

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2006
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Monday 6 February	3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Tuesday 7 February	9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 8 February	9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 9 February	9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

SERVICES

Tuesday 7 February

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall

Wednesday 8 February

8.50 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Assembly Hall

1.05 p.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

Thursday 9 February

8.50 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Assembly Hall

1.05 p.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

GENERAL NOTES

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Save where a special note is included in the Agenda the following rules apply under the Standing Orders of the General Synod to notice of motions and amendments other than procedural motions:

1. The period of notice of new business has expired, save for urgent or other specially important business included by the direction of the Presidents.
2. Notice of motions and amendments arising out of business on the Agenda shall be delivered to the Clerk to the Synod as follows (SO10(a) and 26(a)):

Business appointed for the *first day of the group of sessions* (6 February) – **4.00 p.m. on 5 February (5.30 p.m. in the case of amendments)**

Remaining days of the group of sessions

Business appointed for a morning sitting – **4.00 p.m. the day before**

Business appointed for an afternoon sitting – **10.00 a.m. that day**

3. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chairman (SO 26(b)).
4. Notice of Questions under SOs 105-106 shall be delivered **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 25th January 2006** (SO10(b)(i)).
5. Notice shall be in writing signed by the member giving notice and delivered to the Clerk to the Synod either by hand, by post, fax or Email. The postal address is Church House, Great Smith

St, London SW1P 3NZ. The fax number is 020 7898 1369. The Email address is questions@c-of-e.org.uk in respect of Questions and david.williams@c-of-e.org.uk in respect of other business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business set out in the Timetable and General Agenda will be taken on the day and at the times shown there. If business set down for a particular day is completed before the next timed business is due to be called, the Chairman will take the opportunity to complete business already partly considered at this group of sessions.

CONTINGENCY BUSINESS

If there is no uncompleted business and a gap appears in the Agenda, contingency business will be taken as follows:

1. Carbon Dioxide Emissions – item 801

Members are therefore asked to be ready for such an eventuality. In particular, any member minded to submit an amendment to this motion is asked to do so in good time, bearing in mind that, if this item is debated at the forthcoming group of sessions, it is likely to be at relatively short notice.

The order of business set out in the previous paragraphs is subject to variation in accordance with SO 9.

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY

3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of the Prolocutor of the
Convocation of Canterbury

Presentation of the Prolocutor of the
Convocation of York

Presentation of the Chair and Vice Chair
of the House of Laity

**3. PROGRESS OF MEASURES AND
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS OF THE
APPOINTMENTS AND BUSINESS
COMMITTEES**

Details of this item will be included in a
Notice Paper

MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE **GS 1603**

A member of the Business Committee to move:

4. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
5. 'That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2008:

4-8 July

17-19 November (if required).'

not later than 4.00 p.m.

ECUMENICAL RESPONSES TO WOMEN BISHOPS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND? **GS Misc 807**

6. Presentation under Standing Order 97.

PENSIONS ISSUES

7. Presentation under Standing Order 97.
-

**ETHICAL INVESTMENT: Report by
the Ethical Investment Advisory
Group**

GS 1604

8. At the invitation of the Presidents *Mr John Reynolds* (Chair of the EIAG) will address the Synod.

The Bishop of Worcester to move:

9. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
WILL BE CELEBRATED IN THE
ASSEMBLY HALL**

HOUSE OF BISHOPS' WOMEN GS 1605
**BISHOPS GROUP: Report to the
General Synod from a working
group chaired by the Bishop of
Guildford.**

The Bishop of Guildford to move:

10. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

at 2.30 p.m.

SEEDS IN HOLY GROUND: A future GS 1606
for the rural church?

The Bishop of Exeter to move:

11. 'That this Synod, being aware of the importance of strong rural communities to the life of the nation,

- (a) affirm the Church of England's commitment to work with ecumenical partners to sustain and support an effective Christian presence in each rural community;
- (b) urge Government nationally, regionally and locally to:
 - (i) acknowledge the vital contribution that rural churches as key stakeholders make to rural community development and community cohesion;
 - (ii) proactively involve rural churches and other faith groups in the decision making processes that affect rural communities;
 - (iii) recognise that excluding churches and other faith groups from equitable funding is detrimental to rural community development;
- (c) commend *Seeds in Holy Ground* to rural churches as a contribution to a strategy for mission in each locality and call on dioceses to ensure adequacy

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

of resourcing for their rural strategies;

- (d) ask the MPA Council to monitor the development of diocesan rural strategies and report back to Synod within the present quinquennium; and
- (e) request the Archbishops' Council to review the adequacy of its national support of the presence and witness of the rural church.'

**PUSHING AT THE BOUNDARIES OF
UNITY: Anglicans and Baptists in
conversation**

**GS Misc
801**

The Bishop of Peterborough to move:

12. 'That this Synod commend the report for study throughout the Church of England and for local discussion with Baptists; and request that comments be sent to the Council for Christian Unity by 30 November 2007.'

**MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS: THE GS 1601
CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND
CHURCH COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES
Report by the Board of Education**

*A member of the Board of Education to
move:*

13. 'That this Synod
- (a) welcome the report;
 - (b) endorse the report's statement of mutual expectations between the Church and church Higher Education Institutions; and
 - (c) call for further development in the partnership between the dioceses and church Higher Education Institutions.'
-

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**Special
Agenda I**

Item 500 will be taken.

**SPECIAL AGENDA III
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**Special
Agenda III**

READER MINISTRY

Item 701 will be taken

INTO THE NEW QUINQUENNium

GS 1607

The Archbishop of York to move:

14. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

at 2.30 p.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

**Special
Agenda IV**

THE HUMAN GENOME

Item 804 will be taken

**BICENTENARY OF THE ACT FOR
THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE
TRADE**

Item 802 will be taken.

**HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE GS 1609
CHAPLAINCY**

The Bishop of St Albans to move:

15. 'That this Synod
- (a) affirm and support chaplaincy and spiritual healthcare as a necessary part of wholeness and healing;
 - (b) support and encourage healthcare chaplains and volunteers in their work and presence in the National

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

Health Service and in all places of healing care; and

- (c) request HM Government, NHS Trusts and other healthcare bodies, to ensure the continuing as well as adequate provision of chaplaincy/spiritual care.'
-

9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF BISHOPS' WOMEN GS 1605
BISHOPS GROUP: Report to the
General Synod

The Archbishop of Canterbury to move:

16. 'That this Synod
- (a) welcome the assessment made in GS 1605 of the options for removing the legal obstacles to the ordination of women to the episcopate;
 - (b) consider that an approach along the lines of "Transferred Episcopal Arrangements", expressed in a Measure with an associated code of practice, merits further exploration as a basis for proceeding in a way that will maintain the highest possible degree of communion in the Church of England;
 - (c) invite the House of Bishops, as part of its ongoing work on the underlying issues raised by the

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY

“Rochester report”, to produce for the July group of sessions a statement of the theological, ecumenical and canonical implications of such an approach;

- (d) instruct the Business Committee to make sufficient time available at the July group of sessions for Synod to determine, in the light of advice from the House of Bishops, the next steps, including a possible timetable for legislation; and
- (e) invite all members of Synod to reflect prayerfully and consult widely on the serious decisions now facing the Church.’

at 2.30 p.m

THE CHURCH'S BUILT HERITAGE

GS 1610

The Bishop of London to move:

- 17. That this Synod
 - (a) recognise the work and achievements of tens of thousands of volunteers in

caring for the churches of England;

- (b) support the recommendations of the Church Heritage Forum report *Building Faith in our Future* and encourage its widespread dissemination;
- (c) invite the Forum to take forward discussion of the recommendations with public bodies and agencies at every level, from the local to the European, and invite dioceses to do the same with public bodies and agencies in their own areas;
- (d) call upon Her Majesty's Government to increase the financial support available for the care, maintenance and repair of Church Buildings, and to continue the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for the reimbursement of VAT beyond the end of March 2008 if the issue of VAT on such repairs has not by then been permanently resolved in the context of European Community discussions; and
- (e) urge parishes to make full use of the Scheme and any other financial support available from Government sources for the upkeep of church buildings.'

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY

18. QUESTIONS

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

**ADMISSION OF BAPTISED CHILDREN TO
HOLY COMMUNION REGULATIONS (GS 1596A)**

Article 7 business

**Regulations for final approval
(Preliminary Consideration at the November 2005
Group of Sessions)**

Report by the House of Bishops (GS 1596A)

The Bishop of Dover to move -

- 500** 'That the Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations be finally approved'.

REPAIR OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

Mr Roy Thompson (York) to move:

- 700 'That this Synod, recognising the contribution which church buildings make to the Church and to the nation, but noting the continuing decline in real terms of the repair grants available from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund in recent years, call upon Her Majesty's Government to increase the financial support for the maintenance and repair of church buildings.'

151 Signatures

(November 2005)

READERS

Mr Nigel Holmes (Carlisle) to move:

- 701 'That this Synod, aware that the work of the ten thousand Readers is crucial to the mission of the Church, requests the Archbishops' Council to assess the implications for this nationally-accredited office of the recent introduction of a great variety of patterns of voluntary local ministry, both lay and ordained.'

108 Signatures

(November 2005)

RELIGIOUS HATRED LEGISLATION

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to move:

702 'That this Synod

- (a) treasure Britain's tradition of religious freedom and tolerance which has enabled all people to practise and propagate their faith in peace and without hindrance;
- (b) reaffirm its commitment to promoting good relations between faith communities, based on mutual respect and understanding;
- (c) abhor any incitement to hatred of others, whether on grounds of religion or otherwise;
- (d) fear that the proposals contained in the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill, prior to its amendment by the House of Lords on 25 October 2005, would, if enacted, impose unacceptable restrictions on those who proselytise and seek to win others to their faith, and would threaten to stir up tensions and animosity between different faith communities; and
- (e) therefore urge Her Majesty's Government not to seek to reintroduce those or similar provisions into the Bill.'

