Introduction and Overview of the Agenda

1. The Agenda for the July 2008 group of sessions takes forward the heavy programme of legislative business which has been a distinctive feature of the Synod’s agenda over the past year. The draft Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure reaches its final drafting and final approval stage. Other items include first consideration of legislation resulting from the Review of Crown Appointments and the debate at the February Synod.

2. In terms of time allocation the most substantial item of business will be a series of items in relation to the report of the Women Bishops Legislative Drafting Group, chaired by the Bishop of Manchester. Three components are envisaged: first, an introduction by the Bishop of Manchester on the Friday evening, followed by group work at the beginning of Saturday morning; secondly, a take note debate immediately after the group work on the Saturday morning; and thirdly, on Monday afternoon, a debate on a motion from the House of Bishops which will provide a framework for the Synod to consider what the next steps should be in the light of the Group’s report.

3. There is a strong emphasis on ecumenical relations at this group of sessions, with debates on Anglican–Orthodox relations focusing on the report *The Church of the Triune God*, prefaced by an address by the Metropolitan John of Pergamon, and the report of the Joint Implementation Commission on the Anglican-Methodist Covenant at the conclusion of its five-year programme of work.

4. The July agenda, as always, contains significant financial business. In addition to the annual budget debate, there will be a debate on the annual report of the Audit Committee, and a question and answer session on the annual report of the Church Commissioners. The Committee has decided to bring *Four Funerals and a Wedding* for debate (in the light of the adjournment of the debate on fees legislation at the February Synod), with the possibility of legislation following in February.

5. Three Diocesan Synod Motions and one Private Member’s Motion are scheduled for debate. Diocesan Synod Motions, which have a degree of priority under the Synod’s Standing Orders, are usually debated in the order in which they are received. The Business Committee has decided that consideration of the Southwark DSM on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod should not proceed at this time given that the issues raised overlap with those that have been addressed by the Legislative Drafting Group on Women in the Episcopate, which will be debated at this Group of Sessions.

6. The Derby DSM on Health and Safety has now been withdrawn by the decision of the Derby Diocesan Synod, pending further examination of work in this area in the
Diocese. That leaves the motion from St Albans, on Faith, Work and Economic Life, at the top of the list. This will provide an opportunity for the Synod to engage with some wider, outward-facing issues, along with the debate sponsored by the Mission and Public Affairs Council on Climate Change and Human Security. The other diocesan motion scheduled for this group of sessions comes from the Guildford Diocesan Synod, on Anglican Governance. This will provide a useful opportunity for the Synod to reflect on Anglican Communion issues immediately before the Lambeth Conference.

7. Private Members' Motions are considered by the Business Committee for debate if they have attracted 100 signatures. The motion from Mr Roy Thompson on Church Tourism, which has the highest number of signatures, will be debated at this Group of Sessions.

8. There will be a debate on Reader Ministry, focusing on the report of the group established under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Carlisle (Chair of the Central Readers' Council), following the request by the Synod in 2006 that such a review should be undertaken.

9. As well as some formal business and a report from the Standing Orders Committee, there will be a Presidential Address from the Archbishop of York.

10. The July meeting of the General Synod will take place at the University of York from 4 pm on Friday 4 July to no later than 1 pm on Tuesday 8 July. (Provision has been made for meetings of the Convocations to take place, if required, from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm on Friday 4 July.)

11. 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 the subject matter of the report of the Legislative Drafting Group on Women Bishops. 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 Bishop of Manchester before Questions on Friday evening.

12. 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 an Order Paper.

13. The forecast of business annexed to this report provides a forward look to the Groups of Sessions in February and July 2009. 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

14. The times of the July group of sessions are set out on the front of the Agenda (GS 1687). 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.
15. The Synod will have the opportunity to welcome as observers:

   Bishop Jürgen Johannesdotter (Bishop of Schaumburg-Lippe) – Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD),
   Mr Lars Friedner, Secretary General of the Church of Sweden, and
   Mr Andrew Barr, representing the Scottish Episcopal Church.

