

GENERAL SYNOD**Feedback from the July 2018 group of sessions**

1. The Business Committee agreed in their May meeting that General Synod members should be actively encouraged to provide feedback by providing an electronic feedback form. The form was circulated to members, staff and other attendees to General Synod on 24 July 2018 and it closed on Friday 7 July 2018. This is an analysis of its main findings.

Overview of participants (Q1.-Q4.)

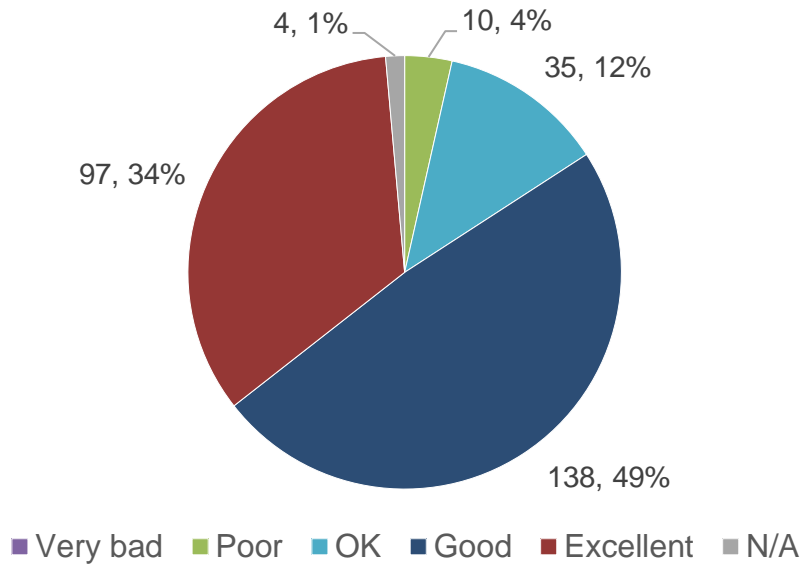
GS Members	228
NCI Staff	50
Fringe and Display organisers	5
Members' Assistants	3
Other	6
Total	292

Lay	168
Ordained	120
Not Specified	4

Returning attendees	258
New attendees	32
Not Specified	2

Communications and resources

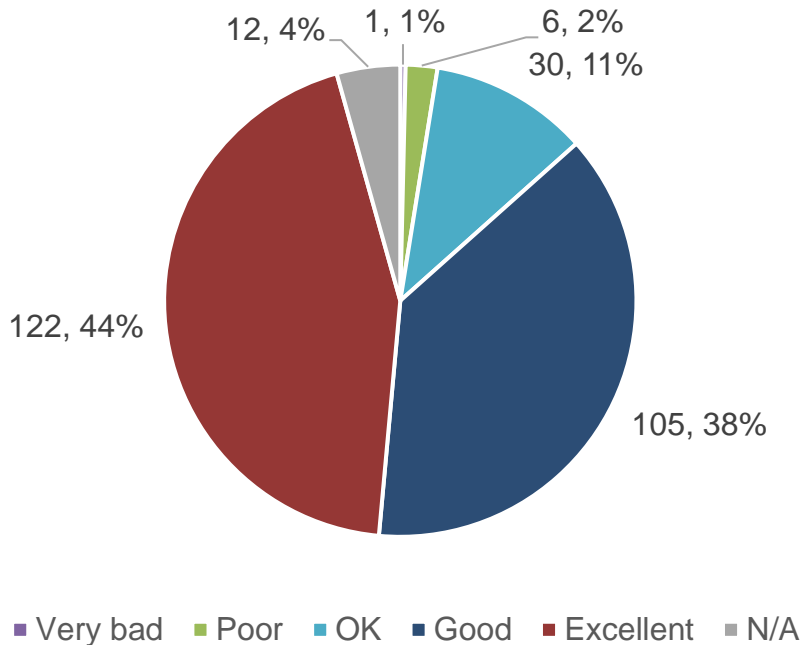
Q5. What was your opinion of the communications from the Synod Office regarding logistical arrangements in the run up to the group of sessions?



Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
0	10	35	138	97	4

Q5. weighted average: 4.15

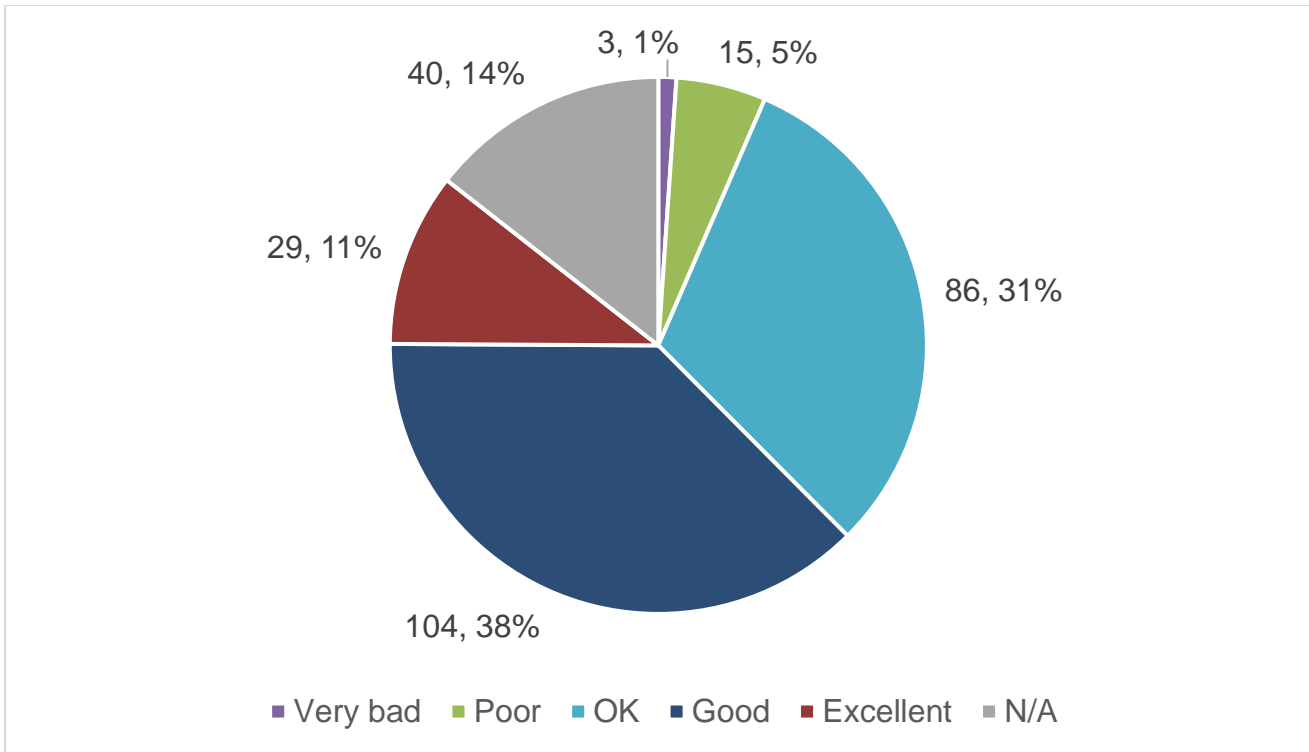
Q6. What was your experience of the booking process?



Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
1	6	30	105	122	12

Q6. weighted average: 4.29

Q7. How helpful did you find the General Synod pages of the Church of England website?



Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
3	15	86	104	29	40

Q7. weighted average: 3.59

Q8. At present, by which method do you receive General Synod Papers?

By post	115
Electronically only	128
n/a	35

Q9. If you choose to receive your papers in hard copy, can you explain why you prefer this?

Common themes that came up in respondents' answers to this question included:

- Difficulty of navigating between papers electronically
- Inability to make notation in electronic copy
- Volume of papers
- Discomfort/inability to read off screens for long periods
- Lack of the necessary hardware
- Unreliability of technology and wifi
- Lack of charging points in the Chamber

Q10. Any further comments [on GS papers]?

