or to create a more effective workforce and enable the country to be more competitive internationally. If it is both, is the balance right? It also asks whether there should be a target of 50% of young people going on to higher education and how university education can be afforded. Parliamentary debates leading to the Higher Education Act 2004 mentioned only in passing the fundamental questions of the values and purpose of higher education. The General Synod will debate these issues from a Christian perspective, on the basis of a report from the Board of Education (GS 1567), together with questions of the Church's ministry and mission in higher education institutions. It will also examine why universities need Anglican chaplains, and whether the Church can afford not to provide university chaplains. This debate will not cover the subject of Church Colleges or the work of the (Church Colleges) Mutual

Expectations Working Party report, which will be published later in 2005.

Elections to the General Synod: Durham Diocesan Synod Motion

28. The motion seeks to address perceived shortcomings in the requirement of the Church Representation Rules with regard to election addresses for elections to the House of Laity of the General Synod. (If accepted, the proposal could apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proctorial elections, although the motion does not specifically refer to the House of Clergy.) A background paper by the Diocese of Durham is being circulated (GS Misc 764A), together with a background paper from the Legal Office (GS Misc 764B).

Review of Clergy Terms of Service

29. This Review, under the chairmanship of Professor David McClean, was set up by the Archbishops' Council in December 2002, following its response to the DTI's discussion document *Employment Status in relation to Statutory Employment Rights*. The Group's terms of reference are as follows

“To review the terms under which the clergy hold office to ensure a proper balance between rights and responsibilities, and clear procedures for resolving disputes which afford full protection against possible injustice; and

to consider in this context the future of the freehold and the position of the clergy in relation to statutory employment rights.

In the review, to give priority to consideration of the position of clergy without the freehold or employment contracts, and to report on this aspect in 2003 with detailed proposals and a programme for their implementation, the rest of the review to be completed, if possible, in 2004.”

30. The Group’s Report on the first phase of its work, GS 1527, was considered at the February 2004 sessions of General Synod, where its recommendations were welcomed. That Report recommended a new form of tenure for clergy, to be called common tenure, under which appointments for clergy without the freehold would:

- normally be open-ended until retiring age, and would *not* require renewal after a specified number of years;
- confer a level of job security comparable to that of an employee, whilst retaining the office holder status of clergy;
- be subject to a formal capability procedure (with a right of appeal) to be invoked where the requirements of the post are not being met to a minimum standard and where dismissal is a real possibility. This procedure would apply equally to parochial clergy, bishops, archdeacons and cathedral clergy.
- In addition, clergy would have access to Employment Tribunals.

31. During the subsequent consultation period, the recommendations in the Group's first report received a largely positive response, which has informed the Group's discussions as it has proceeded with the second phase of its work. The Group's second report has now been considered by the Archbishops' Council, which commends it to the Synod. Its main recommendations include the following:
- applying common tenure to clergy with the freehold, including bishops;
 - changes to the ownership of property at present held by the incumbent of a benefice and the modification of the requirement for consent in relation to the proposed sale of houses;
 - the need for an enhanced Human Resources function to ensure that good practice is followed (e.g. on appointments), which will have implications for the role of the bishop and his relationship with his clergy and involve aspects of management;
 - adopting a general framework for ministerial review for use within individual dioceses to ensure good practice.
32. It is intended to follow the same consultation process as last year. The Synod will be invited to debate the report, welcome its recommendations, and commend the report to the dioceses and the Church of England at large, with a deadline of the end of July 2005. The Archbishops' Council will be requested to appoint an implementation group to follow up the recommendations in the report (taking account of the responses from dioceses and other interested parties,

both to this report and to the earlier report (GS 1527) on the first phase of the work), and to bring forward legislation based on those recommendations as early as possible in the next quinquennium.

Representation of the Synod 2005-2010

33. At this Group of Sessions the Synod needs to complete the process of determining the numbers to be elected by the dioceses for the 2005-10 General Synod in accordance with the mechanics agreed by this Synod, culminating in the promulgation of Amending Canon No 26 at this Group of Sessions. Our report to the Synod is circulated as GS 1561. As in previous such reports, we recommend to the Synod, subject to the constraints noted in the report, how the numbers should be allocated in the case of both the House of Laity and the Proctors to be elected by dioceses, subject to the maximum permitted for each Province.

Questions

34. Under SO 105, members may address Questions to the Secretary General, the Clerk to the Synod, the Chairman of the Archbishops' Council, the Chairman of any body answerable to the Synod through the Archbishops' Council (including Boards and Councils), the Chairman of any Church of England body on which the Synod is represented, the Chairman of each of the three Houses of Synod, and the Church Estates Commissioners. Anyone wishing to ask a question must give notice of it to reach the Clerk to the Synod **by 5.30 pm on Wednesday 2 February 2005**. The

Questions notice paper will be distributed at the beginning of the Group of Sessions.

