

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSIONS

BUSINESS DONE AT 7.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2019

WORSHIP

The Revd Canon Michael Gisbourne led the Synod in an act of worship.

INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY introduced the following new members:

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen (Bishop of Truro) (who had replaced the Rt Revd Tim Thornton)

The Rt Revd Philip North, (Bishop of Burnley) (who had replaced the Richard Blackburn)

The Revd Josias De Souza Jr (Canterbury) (who had replaced the Revd Canon Clare Edwards)

The Revd Brunel James (Leeds) (who had replaced the Revd Bob Cooper)

The Revd Canon Leah Vasey-Saunders (Leeds) (who had replaced the Revd Canon Maggie McLean)

The Revd Canon John McGinley (Leicester) (who had replaced the Ven Dr Tim Stratford)

The Revd Simon Fisher (Liverpool) (who had replaced the Revd Canon Paul Rattigan)

The Revd Dr Jeremy Sheehy (Manchester) (who had replaced the Revd Nick McKee)

The Revd Canon Heather Butcher (Norwich) (who had replaced the Revd Canon Sally Gaze)

The Revd Andrew Lightbown, (Oxford) (who had replaced the Revd Jonathan Beswick)

The Revd Chris McQuillen-Wright (Truro) (who had replaced the Revd Canon Alan Bashforth)

Mrs Marian Nicholson, (Canterbury) (who had replaced Miss Judith Rigby)

Mr Michael Thomas (Chichester) (who had replaced Dr Graham Parr)

Mrs Sarah Beach (Salisbury) (who had replaced Miss Fenella Cannings-Jurd)
Miss Sarah Maxfield-Phillips (Worcester) (who had replaced Mrs Sue Adeney)
The Revd Canon Peter Moger (York) (who had replaced the Revd Dr Rowan Williams)
The Ven John Ellis (Armed Forces) (who had replaced the Ven John Chaffey)
Air Commodore Polly Perkins (Armed Forces) (who had replaced Mr Malcolm Brecht)
Miss Emily McDonald (Church of England Youth Council Reps) (who had replaced Miss Sarah Maxfield Phillips)
Miss Sophie Mitchell (Church of England Youth Council Reps) (who had replaced Mr Ed Cox).

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY welcomed the following Anglican Communion guests:

The Most Reverend Dr Prem Chand Singh,
(Moderator of the Church of North India and Bishop of Jabalpur)

The Right Reverend Paul Korir, Bishop of Kapsabet,
(Anglican Church of Kenya).

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2112)

2. The motion

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

was carried.

PATTERN OF MEETINGS OF GENERAL SYNOD (GS 2113)

3 The motion

‘That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2021 – 2023:

2021	26 February – 2 March
	9 July – 13 July
	15 November – 17 November

2022	7 February – 11 February
	8 July – 12 July
	14 November - 16 November
2023	10 February – 14 February
	7 July – 11 July
	13 November – 15 November

was moved.

- 39 The amendment (Order Paper I) was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	129
AGAINST	186

23 abstentions were recorded.

- 40 The amendment (Order Paper I) lapsed.
- 41 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	177
AGAINST	130

30 abstentions were recorded.

- 3 The motion as amended

‘That this Synod meet on the following dates in 2021 – 2023:

2021	26 February – 2 March
	9 July – 13 July
	15 November – 17 November
2022	7 February – 11 February
	8 July – 12 July

14 November - 16 November
2023 Monday 6 February – Tuesday 14 February
7 July – 11 July
13 November – 15 November

was carried

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE WIDER ANGLICAN COMMUNION

- 4 The Most Reverend Dr Prem Chand Singh, (Moderator of the Church of North India and Bishop of Jabalpur) and the Right Reverend Paul Korir, Bishop of Kapsabet, (Anglican Church of Kenya) gave a presentation under SO 107.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- 5 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PENSIONS BOARD (GS 2114)

- 6 The motion

‘That the appointment of Clive Mather as Chair of the Church of England Pensions Board from 1 May 2019 to 31 March 2023 be approved.’

was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL (GS 2115)

- 7 The motion

‘That the appointment of the Revd Charlotte Cook and Mr Joseph Diwakar as members of the Archbishops’ Council for a term ending on 22 February 2024 be approved.’

was carried.

