

# GENERAL SYNOD

## July 2007 Group of Sessions

### Report by the Business Committee

#### Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

1. The July 2007 Group of Sessions features outward-facing debates reflecting the Church's engagement with society, including Private Members' Motions on Iran and ethical investment and an address by the Children's Commissioner, Sir Albert Aynsley-Green on children in the Church and society. There are items of particular concern to the mission and ministry of the Church: senior church appointments, clergy pensions, liturgical formation, disability issues for the clergy, and the participation of minority ethnic members in the Church. There are also matters concerning the Church's wider relations with other church communities: the Anglican Communion and the Anglican/Methodist Covenant. The agenda has a strong emphasis on resources, including not only clergy pensions and ethical investments, but also a presentation (and debate) on the Church Commissioners and the annual budget of the Archbishops' Council. There are also presentations on the Church Army and the Lambeth Conference, and a Presidential Address by the Archbishop of York.
2. The principal item of legislative business is the further Revision Stage of the Church of England Marriage Measure. An additional Revision Committee Stage was inserted to meet concerns raised during the debate on the Revision Committee's first report. In order to preserve for the Synod the option of concluding consideration of this Measure at the July Group of Sessions the Business Committee has scheduled the Revision Stage for Saturday and Final Approval for Tuesday. Whether the motion for Final Approval is moved on the Tuesday is contingent on the outcome of Saturday's debate. In providing for this possibility the Business Committee took account of the fact that while legislative business is not a major component of the July agenda, there is a considerable quantity of legislative business forecast for February 2008.
3. There is no contingency business for this Group of Sessions. The next motion to be debated would have been the Derby Diocesan Synod Motion on health and safety (see Special Agenda IV). Both this motion and the Durham Diocesan Synod Motion on eucharistic prayers for children have only just been received and neither motion is ready to be debated in July. As regards Private Members' Motions, apart from the two motions listed in the Agenda, there are no others which have attracted the 100 signatures which the Committee considers is a suitable threshold for such motions to be debated.
4. Diocesan Synod Motions are set out in Special Agenda IV. It will be seen that the motion from the Southwark Diocesan Synod on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod has not yet been debated. The Business Committee continues to take the view that consideration of this motion would not be timely while the legislative drafting group on women in the episcopate, established at the request of the Synod, is proceeding with its work.
5. The Business Committee has decided that some of the normal deadlines for the receipt of amendments at this Group of Sessions should be slightly varied, as follows:
  - The deadline for amendments to any of the business scheduled for Sunday afternoon or evening will be 4 pm on the afternoon of Saturday 7 July (rather than 10 am on the

Sunday morning, when the service of Holy Communion in York Minster will be taking place).

- Notice of amendments for the Further Revision Stage of the Draft Church of England Marriage Measure (GS 1616B) must be given to the Clerk to the Synod by no later than 5.30 pm on Wednesday 4 July.

- Requests to debate Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2007 (GS 1653), Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2007 (GS 1654) and Parochial Fees Order 2007 (GS 1659) must be sent in writing to the Clerk not later than 5.30 pm on Friday 6 July.

- Notice of amendments to the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order and the Parochial Fees Order must be sent to the Clerk in writing not later than 5.30 pm on Thursday 5 July.

- Requests to debate the Sunderland Minster Representation Scheme (GS 1666) must be sent to the Clerk in writing by not later than 5.30 pm on Friday 6 July.

6. The July meeting of the General Synod will take place at the University of York **from 4.30 pm on Friday 6 July to no later than 1 pm on Tuesday 10 July**. (A meeting of the House of Clergy will take place from 3 pm to 4 pm on Friday 6 July.)

7. At the July Synod, it is customary to include either an exposition of Scripture or group work based on Bible study, or other study material. This year there will be group work on a passage from Scripture. The groups will begin with a time of prayer. The group work will take place at the beginning of Saturday morning, and will be introduced by the Revd Dr Richard Burrige (at the end of the previous afternoon).