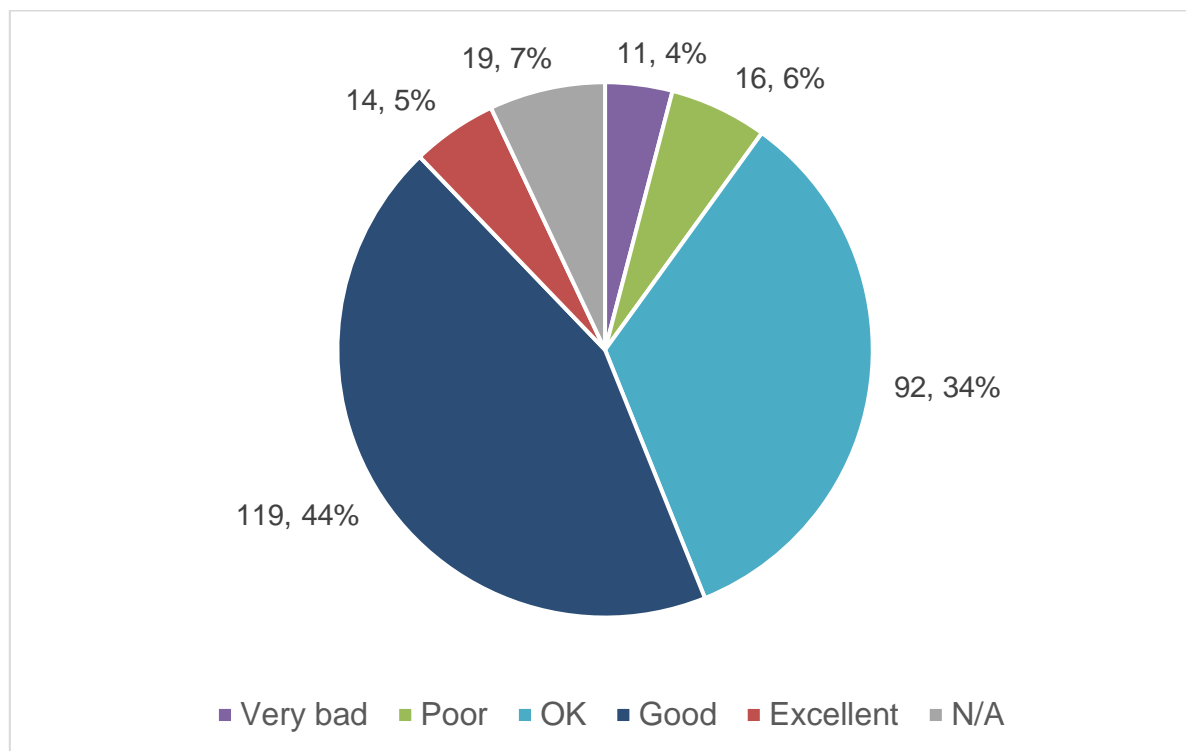
A few respondents suggested they would now be opting out of hard copies, for environmental reasons; others suggested they may consider doing so if the Synod App was reinstated. Some suggested the system was so poor they would be deferring back to hard copies unless rectified. Other comments included:

- Very complex numbering systems – could this be explained?

- Some found the .zip files whilst others had difficulty due to their sizes.
- Too much material to read between receipt of papers and the group of sessions.
- Offering a third mailing option, providing hard copies of the Agenda and Business Committee Report only.
- Difficult to find the papers on the website.
- The Synod needs to be more environmentally friendly, paper copies are not acceptable.
- Could electronic papers also be colour coded?

Synod Business

Q11. What are your thoughts about the business scheduled on July 2018 agenda?



Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
11	16	92	119	14	19

Q11. weighted average: 3.43

Q12. Any further comments on formal Synod business?