16. 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.

17. On Sunday 6 July, the Synod will attend a service of Holy Communion in York Minster, at which the Archbishop of York will preside and the Archbishop of Canterbury will 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).

18. 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. The Committee has decided that the Chester Diocesan Synod Motion on the Voice of the Church in Public Life should be scheduled as contingency business, to be taken if further space opens in the agenda. (The Business Committee has decided, in exercise of its powers under Standing Order 11, that the deadline for the receipt of amendments to the contingency business should be 10 am on Friday 4 July.)

19. On this occasion it is difficult to estimate precisely how much time the several items of legislative business will take. For maximum flexibility, the Committee has included almost all of them in the substantial slot allocated for Saturday afternoon, so that they
can each be taken then if good progress is made, but with additional time allocated on Monday morning for any items not finished on Saturday.

20. 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

21. 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 4 July.

Content of Business

Introductions and Welcomes (Friday, 4 July)

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

Report by the Business Committee (GS 1688)

23. 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.

Anglican/Orthodox Relations: The Church of the Triune God


25. The Presidents have invited Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon, the Co-Chairman of the Commission, to be present as a guest of the Synod. He will address the Synod before the Archbishop of Canterbury (a past member of the Commission) introduces the debate. The Synod will be invited to commend the report for study, to note the detailed commentary and assessment provided by the Faith and Order Advisory Group, and to welcome the theological agreement revealed in the statement, while encouraging the continuation of dialogue on those areas on which agreement has not yet been achieved.
Preparation for Group Work

26. On Friday after dinner, the Bishop of Manchester will introduce the group work which will take place from 9.30 am to 10.45 am on the following morning.

Questions

27. 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 24 June**. The Questions notice paper will be distributed at the beginning of the group of sessions.

28. 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.

Women Bishops

29. The Synod will face some potentially significant decisions following the publication of the Report of the Women Bishops Legislative Drafting Group (GS 1685) at the end of April. Synod members will also have before them a note from the House of Bishops in the light of its own discussions on 21-22 May (GS 1685A). Given the complexity of the issues raised by the Manchester Report and the range of views represented within the Synod, the Committee judged that members would be helped by some group work before any plenary debates. Time has therefore been allotted for this on the morning of Saturday 5 July.

30. In order to help achieve clarity on the mind of Synod, it is proposed to hold two debates. The first will be a take-note debate on the Manchester Report (GS 1685). The second, on Monday, will be on a motion from the House of Bishops designed to provide the starting point for a structured debate in which members of Synod will, if they wish, have the opportunity to test, by way of amendments, the full range of options analysed in GS 1685 and GS 1685A and to decide the next steps.

31. The Business Committee has decided, in exercise of its powers under Standing Order 11, to vary the normal deadline for the receipt of amendments to item 20 (Women Bishops: Report from the House of Bishops, GS 1685A), so that notice of amendments must be received no later than **4 pm on Sunday 6 July**.
Presidential Address

32. The Archbishop of York will give an address.

Legislative Business

33. Full details of the legislative business for this group of sessions can be found in Special Agenda I.

34. As regards legislation already considered by the Synod, the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure returns for Final Drafting and Final Approval. (The Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations and the associated draft Amending Canon will proceed further only once the Measure has received Parliamentary approval and the Royal Assent.)

35. As explained in the First Notice Paper, no amendments were proposed to the Church of England Pensions (Amendment) Measure in the course of its Revision Committee Stage. Nor is any Final Drafting required. The Synod will therefore be asked to take both the Revision and Final Approval Stages for the draft Measure at this group of sessions.

36. As regards new legislation, the Synod will be asked to give First Consideration to the draft Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure and the draft Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure. These are short, technical Measures, giving effect to particular proposals in connection with Crown patronage approved by the Synod at the February 2008 group of sessions.

