

GENERAL SYNOD**DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) MEASURE****REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS IN CHARGE****Membership**

Chair: The Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden (Vicar-General of Canterbury)

Members: The Ven Timothy Barker (Archdeacon of Lincoln)
The Revd Canon Kathryn Fitzsimons (Ripon and Leeds)
Mr Clive Scowen (London)

1. The draft Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure (“the draft Measure”) received First Consideration at the November 2010 group of sessions of the General Synod and was committed to a Revision Committee. At the July 2011 group of sessions, the Synod took note of the report of that Committee (GS1805Y) and completed the Revision Stage for the draft Measure. The Synod made one amendment to the version of the Measure then before it (GS 1805A); this was as follows:

Clause 2

In subsection (2)(a), leave out the words “during any service” and insert the words “during either the principal service or both the principal service and another service” and at the end of subsection (2)(a), leave out the word “and” and

at the end of subsection (2)(b), insert the word “and” and the following paragraph—

“(c) after subsection (2), add the following subsection—

“(2A) In subsection (2) of this section “principal service” means the service at which, in the opinion of the clergyman or other person who, under section 9 of this Act, has the responsibility for publishing banns of matrimony, the greatest number of persons are likely to attend.”.”.

The draft Measure as amended then stood committed to the Steering Committee (“the Committee”) under Standing Order 59(a) in respect of its Final Drafting.

2. The Committee has met once subsequently during the July 2011 Group of Sessions to complete its work under Standing Order 59(a). It now returns the draft Measure (GS 1805B) to the Synod for Final Drafting and Final Approval.
3. Under Standing Order 59, at the Final Drafting Stage the Committee may propose ‘Drafting Amendments’ or ‘Special Amendments’ or both. These two categories of amendments are defined in Standing Order 59(g) as follows:
 - (i) a Drafting Amendment means an amendment where only the wording of the Measure is altered and not its substance; and
 - (ii) a Special Amendment means an amendment considered necessary or desirable by the Steering Committee because the Measure is not sufficiently clear or

because some criticism not considered by the Synod or any Revision Committee has been brought to the notice of the Steering Committee.

4. The Committee has agreed the Drafting Amendments set out in the Annex, which were identified on final scrutiny of the draft Measure as necessary corrections to the text.
5. The Committee has not identified the need for any Special Amendments.

On behalf of the Committee
Rt Worshipful Timothy Briden
Chair

9 July 2011

ANNEX

Clause 1

1. In sub-clause (1), in the new section 1A(1)(a), after the words “in respect of” insert the words “both that benefice and”.
2. In sub-clause (1), in the new section 1A(1)(b), after the words “church or chapel of” insert the words “that parish and of”.
3. In sub-clause (1), in the new section 1A(3), leave out the words “that section” and insert the words “section 6 of that Act”.
4. In sub-clause (1), in the new section 1A(4), after the word “building” insert the words “or part of a building”.
5. In sub-clause (2), leave out “wording” and insert “word”.

Clause 2

6. In sub-clause (2)(a), leave out the word “inserted” and insert “substituted”.
7. In sub-clause (2), leave out paragraph (c)^{*}, and after paragraph (a) insert—

“(b) after subsection (1) there shall be added the following subsections—

“(1A) In subsection (1) of this section “principal service” means the service at which, in the opinion of the clergyman or other person who, under section 9 of this Act, has the responsibility for publishing banns of matrimony, the greatest number of persons who habitually attend public worship *in the parish*[†] are likely to attend.

“(1B) Where banns of matrimony are published on a Sunday during both the principal service and another service, both of those occasions shall be deemed to be the same time of asking for the purposes of the form of words referred to in subsection (2) of this section.”
8. In sub-clause (2), the existing paragraph (b) shall become paragraph (c).

^{*} Paragraph (c) was inserted at the Revision Stage by the Reverend Canon Simon Killwick’s amendment set out in paragraph 1 of this Report.

[†] In moving the motion that the Synod take note of its Report, the Chairman of the Steering Committee informed the Synod that the Steering Committee had made an alteration to its report, removing the words “in the parish” from the new subsection (1A) of section 7 of the Marriage Act 1949. The amendment contained in paragraph 7 above was therefore made with the omission of the words “in the parish”. (This note has been added subsequently to the original publication of GS 1805Z at York on 10th July 2011.)