8. A financial comment has been prepared by the Finance Division on items of Synod business which have significant financial implications, and this will be circulated in a Notice Paper.

9. The forecast of business annexed to this report provides a forward look to the Groups of Sessions in February and July 2008. There are always considerable uncertainties when looking ahead in this way, so this should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod before the end of the present quinquennium.

#### Dates and Hours of Sitting

10. The times of the July Group of Sessions are set out on the front of the Agenda (GS 1656). The notes – to be circulated in the second Synod mailing - on transport, accommodation, etc, supplied to members who are coming to York, include a timetable, which also shows the times of services and meals.

#### Anglican and Ecumenical Guests

11. The Synod will have the opportunity to welcome as observers:

The Very Revd Desmond Harman, Church of Ireland (Clerical Honorary Secretary of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin)

The Rt Revd Mindaugas Sabutis (Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania)

The Revd Dr Matti Repo (Executive Secretary for Theology in the Department for International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland; Co-Secretary of the Porvoo Contact Group)

### Synod Worship

12. For this Group of Sessions the worship has been prepared, in co-operation with the Chaplains, by members of the Liturgical Commission. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7.30 am on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday in the Central Hall. There will be a short act of worship in the Central Hall at the beginning of the morning sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Evening worship will take place daily in the Central Hall at 6.20 pm. Service leaflets will be distributed to members at York as necessary.
13. On Sunday 10 July, the Synod will attend a service of Holy Communion in York Minster, at which the Archbishop of York will preside and preach. Arrangements for transport to the Minster on the Sunday will be announced in a separate notice to be circulated later. A special coach service will be provided, tickets for which will be on sale from the information desk in the concourse of the Central Hall. As there will not be enough places for everyone on the coaches, it is hoped that some members will walk or use their car and take passengers. There is usually plenty of vacant space on Sunday mornings in the car parks near the city centre (for which a fee may be charged).

### Voting Procedures

14. Members are reminded that particular voting procedures on a division apply at York. The Business Committee has decided to alternate (in successive years) the practice at York of ascending and descending the stairs in order to vote. Therefore, this year clergy and laity wishing to vote 'yes' will vote by descending the stairs and leave the Hall through the exits to the concourse; those wishing to vote 'no' will ascend the stairs and leave the Hall via the doors to the balcony. Members who have difficulty in ascending or descending the steps in order to vote are reminded that they may remain in their seats and have their vote taken by a teller who will pass it on to the registrar.

### Order of Business

15. 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 Chair, unless other provision has already been made for it.
16. 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

17. 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 July Group of Sessions only if they are received **no later than 5.30 pm on Friday 6 July**.

### **Content of Business**

#### Introductions and welcomes (Friday, 6 July)

18. There will be the customary introduction of new members, the welcoming of the ecumenical representatives and a brief address by Bishop Sabutis on behalf of the ecumenical guests.

#### Children in Church and Society

19. The UNICEF report, *Child Poverty in Perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries*, revealed that the UK compared badly against other rich nations on key indicators of child wellbeing. This report, along with other research by the Commission on Urban Life and Faith/Children's Society and the first report on play from *The Good Childhood Inquiry*, has raised again worries about how our children and young people are growing up.
20. Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, England's first Children's Commissioner and a member of *The Good Childhood Inquiry*, will address the Synod members about his understanding of the needs and aspirations of children and young people today based on his work and that of 11 MILLION (the Office of the Children's Commissioner) as part of our preparation for 2009 when General Synod will have a longer opportunity to engage with the findings of *The Good Childhood Inquiry* itself. This address will be introduced by the Bishop of Leicester, Chairman of the Children's Society.

#### Report by the Business Committee

21. 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.

#### Preparation for group work / Bible study

22. The Revd Dr Richard Burridge will introduce the Bible Study and group work which will take place from 9.15 to 10.15 am on the following morning.