37. The Synod will also be asked to approve a regulation further amending the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2003 so as to alter one aspect of the arrangements for the election of diocesan members to the Crown Nominations Commission and to deal with certain other minor matters.

38. The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure returns for its Revision Stage.

39. The usual Fees Orders have been scheduled for deemed approval but will be debated if any member requests that they should be. On Sunday, the Synod will be asked to approve the Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Funding Order, which will prescribe the Church Commissioners' funding contribution to the Trust for the triennium 2009 to 2012.

Reader Ministry

40. This report (GS 1698) has been prepared by a review group chaired by the Bishop of Carlisle at the request of the Archbishops’ Council, following approval by the General Synod of a Private Member’s Motion on Reader Ministry at the February 2006 group of sessions. The report provides an assessment of the current range of Reader Ministry, exposing challenges and opportunities facing it and offers a series of recommendations for the Church to act upon at local, diocesan and national level.
There was much interest when this work was commissioned by the General Synod and over 1000 Readers completed questionnaires in the Reader magazine and on the Central Readers’ Council website.

Church Tourism: Private Member’s Motion from Mr Roy Thompson  
(Sunday 6 July)

41. Mr Roy Thompson’s Private Member’s Motion asks the Synod to support the aims and objectives of the Churches Tourism Association’s ‘Sacred Britain’ strategy, and to urge dioceses to make arrangements to develop ecumenical church tourism networks with cathedrals and greater churches, and establish and maintain a dialogue with heritage and funding bodies, and to ask the Archbishops’ Council to report back on progress. A background paper by Mr Thompson (GS Misc 887A) is being circulated together with a background paper from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division (GS Misc 887B).

Climate Change and Human Security

42. The Mission and Public Affairs Council is bringing this debate to Synod on the basis that the issue of climate security is an urgent and pressing concern for the world today. The MPA report Climate Change and Human Security: Challenging an environment of injustice (GS 1705) and the Synod debate which it resources, were originally conceived, in part, as a resource for English Bishops attending the Lambeth Conference where this issue will be a major theme. The report observes that, as new scientific evidence emerges as to the nature of the world’s changing climate, it has become apparent that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also a pressing concern for human security. It argues that the Church has an important role to play in this process by helping to reshape the climate change agenda from a purely environmental matter to a moral and religious issue. The motion calls on the Archbishops’ Council and all Diocesan Synods to consider the report and its conclusions with a view to developing an integrated and holistic response to climate change.

Appointment of the Chair of the Pensions Board

43. Mr Allan Bridgewater retires at the end of 2008 having served as the Chairman of the Pensions Board for eleven years. A selection process has been undertaken to identify his successor through an open advertising exercise. As a result of advertising carried out in January and February, ten applications were received and four candidates were shortlisted for interview by a panel chaired by the Bishop of Norwich in his capacity as Chairman of the Archbishops’ Council’s Ministry Division. The candidate thought best to fill the role has now met the Archbishops and they bring forward his candidacy to the Synod for approval. Further details are set out in GS 1689. The Synod is asked to approve the appointment of Dr Jonathan Spencer for a period of five years commencing on 1 January 2009.
Audit Committee report (GS 1690)

44. By convention, the report of the Audit Committee is brought for a take-note debate (as distinct from deemed approval) every three years, so that the Audit Committee can present its ongoing work to the Synod orally from time to time.

Appointment of auditors

45. The Synod is invited to approve the appointment of auditors to the Archbishops’ Council, following a competitive tender process which was conducted by the Archbishops’ Council’s Audit Committee. Further information will be given following the meeting of the Archbishop’s Council on 12 June, which will be invited to endorse the recommendation from the Audit Committee.

Archbishops’ Council: Annual Report 2007 (deemed approval)

46. The Archbishops’ Council’s annual report for 2007 (GS 1701) 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.

Parochial Fees

47. This item provides the opportunity for a debate of the proposals in *Four Funerals and a Wedding* (GS Misc 877). The substantive motion has been drafted to help to clarify the different strands of the recommendations made in the report. The debate will be further resourced by a paper (GS 1703) from the Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee (DRACSC) explaining the case for fresh legislation regardless of some of the more detailed policy choices, setting out how the various proposals in *Four Funerals and a Wedding* could be pursued, and making clear where decisions are located.