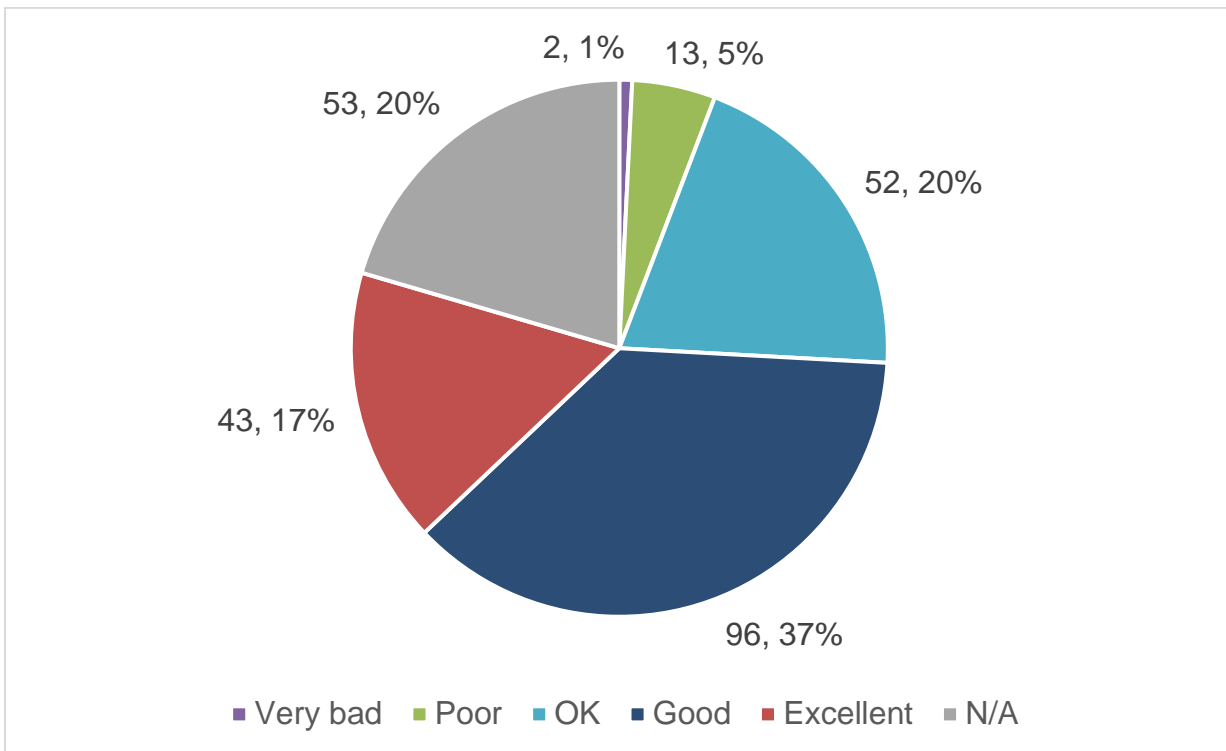
- Too many presentations
- Too much legislation (particularly en bloc), with a large number of amendments, can this be limited?
- Some liked the new session arrangements, others did not.
- Appreciation for the Business Committee's choice to not schedule items on sexuality, suggesting the time freed up by this allowed the Synod to engage with a wider range of topics;
- However, others expressed concern for the lack of time dedicated to the subject of human sexuality.
- Positive comments regarding the Safeguarding presentation.
- Outward facing items (e.g. Evangelism Task Group Report and NHS) were shortened or lost altogether in order to make space for necessary, but inward facing legislative business. A lack of engagement with current issues.
- A call for more PMMs to be scheduled.
- Many bishops and senior clergy were invited to address the Synod, could a lay person be invited to address the Synod in a similar fashion?

Seminars

Q13. Which seminars did you attend on the Saturday afternoon, if any?

Digital Evangelism	41
Mission among Children and Young People	33
Evangelism Task Group	31
The Environment	17
Pastoral Advisory Group	67
Teaching Document: Biblical Studies	69
Teaching Document: Theology	82
Teaching Document: Social & Biological Sciences	65
Teaching Document: History	51
None	53

Q14. How was your overall experience of the seminars and workshops this year?



Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
2	13	52	96	43	53

Q14. Weighted average: 3.8

Q15. Any further comments on the seminars and workshops?

- Calls for materials to be made available online.
- Good range of subjects and a helpful way for members to engage with subjects outside the very fixed format of normal sessions.
- Poor communications regarding what the workshops were.
- Some members wished to be able to attend all of the seminars.
- The Prayer room was valuable.
- Could the seminars have been run in the evenings or submitted as videos to allow for more business during the day?
- A call for more time for the 'audience' to engage more deeply with the subjects, many felt they were more like presentations than seminars.
- Poorly arranged and signposted following the change of timings to accommodate football.
- Not necessary for the work of Synod.

