

GS 1711

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2009
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Monday 9 February	3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday 10 February	9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday 11 February	9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday 12 February	9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 13 February	9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SERVICES

Tuesday 10 February

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.05 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday 11 February

9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall
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Thursday 12 February

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.05 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel

Friday 13 February

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship in the Assembly Hall

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 (other than amendments to legislative business or to amendments of Standing Orders) shall be delivered to the Clerk to the Synod as follows (SO 10(a), 11 and 26(a)):

Business appointed for the *first day of the Group of Sessions* (9 February) – **4 p.m. on 6 February (5.30 p.m. in the case of amendments)**

Business appointed for the *remaining days of the Group of Sessions*:
Business appointed for a morning sitting – **4 p.m. the day before**;
Business appointed for an afternoon sitting – **10 a.m. that day**.

In exercise of its powers under SO 11 the Business Committee has directed that notice of amendments to the draft Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure (GS 1692A) and the draft Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure (GS 1693A) (see items 504 and 505 in Special Agenda I) shall be delivered by **5.30 p.m. on 3 February**.

In exercise of its powers under SO 11 the Business Committee has directed that notice of amendments to the contingency business shall be delivered by **10 a.m. on Monday 9 February**.

Under Standing Order 10(a) and 26(a), such notice shall be accompanied by evidence of support from two or more members of the Synod in addition to the member giving the notice. (This provision does *not* apply to amendments to legislative business, or to amendments of Standing Orders.)

Notice of amendments to legislative business or to amendments of Standing Orders must be given in accordance with the notes accompanying the relevant item in this Agenda.

3. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chair (SO 26(b)).
4. Notice of Questions under Standing Orders 105-106 shall be delivered **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 28 January 2009** (SO 10(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 e-mail. The postal address is Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3AZ. The fax number is 020 7898 1369. The e-mail 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

6. Business set out in the Timetable and the 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 Chair will take the opportunity to complete business already partly considered at this Group of Sessions.

CONTINGENCY BUSINESS

7. If there is no uncompleted business and a gap appears in the Agenda during this Group of Sessions, contingency business will be taken as follows:

Eucharistic Worship for Young People

Special Agenda IV (Diocesan Synod Motions) – page 27.

Members are therefore asked to be ready for such an eventuality and to submit any amendments by **10 a.m. on Monday 9 February**. If this item is debated at the forthcoming Group of Sessions, it is likely to be at relatively short notice.

Monday 9 February 2009

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PROGRESS OF MEASURES AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 1712)

The Reverend Prebendary Kay Garlick (Hereford) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

3. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
4. 'That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2011 and 2012:

2011	7-11 February 8-12 July 14-16 November (contingency dates)
2012	6-10 February 6-10 July 19-21 November (contingency dates).'

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Archbishop of Canterbury to move:

5. 'That this Synod approve the appointment of the Reverend Prebendary David Houlding as Chair of the Appointments Committee from 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2013.'

ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS

6. *The Archbishop of Canterbury* will invite His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Archbishop of Westminster, to address the Synod under SO 112.
-

Monday 9 February 2009

**CHURCH AS COMMUNION (GS 1713)
AN AGREED STATEMENT BY THE SECOND ANGLICAN-ROMAN
CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION (ARCIC II)**

The Bishop of Guildford (Chair of the Council for Christian Unity) to move:

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

Not later than 5.30 p.m.

8. **QUESTIONS**
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-

Tuesday 10 February 2009

9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONS (GS 1714)

9. Presentation under SO 97.
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LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following items (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I) will be taken:

- 500-501** Draft Amending Canon No 28 (**GS 1642B**) – *Draft Amending Canon for Final Approval*
- Petition for Her Majesty's Royal Assent and Licence (**GS 1642C**) – *Draft Petition for adoption*
- 502-503** Draft Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure (**GS 1683B**) – *Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval*
- 506** Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure (**GS 1715**) – *Draft Measure for First Consideration*
-

2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

10. *The Archbishop of Canterbury* will give a Presidential Address.
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SPECIAL AGENDA III

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION:

MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONTRADICT THE DUTY TO PROMOTE RACE EQUALITY (GS Misc 903A and B)

Ms Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to move:

11. 'That this Synod, noting that in 2004 the Association of Chief Police Officers adopted a policy whereby

“no member of the Police Service, whether police officer or police staff, may be a member of an organization whose constitution, aims, objectives or pronouncements contradict the general duty to promote race equality” and “this specifically includes the British National Party”,

request the House of Bishops to formulate and implement a comparable policy for the Church of England, to apply to clergy, ordinands, and such employed lay persons as have duties that require them to represent or speak on behalf of the Church.’