#### Questions

23. Under SO 105, members may address Questions to the Chairman of the Archbishops' Council, the Secretary General, the Clerk to the Synod, 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 Tuesday 26 June**. The Questions notice paper will be distributed at the beginning of the Group of Sessions.

24. Members are reminded that ‘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 in 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.

#### Legislative Business (Saturday, 7 July)

25. Full details of the legislative business for this group of sessions can be found in Special Agenda I.
26. The principal item of legislative business will be the draft Church of England Marriage Measure. At the February group of sessions the Synod resolved, at the end of the Revision Stage for the draft Measure, that it should undergo a further Revision Committee Stage. Under Standing Order 58(b), no proposal for amendment at a further Revision Committee stage is to be in the same form as one decided by the Revision Committee or the Synod in relation to the draft Measure except where the Business Committee so permits. In the light of the views expressed in the course of the Revision Stage, the Business Committee believed that the Synod would wish the Revision Committee to have the maximum flexibility in addressing the issues of the kind that had been raised in debate and that it would therefore wish the Revision Committee to have the maximum freedom in considering amendments to the draft Measure, including any which it had considered in the course of the original Revision Committee stage. The Business Committee therefore gave its permission under Standing Order 58(b) for the Revision Committee to consider all the amendments put to it at the further Revision Committee stage.
27. Following further consideration by the Revision Committee, the draft Measure is being returned to the Synod in a form which differs in some respects from that it took in February but which still gives effect to the original object of allowing couples to marry in a parish with which they can establish a ‘qualifying connection’ of one of specified kinds. Following a debate on the Revision Committee’s report, members will have the opportunity in a further Revision Stage to propose and debate amendments to the draft Measure on matters contained in the report. The agenda makes provision (subject to SO 61(b)) for the Synod also to take the Final Drafting and Final Approval Stages for the draft Measure at this group of sessions, but the Steering Committee will need to decide, in the light of the outcome of the further Revision Stage and following consultation with the Business Committee, whether to proceed with those items of business at this group of sessions or to postpone them until February 2008.
28. The other main piece of legislative business is the approval of changes to the rules of the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (as to which please see paragraphs 33 and 34).
29. The remaining items of legislative business comprise the usual Fees Orders and the Sunderland Minster Representation Scheme (which will only be debated if one or more members request that it should be).

#### Standing Orders Committee

30. The 41st Report of the Standing Orders Committee (GS 1664) deals with the amendments to the Standing Orders to facilitate electronic voting as requested by the Synod at the last

Group of Sessions. The report also deals with certain proposals relating to the business conducted by the Legislative, Appointments, Business and Standing Orders Committee.

#### Appointments to the Archbishops' Council and Pensions Board

31. It is proposed that Mrs Anne Sloman and Mrs Katherine McPherson, whose terms of office come to an end on 31 December this year, be re-appointed to the Council for a further term until 31 December 2009. The Synod is also invited to approve the appointment of Mr Andrew Britton to succeed Mr Michael Chamberlain as Chair of the Finance Committee, for a five-year term from 1 October 2007.
32. It is also proposed that Mr Allan Bridgewater, whose term of office as Chairman of the Church of England Pensions Board comes to an end on 31 December this year, be re-appointed for a further year until 31 December 2008.

#### Clergy Pensions: Report from the Archbishops' Council

33. In February the Council reported to the Synod the changes it considered are needed to preserve a defined benefit pension scheme for the clergy. The General Synod endorsed the Council's recommendations subject to the necessary statutory and other consultations, which the Council needed to conduct. The Council has now consulted the 24,000 active, deferred and retired scheme members. Having considered the response to the consultation the Council will, as requested by the Synod in February, submit its final proposals including such changes as are necessary to the Scheme Rules, and invite the Synod to endorse these.