Q16. What topics for group work/seminars would you like to see in future?

- Sexuality and the Teaching Document
- Setting God's People Free
- Presentations from growing churches for examples of good practice.
- Digital Evangelism
- Ecumenism (e.g. *Mission and Ministry in Covenant*)
- Rural Ministry
- Social issues (environment, housing, domestic violence, immigration and Brexit)
- Safeguarding
- Resourcing issues for dioceses and information on the National Church Institutions
- Evangelism and Discipleship
- Mission
- Anglican Communion
- Scripture
- Church Planting
- Disability and inclusion
- Education and engaging with youth groups
- Group work on more legislative aspects of the agenda (and the budget)
- Five Guiding Principles

There were a number of contributions questioning the value of group work over formal Synod business.

Accommodation and Board

Q17. What was your experience of the following:

- a) Your room? Weighted average: 3.59
- b) Catering? Weighted average: 4.22
- c) York University Staff? Weighted average: 4.39
- d) Thursday check-in? Weighted average 3.96

Q18. Any further comments or recommendations:

- Better WIFI
- Publish meal times
- Improved furniture/bathrooms
- Better signage for reception desks and rooms
- Concern for accessibility on others' behalf
- Upset caused by the lack of lunch available on Friday and Tuesday

- Rules regarding where to eat are too strict
- Timings for meals and fringes were rushed
- Hugely helpful accommodation team

Worship

Q19. Please share your thought on worship held in Central Hall, Berrick Saul and York Minster:

- Good diversity and overall enjoyment
- Hard to hear in the Minster
- Morning worship was noticeably early
- Minster service is (understandably) quite long
- Lack of bishops' attendance (particularly in the evenings)

Fringe Meetings

Q20. If you arranged a fringe meeting, could you rate your experience of the following:

	Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
Process of booking of your fringe meeting	0	4	11	10	8	35
Appropriateness of fringe meeting room(s)	2	6	11	17	3	28
Quality of any catering	0	2	12	10	2	37
Practical information (e.g. when you will have access to rooms etc)	0	6	11	12	6	29

- Process of booking a fringe meeting: 3.67 weighted average
- Appropriateness of fringe meeting rooms: 3.33 weighted average
- Quality of any catering: 3.46 weighted average
- Practical Information: 3.51 weighted average

Q21. If you attended a fringe meeting, could you rate your experience of the following:

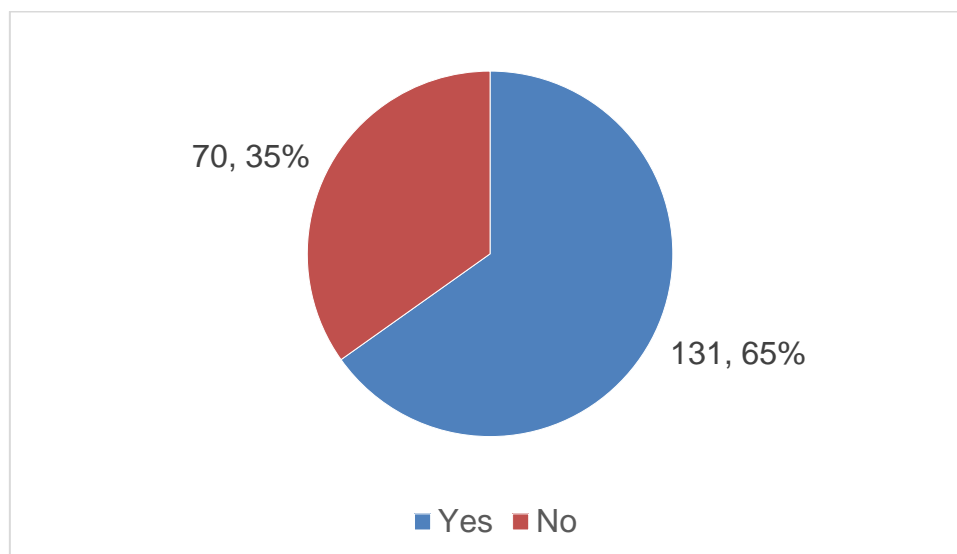
	Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
Appropriateness of fringe meeting room(s)	8	28	64	69	17	12
Quality of any catering	4	6	47	34	8	85
Meeting content	3	6	20	94	54	18

- Appropriateness of fringe meeting room(s): 3.32 weighted average

b) Quality of any catering: 3.36 weighted average

c) Meeting content: 4.07 weighted average

Q22. Did you have enough time to dine and travel to your fringe meeting?