Not later than 4.30 p.m.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRISIS AND THE RECESSION

12. Presentation under SO 97.
-

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION:
VOICE OF THE CHURCH IN PUBLIC LIFE (GS Misc 898 (revised)
and 898A (revised))**

The Revd Canon David Felix (Chester) to move on behalf of the Chester Diocesan Synod:

13. ‘That this Synod, mindful of the questions raised in public debate about the role of the Church in civic society, invite the Divisions of the Archbishops’ Council to report to the General Synod, before the end of the quinquennium, on their work:
- (a) to foster clearer understanding of the Christian faith among the institutions and organisations of society; and
 - (b) to reinforce the claims of the Church to take its place in public life in Britain.’
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Wednesday 11 February 2009

9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following items (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I) will be taken:

- 507-508** Draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure (**GS 1708**) and Draft Amending Canon No 30 (**GS 1709**) - *Draft Measure and Draft Amending Canon for First Consideration*
-

2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA III PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION: CHURCH WATER BILLS (GS Misc 904A and B)

Mr Martin Dales (York) to move:

14. 'That this Synod, concerned about the effect on many parishes of sudden, massive rises in water charges for churches, request HM Government to remind OFWAT of its obligations to ensure that the water companies adhere to the clear guidance given by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 2000, which states that "there are many non-household users who are not businesses ... including places of worship ... and it would be inappropriate to charge all non-household customers as if they were businesses".'
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SPECIAL AGENDA III PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION: UNIQUENESS OF CHRIST IN MULTI-FAITH BRITAIN (GS Misc 905A and B)

Mr Paul Eddy (Winchester) to move:

15. 'That this Synod request the House of Bishops to report to the Synod on their understanding of the uniqueness of Christ in Britain's multi-faith society, and offer examples and commendations of good practice in sharing the gospel of salvation through Christ alone with people of other faiths and of none.'
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**FORTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
(GS 1699)**

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall (Manchester) to move:

16. ‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

If item 16 is carried, the motions for amendment to the Standing Orders contained in the First Notice Paper will be moved, insofar as they need to be debated. Any member wishing to move an amendment to any of those motions must give notice in accordance with Standing Order 10(c) **not later than 5.30 p.m. on 9 February.**

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION:
HUMAN TRAFFICKING (GS Misc 906A and B)**

17. Presentation under SO 97.

The Revd Canon Michael Webb (Newcastle) to move on behalf of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod:

18. ‘That this Synod, in celebrating the centenary of the death of Josephine Butler, who is remembered in the Calendar on May 30th,
- (a) recognize and deplore the continuing evil of human trafficking, especially of children and young people;
 - (b) urge the Church of England to support the work of those who seek to end the traffic and rescue those trapped in it; and
 - (c) support the vigorous implementation of the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, and in particular, call on HM Government to ensure that effective measures are in place to prevent sex workers being trafficked into Britain during the 2012 Olympics.’

(Winchester Diocesan Synod has passed a motion in the same terms.)

Thursday 12 February 2009

9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

ANGLICAN COVENANT (GS 1716)

The Bishop of Rochester to move:

19. 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
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Not later than 11.45 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following items (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I) will be taken:

- 504** Draft Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure (GS 1692A) - *Draft Measure for Revision*
- 505** Draft Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure (GS 1693A) – *Draft Measure for Revision*
- 509-510** Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Exclusion of Ineligible Persons) (Amendment) Rules 2008 (GS 1718) and the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Debt Apportionment) (Amendment) Rules 2008 (GS 1717) – *Rules for Approval*
-

2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND THE RECESSION (GS 1719)

The Archbishop of York to move:

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

INTER FAITH: PRESENCE AND ENGAGEMENT (GS 1720)

The Bishop of Bradford to move:

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

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION:
THE FUTURE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND RETREAT HOUSES
(GS Misc 907A and B)**

The Venerable Richard Atkinson (Leicester) to move on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Synod:

22. 'That this Synod
- (a) celebrate the contribution of the Diocesan Retreat Houses to the Retreat Movement, and to the mission of the Church and the spiritual well-being of the nation;
 - (b) in the light of the closure of several Diocesan Retreat Houses, invite the Archbishops' Council to review and to make recommendations for the future sustainability and development of the remaining Diocesan Retreat Houses; and
 - (c) encourage the Archbishops' Council and the other National Church Institutions, Dioceses, regional training partnerships and parishes to make full use of the Diocesan Retreat Houses for retreat, prayer, study, conferences and creative thinking for the future.'