#### Clergy Pensions: Changes to the Pension Scheme Rules

34. The Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (General) (Amendment) Rules 2007 (GS 1667) will put in place a consolidated trust deed and rules for the funded scheme in place of those originally made in December 1997 but which have subsequently been amended on a number of occasions and which would now benefit from further, technical, changes. The Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Accrual Rates) (Amendment) Rules 2007 and the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Guaranteed Increases) (Amendment) Rules 2007 (GS 1670 and GS 1671 respectively) will then further amend the rules to give effect to such of the proposals described in paragraph 33 above as require changes to be made to the current Rules.

#### Iran: Private Member's Motion: Canon Simon Bessant

35. The Private Member's Motion from Canon Simon Bessant was tabled at the February Synod and achieved the second highest number of signatures, after the motion from Mr Gavin Oldham on the Ethical Investment Advisory Group: Restricted Investments. The motion reflects concern that the United States administration might be considering a pre-emptive strike on suspected Iranian nuclear sites. It is also set against the context of continuing tension in the Middle East.
36. Canon Bessant has produced a background paper (GS Misc 855A) and the Mission and Public Affairs Council has also produced a paper (GS Misc 855B). Canon Bessant's paper takes into account the likely impact of a pre-emptive unilateral military strike against possible nuclear installations and the consequences of this both for Iran and the Middle East as a whole.

### Pre-Lambeth Conference Hospitality: presentation

37. This presentation will be given by Stephen Lyon, Partnership Secretary at the Partnership for World Mission. It is intended as an opportunity for Synod members to hear about the practical arrangements for the Lambeth Conference to be held from 16 July to 4 August 2008, and in particular the hospitality programme in dioceses before the start of the Conference at Canterbury. Information packs will be available at the Synod.

### Liturgical Formation

38. This item appears on the agenda for the July 2007 Group of Sessions to launch the Liturgical Commission's initiative in liturgical formation, which is entitled *Transforming Worship: Living the New Creation*. The process of drafting and gaining approval for texts for *Common Worship* was completed in July 2005 (and only one remaining volume, *Festivals*, now awaits publication). Also in July 2005 the post of National Worship Development Officer was established, with the Revd Peter Moger as the first Officer. The completion of the *Common Worship* project and the creation of the new post have enabled the present Liturgical Commission to move away from a text-based agenda and instead give attention to resourcing the Church to develop good practice in worship across all styles and traditions.
39. The Commission is keen to share its plans for this work with the General Synod and seeks the Synod's endorsement of the *Transforming Worship* initiative. There will be a presentation by the Synodical members of the Commission and Professor John Harper (Director General of the Royal School of Church Music, which is one of the Commission's key partners in the *Transforming Worship* initiative), after which the Synod is asked to debate the content of the Report *Transforming Worship: Living the New Creation* (GS 1651) and, in the light of it, the motion as set out in the Agenda.

### Anglican Communion Covenant (Sunday, 8 July)

40. All Provinces of the Anglican Communion have been asked by the Primates to offer comments by the end of the year on the draft of a possible Anglican Covenant, which was prepared by a design group and discussed by the Primates in Tanzania in February 2007. This is the first stage in what will be a fairly lengthy process involving the 2008 Lambeth Conference, the subsequent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council and, subject to that, the possible subsequent submission to Provinces of a text for approval.
41. The House of Bishops has considered the Primates' request and agreed the text of a motion that will be moved at the Synod by a member of the House of Bishops. It invites the Synod to affirm its willingness to engage positively with the process designed to produce a covenant for the Anglican Communion and to endorse a process, under the oversight of the Presidents, which will enable a response to be sent on behalf of the Church of England to the Primates' invitation for comments by the end of this year.
42. For the Synod debate, the House of Bishops has assembled resources (GS 1661) including a Foreword by the Archbishops, other contextual material and the text of the draft Covenant.
43. The Presidents have invited the Most Revd Drexel Gomez, Archbishop of the West Indies, and Chair of the Covenant Design Group, to address the Synod before the debate is introduced by a member of the House of Bishops.