Q23. Any further comments?

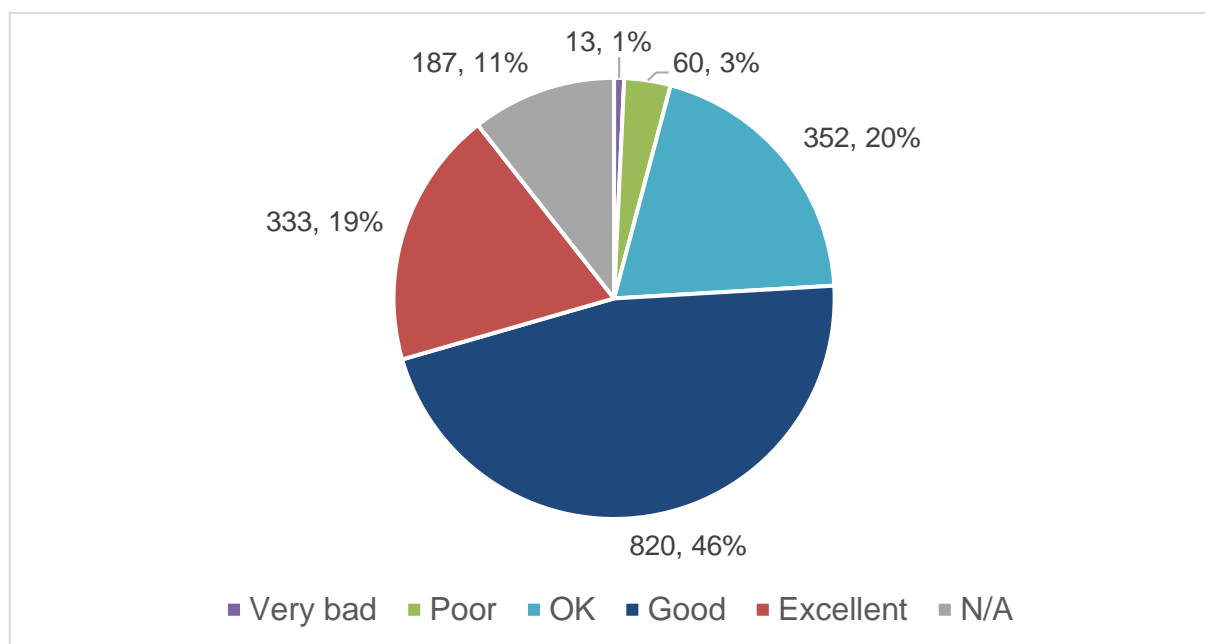
- Stressful, tight transitions between meals and fringe meetings
- Members found it hard to find some rooms
- No air conditioning in the rooms
- Concern over the predominance of alcohol

Accessibility

Q24. How accessible did you find the following:

	Very bad (1)	Poor (2)	OK (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A
The University of York Campus buildings	1	7	54	134	49	11
The University of York overnight accommodation	3	10	63	121	43	17
York Minster	1	0	30	98	63	54
Written materials, such as GS Papers	4	6	47	119	54	22
Worship materials	0	12	46	116	44	33
Presentations and videos	1	8	47	128	41	26
The Church of England website	3	17	65	104	39	24
Overall accessibility	13	60	352	820	333	187

Overall accessibility:



Q24. weighted average: 3.90

Q25. Can you give us details of your experiences at York with regard to accessibility?