(Peterborough Diocesan Synod has passed a motion in the same terms.)

Friday 13 February

9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

SPECIAL AGENDA IV DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION: JUSTICE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (GS Misc 908A and B)

The Revd Ruth Worsley (Southwell and Nottingham) to move on behalf of the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Synod:

23. ‘That this Synod, continuing to affirm scriptural teaching about care for the vulnerable, welcome for strangers and foreigners, and the Church’s calling to reach out to the marginalized and persecuted, call upon Her Majesty’s Government:
- (a) to ensure that the treatment of asylum seekers is just and compassionate, and to that end to consider:
 - (i) conferring a right to work on all asylum seekers, and
 - (ii) declaring an amnesty for so called ‘legacy cases’ that predate the Government’s New Asylum Model;
 - (b) to find a practical and humane remedy to the intolerable situation of destitute ‘refused’ asylum seekers who are unable to return to their country of origin because of personal safety, health or family reasons.’
-

SPECIAL AGENDA IV DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHURCH’S PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS (GS Misc 909 A and B)

The Bishop of Dudley to move on behalf of the Worcester Diocesan Synod:

24. ‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to conduct an urgent review of the Endowments and Glebe Measure and other relevant Church legislation, with a view to bringing forward at the earliest possible opportunity any amendments needed to enable diocesan bodies and PCCs lawfully to dispose of land on terms which give proper weight to environmental considerations as well as financial ones, and so enable the Church to give a stronger moral lead in achieving Her Majesty’s Government’s objectives in cutting carbon emissions.’
-

Friday 13 February 2009

25. **FAREWELLS**

26. **PROROGATION**

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT AMENDING CANON No 28 (GS 1642B)

Draft Amending Canon for Final Approval (Revised at the February 2008 Group of Sessions)

Article 7 business

The Chair of the Steering Committee (Mrs Caroline Spencer (Canterbury)) to move:

- 500** ‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 28” be finally approved.’

And, if item 500 is carried:

- 501** ‘That the petition for Her Majesty’s Royal Assent and Licence (GS 1642C) be adopted.’

DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) MEASURE (GS 1683B)

Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval (Revised at the July 2008 Group of Sessions)

Report by the Steering Committee (GS 1683Z)

The Chair of the Steering Committee (the Ven Trevor Jones (Archdeacon of Hertford) (St Albans)) to move:

- 502** ‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’
- 503** ‘That the Measure entitled “Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure” be finally approved.’

**DRAFT VACANCIES IN SUFFRAGAN SEES AND OTHER
ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICES MEASURE (GS 1692A)**

**Draft Measure for Revision
(First Consideration July 2008)**

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 1692-3Y)

The Chair of the Revision Committee (the Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden
(ex officio)) to move:

504 ‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

Notes:

1. *In the debate on item 504 it will not be in order to debate any matter which is the subject of an amendment to the draft Measure which appears on a Notice Paper for this Group of Sessions (SO 54(c)).*
2. *When the debate is concluded on item 504, the Synod will proceed to consider the draft Measure clause by clause, first considering any amendments of which due notice has been given (SO 55(a)).*
3. *In exercise of its powers under SO 11 the Business Committee has directed that any member wishing to move an amendment pursuant to SO 56(a) must give notice to the Clerk to the Synod **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd February 2009.***

**DRAFT CROWN BENEFICES (PARISH REPRESENTATIVES)
MEASURE (GS 1693A)**

**Draft Measure for Revision
(First Consideration July 2008)**

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 1692-3Y)

The Chair of the Revision Committee (the Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden
(ex officio)) to move:

505 ‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

Notes:

1. *In the debate on item 505 it will not be in order to debate any matter which is the subject of an amendment to the draft Measure which appears on a Notice Paper for this Group of Sessions (SO 54(c)).*
2. *When the debate is concluded on item 505, the Synod will proceed to consider the draft Measure clause by clause, first considering any amendments of which due notice has been given (SO 55(a)).*
3. *In exercise of its powers under SO 11 the Business Committee has directed that any member wishing to move an amendment pursuant to SO 56(a) must give notice to the Clerk to the Synod **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd February 2009.***