35. Members are entitled to ask up to two questions. ‘Omnibus’ questions are not in order. If a member wishes to query several points, each should be the subject of a separate question. Detailed information, tables of figures, etc are better dealt with in a written answer and members are urged to be selective in matters which they raise orally at Question Time, including any supplementaries which must be framed as a question and should be kept brief. Members should indicate clearly when submitting a Question whether it is for oral or written answer.

Women in the Episcopate (Wednesday, 16 February)

36. Following the publication of *Women Bishops in the Church of England?* in November, the Bishop of Rochester, Chairman of the House of Bishops' Working Party, will introduce a ‘take note’ debate on the Report. As the report focuses on the theological dimension of this issue, the Committee hopes that the opportunity will be taken for a substantial discussion of these aspects in this debate.
37. The Synod will also have the opportunity, in a debate opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to consider a note from the House of Bishops setting out its proposals in relation to what should happen next. The view of the House is that time should be made available at the July Group of Sessions to enable the Synod to decide whether to embark on the legislative process necessary for the admission of women to the episcopate. The

Business Committee is conscious of the five Diocesan Synod Motions that have already been tabled, seeking an early move to enabling legislation, (and a motion from the Oxford Diocesan Synod, addressed to the Business Committee, asking for the debate on the consecration of women to the episcopate to be brought forward without delay), but believes that the debates on the report and on the proposals from the House of Bishops, with the prospect of a further debate in July, will provide full opportunity for the various viewpoints to be considered.

Liturgical Business

Ordinal: Revision Stage

38. The major item of liturgical business for this Group of Sessions is the Revision Stage for the Ordination Services, which received First Consideration by the Synod in February 2004 and have now been revised by the Revision Committee. The Common Worship Ordination Services are intended to replace those in The Alternative Service Book 1980, the authorisation of which will lapse on 31 December 2005.

Hind Follow-up: Alternative Sources of Funding for Married Candidates

39. The report *Formation for Ministry within a Learning Church* (GS 1496 – the Hind report) debated by the General Synod in July 2003, proposed an approach to Initial Ministerial Training (IME). The Report recommended that additional funding of £1,000,000 should be made available to the post-ordination phase of IME, and that this could be funded by reducing by 75

the number of candidates training residentially at colleges who received financial support from the Church for their families. The Synod was unhappy with the proposal to fund the post-ordination phase of IME by losing 75 residential places for ordinands with families. Instead, in approving the report, it asked the Archbishops' Council to explore alternative sources of funding and a group was set up, under the chairmanship of the Revd Dr Richard Turnbull, to carry out this task. The Group's report (*Alternative Sources of Funding* (GS 1541A) put forward a number of proposals for alternative sources of funding, including a personal contribution for each person embarking on ordination training and a partnership scheme between colleges and courses, and parishes. The Synod decided against supporting these proposals and requested that further work should be carried out to identify ways in which costs of post-ordination phase of IME could be funded.

40. The Archbishops' Council has now received a report from a staff group, which recommends that funding responsibility for post-ordination IME should remain at diocesan level. It will therefore be for dioceses to determine the rate at which the additional funding, now estimated at £450,000, should be met. It is accepted that this approach may lead to some unevenness across the country in the provision of IME, but it leaves responsibility with the dioceses receiving the newly ordained. The report has been approved by the House of Bishops and is now commended to the Synod by the Archbishops' Council in the form of GS 1569.

Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission
(Thursday, 17 February)

41. The Windsor Report 2004, from the Lambeth Commission on Communion, was published on 18 October 2004. The Commission was set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Armagh, at the request of the Primates of the Anglican Communion following their meeting in October 2003. The Primates asked that the Commission should engage in urgent deep theological and legal reflection on the way in which the changes identified at that meeting, concerning developments in the Episcopal Church of the USA and the Diocese of New Westminster in Canada, should be addressed.
42. The Primates have established a process for the reception of the Report, which is being handled by a reference group under the chairmanship of the Primate of Hong Kong. The next steps will be considered at the meeting of the Primates in Belfast on 20-26 February.
43. Following publication of the Windsor Report, the House of Bishops asked the Chairs of its Theological Group and the Faith and Order Advisory Group to prepare a paper to help guide its own deliberations (at its January 2005 meeting), with a view to this document forming the basis of the Church of England's response to the Primates' Meeting. This paper is circulated as an annex to a short report from the House of Bishops (GS 1570). The House is very conscious of the critical and urgent issues addressed by the Windsor Report for the cohesion of the Anglican Communion and the need to

support the Archbishop of Canterbury in his dual role, both in terms of the leadership of the Anglican Communion and as the representative of the Church of England at the Primates' Meeting. The House has therefore focused on questions of particular immediacy for the Primates' Meeting and the motion has been formulated accordingly.