## Anglican/Methodist Covenant

44. The Anglican-Methodist Covenant was approved by the Synod and by the Methodist Conference in 2003. Modelled on the Meissen Agreement between the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, the Covenant involves mutual affirmation of the ecclesial authenticity of churches, ministries and sacraments, but does not bring about an interchangeable ordained ministry. It commits the two churches to work together in all the ways that are already possible under the rules of our churches and to seek to overcome the remaining barriers to a deeper and more visible expression of our unity in Christ. The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) is a small body charged with monitoring and promoting the implementation of the Covenant. The JIC brought its first interim report *In the Spirit of the Covenant* to Conference and Synod in 2005 and now brings a second interim report before it makes its 'final' report, at the end of its five-year mandate, in July 2008.
45. *Living God's Covenant* begins by acknowledging both encouragements and disappointments in the progress of the Covenant. It goes on to summarise the feedback from ten regional presentations to church leaders during 2006. The main part of the report examines three areas of theology and practice in terms of the Covenant relationship between our churches: (a) church, state and establishment; (b) lay ministry and the opportunities for working together that already exist; and (c) the theology of the Eucharist (where our common heritage in the Reformation, the classical Anglican divines and the eucharistic hymns of Charles Wesley, and the similar themes of our churches' contemporary teaching and liturgy, are brought out). The Synod is asked to encourage the study of this report and of the challenges that it contains. The debate will be introduced by the Bishop of Peterborough as Chairman of the Council for Christian Unity and Co-Chair of the JIC.

## Present and Participating: Report from the Minority Ethnic Anglicans in the Church

46. A progress report on *Called to Act Justly* (GS Misc 832) was shared with the General Synod in July 2006. Whilst this report highlighted many positive developments particularly in 'calling attention to issues of racial justice in society...', carrying out the clergy audit, and specific projects encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry and the recruitment process, there is still work to be done in addressing and eradicating institutional racism within the Church of England.
47. This paper is therefore offered for debate: its call is for minority ethnic members of the Church of England not merely to be present but also to be full participants in the life of the Church.
48. The paper begins with a theological reflection (part one) which provides a background and foundation upon which part two builds. The theological reflection looks at invitation and hospitality, the importance of and criteria for accepting invitation and responsibilities of those giving and receiving the invitation.
49. With this theological framework in mind, part two of the report looks at the gifts, talents and contribution minority ethnic people bring to the table. It highlights how the Church is diminished without these. It celebrates examples of minority ethnic people being present and participating (the most recent being the Walk of Witness on 24 March). The report concludes by challenging the Church to take the next steps in ensuring that all its members participate fully in its mission to God's world.



### Presidential Address by the Archbishop of York (Monday, 9 July)

50. The Archbishop of York will give a presidential address.

### Church Commissioners' Annual Report

51. This session will comprise an introduction to the Church Commissioners' annual report by the First Estates Commissioner, leading to an interactive question and answer session with the First and Third Estates Commissioners. The report records another year of sound financial performance from the Commissioners, reflects on their accountability to stakeholders, looks back at the Commissioners' support for the Church over the last 100 years and forward to working closely with partner bodies following the 2007 move to Church House.
52. Members will also be able to ask questions about the Commissioners' response to Mr Greenwood's following motion about consultation on investment matters which was carried (in an amended form) by the Synod in July 2006.

### Southwark Diocesan Synod Motion: The Church Commissioners' status and accountability

53. The motion invites the Synod to request an urgent review by the Archbishops' Council of the status and accountability of the Church Commissioners. A background note from the Diocese of Southwark has been circulated (GS Misc 856A), together with a background note from the Church Commissioners (GS Misc 856B).

### Standing Orders Committee

54. This is contingency provision for a debate on the Standing Orders Committee Report, if time was not available for this item on Saturday morning (v para 30 above).