ECCLESIASTICAL FEES (AMENDMENT) MEASURE (GS 1715)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

The Chair of the Steering Committee (the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds (the Rt Revd John Packer)) to move:

506 ‘That the Measure entitled “Ecclesiastical Fees (Amendment) Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

*Note: If item 506 is carried, any member wishing to submit proposals for amendment to the Revision Committee must send them in writing to the Clerk to the Synod so as to reach him **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Monday 16th March 2009 (SO 53).***

**DRAFT BISHOPS AND PRIESTS (CONSECRATION AND
ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE (GS 1708)
DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO 30 (GS 1709)**

Draft Measure and Draft Amending Canon for First Consideration

Article 7 and Article 8 business

The Chair of the Steering Committee (the Bishop of Manchester (the Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch)) to move:

- 507** ‘That the Measure entitled “Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’
- 508** ‘That the Amending Canon entitled “Amending Canon No 30” be considered for revision in committee.’

*Note: If items 507 or 508 are carried, any member wishing to submit proposals for amendment to the Revision Committee must send them in writing to the Clerk to the Synod so as to reach him **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Monday 16th March 2009** (SO 53).*

CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDED PENSIONS SCHEME (EXCLUSION OF INELIGIBLE PERSONS) (AMENDMENT) RULES 2008 (GS 1718)

CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDED PENSIONS SCHEME (DEBT APPORTIONMENT) (AMENDMENT) RULES 2008 (GS 1717)

Rules made under the Pensions Measure 1997

Mr John Spencer (ex officio) to move:

- 509** ‘That the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Exclusion of Ineligible Persons) (Amendment) Rules 2008 be approved.’
- 510** ‘That the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (Debt Apportionment) (Amendment) Rules 2008 be approved.’

Notes:

1. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 68(a) that both sets of Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 70(a).*

2. *Amendments to both sets of Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment should do so in writing to the Clerk to the Synod **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10th February 2009.***

SPECIAL AGENDA III - PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONTRADICT THE DUTY TO PROMOTE RACE EQUALITY

Ms Vasantha Gnanadoss (Southwark) to move:

‘That this Synod, noting that in 2004 the Association of Chief Police Officers adopted a policy whereby

“no member of the Police Service, whether police officer or police staff, may be a member of an organization whose constitution, aims, objectives or pronouncements contradict the general duty to promote race equality” and “this specifically includes the British National Party”,

request the House of Bishops to formulate and implement a comparable policy for the Church of England, to apply to clergy, ordinands, and such employed lay persons as have duties that require them to represent or speak on behalf of the Church.’

167 signatures

(July 2007)

CHURCH WATER BILLS

Mr Martin Dales (York) to move:

‘That this Synod, concerned about the effect on many parishes of sudden, massive rises in water charges for churches, request HM Government to remind OFWAT of its obligations to ensure that the water companies adhere to the clear guidance given by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 2000, which states that “there are many non-household users who are not businesses ... including places of worship ... and it would be inappropriate to charge all non-household customers as if they were businesses”.’

149 signatures

(July 2008)

UNIQUENESS OF CHRIST IN MULTI-FAITH BRITAIN

Mr Paul Eddy (Winchester) to move:

‘That this Synod request the House of Bishops to report to the Synod on their understanding of the uniqueness of Christ in Britain's multi-faith society, and offer examples and commendations of good practice in sharing the gospel of salvation through Christ alone with people of other faiths and of none.’

139 signatures

(February 2007)

FRESH EXPRESSIONS RESOURCES

The Revd Richard Moy (Lichfield) to move:

‘That this Synod invite the Fresh Expressions team in consultation with the Liturgical Commission to produce an on-line library of visual and video resources for worship, so that hard-pressed local worship leaders may access and use them in both mission and congregational contexts.’

99 signatures

(July 2008)

BAN ON WHALING

The Revd Gill Henwood (York) to move:

‘That this Synod, following the evidence of the scale and nature of this season’s Japanese whaling activity provided by Australian and conservation monitors, call on HM Government to work to ensure the enforcement of the worldwide ban on whaling, affirming the beauty, diversity and sanctity of God’s creation and mysterious creatures.’