Anglican Methodist Covenant: *Embracing the Covenant*: Joint Implementation Commission: Quinquennial Report (Monday, 7 July)

48. The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) was set up for an initial period of five years when the Covenant between the Church of England and the Methodist Church of Great Britain was agreed by the General Synod and the Methodist Conference in 2003. The JIC, consisting of six Anglicans and six Methodists with a participant from the United Reformed Church, was mandated to ‘monitor and promote the implementation of the Covenant’ and to report to those two bodies after five years. In fact, the JIC has produced two interim reports: *In the Spirit of the Covenant* (2005) and *Living God’s Covenant* (2007), both of which have been debated in the Synod.

49. Like those previous reports, *Embracing the Covenant* (GS 1691) contains reflection on the local and practical implementation of the Covenant, guidelines for good practice (with examples), and substantial material on those faith and order questions that were not fully resolved (and did not need to be at that stage) in the Formal Conversations that led to the Covenant. In this quinquennial report, the issues are: the nature of the unity we already have and the further unity we seek together; issues arising from the
interaction of Calvinist and Arminian convictions within and between our traditions; and, crucially, *episkope* (pastoral oversight) and episcopacy in both our Churches.

50. The report also looks ahead to the JIC’s work programme in the next phase, noting particularly ongoing discussions on the diaconate, and the request of the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church to be represented. (The Methodist Church of Great Britain is present in Wales and Scotland, while Ireland has its own Methodist Conference.) The report offers challenges to both our Churches and makes recommendations that (together with those in the two interim reports) the JIC believes need to be addressed over the next few years.

51. The debate will be introduced by the Bishop of Peterborough as Co-Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission. The Synod will be invited to commend the report for study and action throughout the Church of England and to endorse its broad recommendations about the shape of the next phase of the work. The report will also be debated in the Methodist Conference and the wording of the motion will be nearly identical in the Conference and the Synod.

**Standing Orders Committee**

52. The 43rd Report of the Standing Orders Committee (GS 1699) deals with various amendments to the Standing Orders. The report proposes changes to the Standing Orders relating to the Crown Nominations Commission (following from Synod’s consideration of matters relating to Crown Appointments in February 2008), some clarifications to the financial Standing Orders and some adjustments in relation to the deadlines for amendments and following motions.

**Faith, Work and Economic Life: St Albans Diocesan Synod Motion**

53. This debate provides an opportunity for the Synod to recognize the importance of Christian values within economic life and to request the Mission and Public Affairs Council to examine the engagement of the Church of England with the economic sector and to discuss the ways forward. The background paper from the St Albans Diocese (GS Misc 890A) points to the work of organizations involved in this field and to the role of chaplains in places of work. There is a complementary background paper from the Mission and Public Affairs Council (GS Misc 890B).

**Anglican Governance: Guildford Diocesan Synod Motion** (Tuesday, 8 July)

54. This motion seeks to increase the understanding of the governance of the Church of England within the Anglican Communion and asks the House of Bishops to prepare a report that looks at the relationship between discussions, recommendations and decisions made by the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates’ meeting, and the House of Bishops, the Archbishops’ Council and the General Synod of the Church of England.

55. The background paper from the Guildford Diocese (GS Misc 891A) focuses on the wider context of governance and on themes of transparency and trust, leadership and
management, and participation and ownership throughout the structures of the Church. It seeks to achieve a clearer understanding of how the structures relate to one another, nationally and internationally. There is also a background note from the Secretary General (GS Misc 891B).