### Disability Issues for Ministry in the Church of England

55. In July 2005 an audit of clergy was carried out. This was an outcome of the General Synod debate in 2003 on *Called to Act Justly*. At the request of the Archbishops' Council's Ministry Division, the 2005 audit included a section on disability. The analysis of the questionnaire is set out in the paper, *Church of England Clergy with Disabilities Audit 2005*, issued by the Archbishops' Council's Research and Statistics Department in July 2006. As a result of this, the Ministry Division's Committee for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People (CMDDP), undertook to do further work to enquire about the situations facing disabled clergy.
56. Following an initial presentation of a report (GS 1663), there will be a debate on a motion that calls upon Synod to affirm the value of the contribution made by disabled clergy to the life and witness of the Church and asks dioceses to take practical steps to support this commitment.

### Senior Church Appointments

57. *Talent and Calling* (GS 1650) is the report of a review of the law and practice regarding appointments to the offices of suffragan bishop, dean, archdeacon and residentiary canon. The review group was established by the Archbishops' Council in response to a resolution of the Synod in February 2005.

58. The Chairman of the review group, Sir Joseph Pilling, has been invited to address the Synod. After he has spoken, the Bishop of Sheffield (a member of the review group) will move that the Synod take note of the Report. This will provide an opportunity for a general debate on the Report. The Bishop of Leicester will then move a substantive motion on behalf of the Archbishops' Council. This will give the Synod an opportunity to debate and reach a view on the group's recommendations and decide the next steps.

#### Church Army presentation

59. The purpose of the presentation is to celebrate the Church Army's contribution to the life and ministry of the Church of England over the past 125 years. The presenter will be Mark Russell, the Chief Executive of Church Army (and a member of the Archbishops' Council). He will illustrate his talk by a Power-Point presentation and a short DVD, which will show some of Church Army's current work and particularly its involvement with fresh expressions. There will be an opportunity for questions after the presentation.

#### Ethical Investment Advisory Group: Restricted Investments: Private Member's Motion by Mr Gavin Oldham

60. This motion invites the Synod to express the view that the list of restricted investments maintained by the Ethical Investment Advisory Group should be published, and also made available under licence. A background paper from Mr Oldham (GS Misc 857A) has been circulated. A paper from the investment bodies represented on the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (the Archbishops' Council/Central Board of Finance, the Church Commissioners and the Pensions Board) is also being circulated (GS Misc 857B).

#### Archbishops' Council: Annual Report 2006 (deemed approval)

61. The Archbishops' Council's annual report for 2006 has been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 and is scheduled for deemed approval, as in previous years (GS 1668).

#### Audit Committee Annual Report 2006 (deemed approval)

62. This year's annual report (GS 1669) follows the usual format and covers a range of subjects, including the Audit Committee's consideration of the external auditors' reports and tendering for the external audit, the internal auditors' reports and the quality of their service, risk management and the implementation of the SAP finance system.

#### Financial Business

#### Archbishops' Council's Budget for 2007 (Tuesday, 10 July)

63. The 2008 Budget (GS 1665) provides for an overall increase in apportionment of 2.9% across the five Votes that make up the Council's budget. The main increase on expenditure is again on Vote 1 for ordination training, where a cost increase of 8% as a result of more people in training is being partially met by use of reserves so that the apportionment increase on Vote 1 is reduced to 5.5%. The proposed increase for Vote 2 (which covers the Council's own budget) is 1.4%. The Table of Apportionment (on page 47) sets out the amount each diocese will be called upon to contribute.

Legislative Business

Church of England Marriage Measure: Final Approval

64. Please see paragraphs 26-27 above.

**Prorogation**

65. The Synod will be prorogued by the Archbishop of York no later than 1 pm. If less time is required for legislative business (v paragraphs 26-27 and 65 above), prorogation will take place earlier than 1 pm.