75 Signatures

(November 2005)

MARRIED COUPLE'S TAX ALLOWANCE

703 *Mrs Joanna Monckton* (Lichfield) to move:

'That this Synod, wishing to reaffirm the importance of marriage as central to the stability and health of society and the best context in which to bring up children, call upon Her Majesty's Government to bring back the married couple's allowance, explore ways of getting rid of disincentives and to encourage more couples to affirm their commitment and love to each other in marriage.'

70 Signatures

(November 2005)

OCTAVIA HILL ESTATES IN SOUTH LONDON

Mr Adrian Greenwood (Southwark) to move:

704 'That this Synod call on the Church Commissioners not to dispose of the Octavia Hill Estates in South London without first safeguarding that

- (a) a reasonable proportion of the estate is retained in perpetuity as affordable rented housing for people not able to afford to rent or buy on the open market in that locality; and
- (b) the rents and rights of the existing tenants are fully protected.'

32 Signatures

(November 2005)

**ETHICAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY GROUP:
RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS**

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to move:

705 'That this Synod considers that the list of restricted investments maintained by the Ethical Investment Advisory Group should be:

- (a) published to provide easy access for all Church bodies and for individual Christians of all denominations, to help them in structuring ethically the investments in their care; and
- (b) made available under licence (subject to an appropriate fee) to commercial fund managers so that they are in a position to offer a range of ethically-compliant funds of varying risk, management and performance profiles, which can be available for both Church bodies and individual Christians.'

30 Signatures

(November 2005)

CATHEDRALS: ENTRANCE CHARGES

Mr Tom Sutcliffe (Southwark) to move:

706 'That this Synod, recognising that charging for entrance is a means of raising revenue and limiting access that must inevitably and inescapably be convenient for some cathedrals, ask that legislation be brought forward to require any that make

SPECIAL AGENDA III - PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

visitors pay to maintain at least one weekday free of charge each week of the year.'

13 Signatures

(November 2005)

SPECIAL AGENDA IV - DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

EPISCOPAL MINISTRY ACT OF SYNOD

to move on behalf of the
Southwark Diocesan Synod:

- 800** 'That the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993 be rescinded.'

8 March 2003

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

to move on behalf of the
Southwark Diocesan Synod:

- 801** 'That this Synod ask the Mission and Public Affairs Council to investigate and recommend how church members can reduce CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050 in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC).'

13 March 2004

BICENTENARY OF THE ACT FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE

The Bishop of Southwark to move on behalf of the
Southwark Diocesan Synod:

SPECIAL AGENDA IV - DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

802 'That this Synod

- (a) recognizing that the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1807, celebrated in 2007, will provide unprecedented opportunities to acknowledge our history and tell anew the Christian story of creation and redemption:

- (b) acknowledging (i) the progress made to release men, women and children from the dehumanizing and shameful consequences of slavery (ii) that the process of emancipation of all people from all expressions of enslavement is scandalously unfinished work; and (iii) the substantial work currently being undertaken in this campaign by the Church and other agencies;

- (c) resolve to
 - (i) support vigorously every effort by the Church and other agencies to protest against human trafficking and all other manifestations of slavery across the world;

 - (i) call on Her Majesty's Government and the European Institutions to give the highest priority to enabling legislation to bring to an end the

SPECIAL AGENDA IV - DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

causes and outcomes of slavery; and

- (ii) request the Archbishops' Council to encourage and resource the Church to tell the story of release and redemption to our own and successive generations by prayer, study, reflection and action.'

THE CHURCH'S BUILT HERITAGE

to move on behalf of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod:

803 'That this Synod, whilst celebrating the richness of our ecclesiastical built heritage, recognises that responsibility for the upkeep of churches often falls on a few shoulders and therefore:

- (a) support the recommendations of the Church Heritage Forum report *Building Faith in our Future*;
- (b) encourage the Church Heritage Forum to ensure the widespread dissemination of the report and to take forward discussion of its recommendations with public bodies and agencies at every level, from the local to the European;
- (c) invite dioceses to take forward that discussion with

SPECIAL AGENDA IV - DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

public bodies and agencies within their own areas;

(d) urge parishes to make full use of Her Majesty's Government's reimbursement of VAT on repairs to listed places of worship;

(e) call upon Her Majesty Government both to continue the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond the end of March 2008 and to make a greater financial contribution to the care and maintenance of the Church's built heritage.'

THE HUMAN GENOME

Canon John Ashe to move on behalf of the Guildford Diocesan Synod:

804 'That this Synod

- (a) believe that the human genome is gifted by God to each individual and, as such, should not be patentable;
- (b) call for strict control on the availability of human genetic data; and
- (c) whilst recognising the need for appropriate intellectual property protection regret that EU Directive 1998/44 makes legal provision for the patenting of genetic material of human origin.'