71 signatures

(February 2008)

HR POLICY AND PRACTICE AT THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES AND REGIONAL COURSES

The Revd Hugh Lee (Oxford) to move:

‘That this Synod, believing that the staff disciplinary and grievance procedures and human resources practices of all theological colleges and regional courses approved by the House of Bishops for the training of ordinands should be professional both in their policy framework and in their application, and should conform with the guidelines currently being prepared by DRACSC, request the House of Bishops and Ministry Division:

- (a) to initiate an urgent review of the HR policy and practice of all approved training institutions; and
- (b) to report back to the House of Bishops and General Synod on the findings of the review, with recommendations as to how and in what circumstances action might be taken to ensure best HR practice.’

69 signatures

(February 2008)

ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON DIOCESAN OFFICES

Mr Gavin Oldham (Oxford) to move:

‘That this Synod, concerned to see the extent of additional administrative work being introduced to Diocesan Offices, request the Archbishops’ Council to conduct a strategic review with the aim of reducing significantly the administrative burden (in terms of both cost and time wasted) throughout the Church, particularly as it impacts on the mission and ministry of diocesan bishops.’

66 signatures

(February 2008)

DATE OF EASTER

The Revd Andrew Dow (Gloucester) to move:

‘That this Synod, mindful of the confusion and disruptions caused by the varying date of Easter, request the Archbishops’ Council to work with the Government and relevant ecumenical bodies to fix the date of Easter on a weekend in the Spring appropriate to the Church’s mission to the nation, and local communities, and conducive to the smooth running of the educational system.’

44 signatures

(February 2008)

PARITY OF PENSION PROVISION FOR SURVIVING CIVIL PARTNERS

Revd Mark Bratton (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council and the Church of England Pensions Board to bring forward changes to the rules governing the clergy pension scheme in order to go beyond the requirements of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and provide for pension benefits to be paid to the surviving civil partners of deceased clergy on the same basis as they are currently paid to surviving spouses.’

43 signatures

(July 2008)

VIOLENT COMPUTER GAMES

Mr Thomas Benyon (Oxford) to move:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) express concern about the potentially desensitising and damaging effects upon children and young people of computer games containing gratuitous violent and sexual content;

- (b) request changes to the classification system for video games in the United Kingdom to strengthen appropriate age rating and effective enforcement;
- (c) call upon HM Government to review the regulatory system for advertising video games to prevent the targeting of children and young people with unsuitable material; and
- (d) support programmes of education for both parents and children in managing access to video games.'

24 signatures

(July 2008)

JESUS' TEACHING

Dr Brian Walker (Winchester) to move:

'That this Synod request the House of Bishops to report to the Synod on their current understanding of what Jesus Christ actually taught us to do, during His ministry here on earth.'

7 signatures

(July 2008)

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

EPISCOPAL MINISTRY ACT OF SYNOD

to move on behalf of the Southwark Diocesan Synod:

‘That the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993 be rescinded.’

March 2003

VOICE OF THE CHURCH IN PUBLIC LIFE

The Revd Canon David Felix (Chester) to move on behalf of the Chester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, mindful of the questions raised in public debate about the role of the Church in civic society, invite the Divisions of the Archbishops’ Council to report to the General Synod, before the end of the quinquennium, on their work:

- (a) to foster clearer understanding of the Christian faith among the institutions and organisations of society; and
- (b) to reinforce the claims of the Church to take its place in public life in Britain.’

June 2007

SOLAR ENERGY

to move on behalf of the Winchester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, mindful of the need for all Christians to take seriously their God-given responsibility for the care of the environment, request the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division and the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops’ Council to encourage those who are developing the necessary technology to investigate the viability of the generation of electricity using the solar energy falling on south-facing church roofs, and to report to the Synod on progress within two years.’

September 2007

ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE EPISCOPATE

to move on behalf of the Rochester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod

- (a) note that it was resolved in July 2005 that the “process for removing the legal obstacles to the ordination of women to the episcopate should now be set in train”;
- (b) express its wish for suitable pastoral provision to be made for all those, whether clergy or laity, who are unable in conscience to accept this development;
- (c) is particularly aware of the difficulties faced by clergy opposed in conscience to the ordination of women bishops but who currently work, and will continue to do so, in parishes where the Parochial Church Council would otherwise welcome the sacramental ministry of women bishops.’

October 2007

EPISCOPAL AND SENIOR CHURCH POSTS

The Revd Dr John Hartley (Bradford) to move on behalf of the Bradford Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to formulate proposals for reductions in the numbers of episcopal and senior clergy posts, taking into account reductions for the number of stipendiary clergy since 1979; and submit a report with recommendations to the General Synod within three years.’