Financial Business
Archbishops’ Council’s Budget for 2009

56. The 2008 budget (GS 1700) provides for total apportionment of £27.6 million, 6.5% above the 2008 level. Synod will also be asked to approve an expenditure budget of £28.3 million in 2009 and the use of £670,000 from reserves. If no reserves were to be used in 2009, a 9.1% increase in apportionment would be needed.

57. The main expenditure increase is on Vote 1 for ordination training, which represents 44% of the Council’s total budget in 2009. Vote 1 costs are expected to increase by 17.9% as a result of an increase in the number of people in training. The use of reserves results in the apportionment increase for Vote 1 expenditure being reduced to 13.0%. The proposed increase for Vote 2 (which covers the Council’s own budget and represents 36% of the total budget in 2009) is 0.9%.

58. The Synod will also be asked to approve a greater use of reserves in 2008 than was contained in last year’s budget: £998,300 for Vote 1 (compared with £300,000 in the 2008 budget booklet) and £186,000 for Vote 5 (as against £147,000 a year ago). The Table of Apportionment sets out the amount each diocese will be called upon to contribute.

Presentation on the Church Commissioners’ Annual Report

59. Synod members welcomed the First Church Estates Commissioner’s earlier suggestion that members should have the opportunity to discuss the Church Commissioners’ annual report every year rather than every two years. The Commissioners are keen to engage with Synod members generally and specifically this year in relation to their proposal to make certain changes to their loans portfolio. There will therefore be a short presentation by the First and Third Church Estates Commissioners setting out the main highlights of the Commissioners’ work in 2007, followed by the opportunity for questions.

Prorogation

60. The Synod will be prorogued by the Archbishop of York no later than 1 pm.

Other work of the Business Committee

61. The Committee received a modest amount of correspondence following the February Synod, much of it affirmative of the overall arrangements for the Synod. The experience of electronic voting was wholly positive. Some concern was expressed about the decision to proceed straight to legislation on parochial fees, without first
debating *Four Funerals and a Wedding*, hence the debate now scheduled by the Business Committee for July. Some correspondents encouraged the Business Committee to review the layout of the Assembly Hall, including the platform arrangements in the light of two years’ experience; and the Committee will be looking further at this, at its September meeting.

On behalf of the Committee

Kay Garlick  
May 2008
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 Booys (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 is Alastair Callcutt)
Forecast of future General Synod business

One or more Private Members’ Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions are customarily included in each Group of Sessions. These are listed in Special Agendas III and IV.

The forecast of business provides a possible forward look to the Groups of Sessions in February 2009 and beyond. 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 which the Business Committee may consider for inclusion in the Synod agenda before the end of the present quinquennium.

Legislative business

February 2009

Amending Canon No 28 - Final Approval
Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure – First Consideration
Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure – Revision Stage
Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure – Revision Stage
Women Bishops legislation – First Consideration
Care of Cathedrals (Consolidation) Measure – First Consideration
Proposed Changes to Church Representation Rules and Clergy Representation Rules (following from the consultative report from the Elections Review Group)

July 2009

Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure – Final Drafting and Final Approval
Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure – Revision Stage

Liturgical business

July 2009

Additional Weekday Lectionary and Amendments to Calendar, Lectionaries and Collects
Eucharistic Prayer for when children are present

Regular annual business

July 2009

Archbishops’ Council Budget
Archbishops’ Council Annual Report
Church Commissioners Annual Report

Reports

ARCIC report on Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ – debate requested by Synod in
February 2008
Review of Clergy Housing in Retirement
Good Childhood Project: Report by the Children’s Society
Children’s Strategy and Youth Strategy: progress report on strategies endorsed by Synod in November 2002 and July 2003
Lambeth Conference Report
Anglican Communion Covenant: update
Europe: report by Mission and Public Affairs Council – sequel to debate in Synod in July 2004
Christian Stewardship
Tackling Poverty and Disadvantage: the church as Contractor – Report by Mission and Public Affairs Council
Faithful Cities - Urban Life and Faith
Ethical Investment: report from Ethical Investment Advisory Group

May 2008