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Other work of the Business Committee

66. The Business Committee continues to look at ways in which Synod's business may be handled more effectively. It is grateful for members' responses to the consultation paper on Synod Question Time and will be examining this subject further at its next meeting in September. The Committee has also reviewed its handling of Diocesan Synod Motions.
67. The Committee has been looking at particular aspects of electronic voting and intends to produce further guidance after the relevant changes to the Standing Orders have been considered by the Synod in July, and following assessment of expert advice on security aspects at its September meeting. In September it will also be looking at Synod worship (in discussion with the new Chaplain, Canon Carl Turner), and at environmental aspects of Synod meetings.
68. Much of the correspondence which the Committee received following the February Synod focused on the refurbished Assembly Hall, and in particular problems associated with sightlines to and from the platform, the flat floor and the seating arrangements on the platform. The Committee takes the view that the Synod should have the experience of a further London Group of Sessions, next February, before any substantial changes are considered. However, the Committee will meanwhile be looking at any minor adjustments which may be practicable.
69. Other correspondents commented on the calling of speakers and the chairing of certain debates, the possibility of using new technology in Synod debates to a greater extent, and the value of group work.

On behalf of the Committee

Kay Garlick

June 2007

## **Members of the Business Committee**

The Revd Prebendary Kay Garlick (Hereford) – Chair

*Elected by the House of Bishops*

The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Basingstoke

*Elected by the House of Clergy*

The Revd Sue Booy (Oxford)

The Ven Alan Hawker, Archdeacon of Malmesbury (Bristol)

The Ven Alistair Magowan, Archdeacon of Dorset (Salisbury)

*Elected by the House of Laity*

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Gerald O'Brien (Rochester)

Mrs Rosalind O'Dowd (London)

*Two members appointed by the Archbishops' Council*

Professor John Craven

The Revd Canon Glyn Webster

(The Secretary to the Committee is David Williams and the Assistant Secretary (until 30 June 2007) is Malcolm Taylor)

## Forecast of future General Synod business

One or more Private Members' Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions are customarily included in each Group of Sessions. A place will be found for considering the report from the Legislative Drafting Group on Women in the Episcopate as soon as the House of Bishops requests it.

The forecast of business provides a forward look to the Groups of Sessions in February and July 2008. There are always considerable uncertainties when looking ahead in this way, so this should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod before the end of the present quinquennium.

### February 2008

*Legislation* Clergy Terms of Service legislation - Revision Stage  
Amending Canon No 28 – Revision Stage  
Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – First Consideration  
Church of England (Pensions) Measure [renewal of the Church  
Commissioners' power to spend capital] – First Consideration  
Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure [parochial fees] – First  
Consideration

*Reports* Reader Ministry  
Review of Clergy Housing in Retirement  
International Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and  
Mission Report: *Growing Together in Unity and Mission: Building on Forty  
Years of Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue: A Study Paper*  
ARCIC report on *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ*  
Poverty in England: Report by Mission and Public Affairs Council  
Mental Health Issues: Report by Mission and Public Affairs Council

### July 2008

*Legislation* Clergy Terms of Service legislation – Final Drafting and Final  
Approval  
Amending Canon No 28 – Final Drafting and Final Approval  
Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – Revision Stage  
Church of England (Pensions) Measure – Revision Stage  
Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure – Revision Stage

*Reports* *The Church of the Triune God* – a report by the Anglican-Orthodox  
International Commission  
Human Genome  
Clergy Deployment: report from Ministry Division

### February 2009

*Legislation* Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – Final Drafting and Final  
Approval

Church of England (Pensions) Measure - Final Drafting and Final  
Approval

Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure – Final Drafting and Final  
Approval

*Reports*

Good Childhood Project: Report by the Children's Society

Mission-Shaped Church: follow-up

Lambeth Conference Report

Youth Strategy: progress report

June 2007