Weekday Lectionary: Final Approval

44. The Revision Stage for the Weekday Lectionary and Amendments was completed in July and this liturgical business is now presented to the Synod for Final Approval. The Weekday Lectionary is intended to replace the current (temporary) Weekday Lectionary. If it receives Final Approval, it will form the basis for the annual lectionary booklets for 2005-6.

Review of Constitutions of bodies answerable to the General Synod through the Archbishops' Council

45. Under Standing Order 119, the constitutions of bodies answerable to the Synod through the Archbishops' Council shall be determined by the Council after consultation with the General Synod, and at least once in every quinquennium the Council shall review the constitutions of all bodies and report thereon to the Synod. The Archbishops' Council invited a group of three of its members, chaired by Canon Bob Baker, to undertake the present quinquennial review, and the Council now commends the group's report (GS 1566) to the Synod. The report will be subject to revision by the Council in the light of the Synod debate and comments otherwise received from Synod members.

Farewells

46. The farewells at this Group of Sessions will be made at this point, and will include a farewell to the Archbishop of York.

Senior Church Appointments:

Private Member's Motion: Mr Anthony Archer

47. The motion seeks to request the Archbishops' Council to commission a working party to review and make recommendations as to the nature of the offices of suffragan bishop, dean, archdeacon and residentiary canon, and the law and practice regarding appointments to these offices. In doing so, it proposes that the Church should adopt an integrated, consistent and transparent method of making appointments to senior ecclesiastical offices. A background note by Mr Archer is being circulated (GS Misc 765A), together with a background note from the Secretary General (GS Misc 765B), which sets out the past history of reviews which bear upon this subject.

Environmental Issues

48. The environment is a topic of major public concern and has implications for personal behaviour, business and governmental action - both domestic and international. The Government has stated that its priority for its presidency of the G8 (meeting at Gleneagles in Scotland in early July) and of the European Union (in the second half of this year) will be climate change. In 2004 the Archbishop of Canterbury made a number of

significant interventions on the environmental crisis. There is growing interest in the contribution that world faiths can bring to this issue and the debate will be an occasion to affirm that a distinctive and effective Christian contribution can be offered.

49. The debate that is being sponsored by the Mission and Public Affairs Council will give Synod members opportunity to give their views on the many facets of the environmental crisis. The debate will be supported by a report *Sharing God's Planet: A Christian Vision for a Sustainable Future* (GS 1558).

Prorogation

50. The Synod will be prorogued no later than 7 pm. The closing ceremonies will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On behalf of the Committee

Richard Turnbull
January 2005

Members of the Business Committee

The Revd Dr Richard Turnbull - Chair

Elected by the House of Bishops

The Rt Revd George Cassidy, Bishop of Southwell

Elected by the House of Clergy

The Ven Alan Hawker, Archdeacon of Malmesbury

The Revd Prebendary Sam Philpott (Exeter)

The Revd Simon Pothen (London)

Elected by the House of Laity

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Frank Knaggs (Newcastle)

Mrs Maryon Jägers (Europe)

Two members of the Archbishops' Council

Mr Brian McHenry (Southwark)

Professor Peter Toyne (Appointed)

(The Secretary to the Committee is David Williams and the Assistant Secretary is Malcolm Taylor)

GENERAL SYNOD

Provisional Forward Look

In addition to the items listed below, it is expected that there will be one or more Private Member's and Diocesan Synod Motions

July 2005

<i>General</i>	Presidential Address Eucharist and closing ceremonies
<i>Legislation</i>	Further Miscellaneous Provisions Measure: Final Drafting and Final Approval Amending Canon No 24 (Clergy Discipline): Promulgation Fees Orders Clergy Discipline Measure Rules Clergy Discipline Measure Code of Practice Care of Cathedrals Rules
<i>Liturgy</i>	Ordinal Final Approval (or Second Revision Stage and Final Approval)
<i>Reports</i>	Women in the Episcopate Strategic Financial Review: progress report 2006 budget Church Urban Fund Anglican/Methodist Covenant: interim report from the Joint Implementation Commission Standing Orders Committee report Review of Diocesan Practice on Communion before Confirmation Church Colleges/Universities and the Church

Inter-Faith Relations
Trade Justice: presentation

November 2005

Inauguration of the Synod

Legislation Review of Dioceses and Pastoral Measures:
Draft Measure: First Consideration
?Marriage Law: Draft Measure: First
Consideration

Reports Anglican/Baptist Conversations
Rural Issues