November 2007

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Revd Canon Michael Webb (Newcastle) to move on behalf of the Newcastle Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod,

in celebrating the centenary of the death of Josephine Butler, who is remembered in the Calendar on May 30th,

- (a) recognize and deplore the continuing evil of human trafficking, especially of children and young people;

- (b) urge the Church of England to support the work of those who seek to end the traffic and rescue those trapped in it; and
- (c) support the vigorous implementation of the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, and in particular, call on HM Government to ensure that effective measures are in place to prevent sex workers being trafficked into Britain during the 2012 Olympics.’

January 2008

Winchester Diocesan Synod passed a motion in the same terms in May 2008.

CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003

to move on behalf of the London Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod whilst recognizing the need for discipline in the exercise of ordained ministry nonetheless notes with grave concern and regrets the pastoral implications of the new Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 and requests the Archbishops’ Council at the earliest possible opportunity to review its practical outworkings and with reference in particular to the attached Code of Practice.’

January 2008

JUSTICE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Revd Ruth Worsley (Southwell and Nottingham) to move on behalf of the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, continuing to affirm scriptural teaching about care for the vulnerable, welcome for strangers and foreigners, and the Church’s calling to reach out to the marginalized and persecuted, call upon Her Majesty’s Government:

- (a) to ensure that the treatment of asylum seekers is just and compassionate, and to that end to consider:
 - (i) conferring a right to work on all asylum seekers, and
 - (ii) declaring an amnesty for so called ‘legacy cases’ that predate the Government’s New Asylum Model;
- (b) to find a practical and humane remedy to the intolerable situation of destitute ‘refused’ asylum seekers who are unable to return to their country of origin because of personal safety, health or family reasons.’

February 2008

THE FUTURE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND RETREAT HOUSES

The Venerable Richard Atkinson (Leicester) to move on behalf of the Leicester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod

- (a) celebrate the contribution of the Diocesan Retreat Houses to the Retreat Movement, and to the mission of the Church and the spiritual well-being of the nation;
- (b) in the light of the closure of several Diocesan Retreat Houses, invite the Archbishops' Council to review and to make recommendations for the future sustainability and development of the remaining Diocesan Retreat Houses; and
- (c) encourage the Archbishops' Council and the other National Church Institutions, Dioceses, regional training partnerships and parishes to make full use of the Diocesan Retreat Houses for retreat, prayer, study, conferences and creative thinking for the future.’

February 2008

Peterborough Diocesan Synod passed a motion in the same terms in September 2008.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHURCH’S PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Revd David Walker, to move on behalf of the Worcester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to conduct an urgent review of the Endowments and Glebe Measure and other relevant Church legislation, with a view to bringing forward at the earliest possible opportunity any amendments needed to enable diocesan bodies and PCCs lawfully to dispose of land on terms which give proper weight to environmental considerations as well as financial ones, and so enable the Church to give a stronger moral lead in achieving Her Majesty’s Government’s objectives in cutting carbon emissions.’

March 2008

EUCCHARISTIC WORSHIP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Revd Canon David Bird (Peterborough) to move on behalf of the Peterborough Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod request the House of Bishops to commission the preparation and collation of materials for Eucharistic worship, including Eucharistic prayers, for use on occasions when a significant number of young people are present, having a mind to Church Secondary Schools as well as youth services and events.’

June 2008

CONFIDENCE IN THE BIBLE

to move on behalf of the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod requests Dioceses, Deaneries and Parishes to adopt some symbol of our confidence in the Bible for our nation (such as “The Year of the Bible” recently in France), noting that the 400th anniversary in 2011 of the Authorised Version would be an obvious opportunity.’

June 2008

CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE

to move on behalf of the Chelmsford Diocese

‘That this Synod:

- (a) believe that the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 is destroying the historic and God-ordained relationship between the bishops and the clergy in their pastoral care; and
- (b) therefore urge the Archbishop’s Council to commission an urgent review of the working of the Code of Practice under the Measure, with a view to recommending the changes to the Code needed to ensure that appropriate Episcopal care is given to those facing proceedings under the Measure and that there is an appropriate balance between the Bishop’s roles in providing pastoral care and in administering discipline.’

June 2008

COMPATIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND CHRISTIAN BELIEF

to move on behalf of the Manchester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, concerned at the promotion of a perceived need to choose between the claims of science and belief in God:

- (a) affirm the compatibility of belief in God and an understanding of science; and
- (b) urge the House of Bishops and all dioceses robustly to promote a better public understanding of the compatibility of science and Christian belief.’

August 2008