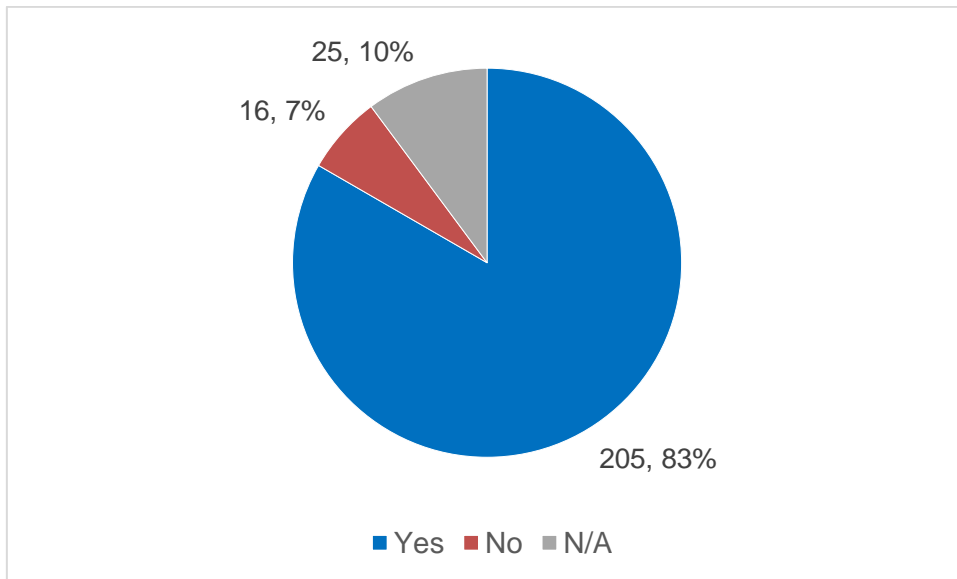
- More time between session finishing and fringe meetings starting
- Members not assigned the most appropriate room for accessibility issues
- Can be a significant distance between car park, bedroom, dining hall and fringe meetings – especially in either hot or wet weather conditions.
- Struggled with hearing in the Minster (hearing aids do not help)
- Good lift and ramp access
- Growing reliance on projections on screens. Presentations do not meet minimum standards for those with vision impairments (poor colour choices, too much text, too small text etc.)
- Members unaware of the hearing loop system
- Alcuin is perceived as being quite far away
- Air conditioning made the chamber more comfortable
- Liked the written information at the beginning of worship
- Appreciation that members could wave papers instead of standing to indicate their vote in certain Synodical matters
- All videos should have subtitles so that the Deaf Anglican Together reps do not have to struggle to watch the video and their interpreter at the same time.
- Lift in the Chamber is too exposed.
- A call for more inclusive language “I see no one wishing to speak” rather than, “I see no one standing”
- Poor back support in the Chamber seating
- Difficult in Central Hall for wheelchair users (in all respects)
- Very attentive Synod Support and York University staff

Any other comments

Q26. Are there any other areas you wish to feedback to us on?

- Not much time to read a large volume of papers, can the mailings be staggered differently?
- Wanting earlier notification of confirmed meeting dates (especially for February and November)
- Better guidance on what non-voting members are, and are not, able to participate in
- Better information for new members
- If lunch is not provided on the final day, finishing times need to allow for people to source their own lunch.
- Chairing of debates needs attention
- Can we use the devices to indicate the desire to speak in a debate?
- Question time was poor – people brushing off answers
- Make the website and papers easier to find and navigate
- Lonely for new members
- Breaks between every item
- Feelings for and against the BC’s decision to change the session arrangement
- Should seek a new venue entirely

Q27. Do you feel equipped to report back to your diocese, constituency, organisation or department on what took place at General Synod?



Q28. If you answered “no”, what would make you feel better equipped?

- A post Synod digest, devoted wholly to the recent group of sessions, would help all the members from all seeking to produce the same thing.
- More guidance for Canon/legislative changes
- Better engagement from the diocesan bishops

Q29. The Business Committee would like to take this opportunity to invite you to indicate what sort of matters you would like to see on a future agenda:

- Supporting persecuted Christians
- Cutting administrative costs/recognition of good practice
- Safeguarding
- Gender and sexuality
- Rural Church
- Evangelism, strategy and Church growth
- Children and young people
- The diocesan structure
- Anglican Communion matters
- Social issues (housing, homelessness, mental health etc)
- Armed Forces Covenant
- BAME and disability inclusion
- More PMMs and DSMs
- The environment
- Ecumenical relations
- Setting God’s People Free
- Five Guiding Principles

GENERAL SYNOD BUSINESS COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2018