QUESTIONS

- 8 Supplementary questions were answered in respect of questions 1 to 81 set out in the Questions Notice Paper.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Ven. Anne Dawtry led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing at 7.30 pm.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.40 P.M.
THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

HOLY COMMUNION

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK presided at a service of Holy Communion.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO.38 (GS 2047D)

Article 7 business

Canon for Enactment (Finally approved at the July 2018 group of sessions)

500 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 38” be made,
promulged and executed.’

was carried.

The instrument of Enactment was signed by the Archbishops, the Prolocutors and the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the House of Laity.

**DRAFT CHURCH REPRESENTATION AND MINISTERS MEASURE
(GS 2046BB)**

DRAFT AMENDING CANON No. 39 (GS 2047BB)

Article 7 Business (Canon only)

Draft Measure for Final Drafting

Draft Measure and draft Amending Canon for Final Approval

(Revised at the July 2018 group of sessions)

Report by the Steering Committee (GS 2046ZZ/2047ZZ)

501 The motion

‘That the Synod do take note of this Report’

was carried.

Special amendments (Order Paper II) 509, 510 and 511

509 The special amendment (Item 509 Order Paper II) was carried.

510 The special amendments (Item 510 Order Paper II) were carried.

511 The special amendment (Item 511 Order Paper II) was carried.

502 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Church Representation and Ministers Measure” be finally approved.’

was carried after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	26	0
Clergy	126	0
Laity	147	2

7 abstentions were recorded in the House of Laity.

The Chair reported that the Measure automatically stood committed to the Legislative Committee.

503 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 39” be finally approved.’

was carried following a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	20	0
Clergy	92	0
Laity	118	2

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Laity.

504 The motion

‘That the petition for Her Majesty’s Royal Assent and Licence (GS 2047CC) be adopted.’

was carried.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.15 P.M.
THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 40 (GS 2103A)

Article 7 Business

Draft Amending Canon for Revision

(First Consideration at the July 2018 group of sessions)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2103Y)

505 The motion

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

was carried.

512 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

513 The amendment (Order Paper II) was not moved.

514 The motion

‘That paragraph 1 as amended stand part of the Canon.’

was carried.

515 The motion

‘That paragraphs 2 to 6 stand part of the Canon.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Canon stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

**DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
(NO. 2) MEASURE (GS 2104A)**

DRAFT AMENDING CANON NO. 41 (GS 2105A)

Article 7 Business (both items)

Draft Measure and Draft Amending Canon for Revision

(First Consideration at the July 2018 group of sessions)

Report by the Revision Committee (GS 2104Y/2105Y)

506 The motion

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

was carried.

516 The motion

‘That Clause 1 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

517 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

518 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

519 The motion

‘That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

520 The motion

‘That clauses 3 to 10 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

521 The motion

‘That clause 11 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

522 The motion

‘That clauses 12 to 15 stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

523 The motion

‘That the Schedule stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

524 The motion

‘That the Long Title stand part of the Measure.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Measure stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

525 The motion

‘That paragraphs 1 to 6 stand part of the Canon.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the draft Canon stood committed to the Steering Committee in respect of its final drafting.

DRAFT PAROCHIAL FEES AND SCHEDULED MATTERS AMENDING ORDER 2019 (GS 2116)

Draft order for approval

507 The motion

‘That the draft Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 be approved.’

was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	165
AGAINST	80

22 abstentions were recorded.

CODE OF PRACTICE ON CO-OPERATION BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WITH OTHER CHURCHES (GS 2117)

Code of Practice for approval

508 The motion

‘That the draft Code of Practice under Section 5B of the Church of England (Ecumenical Relations) Measure 1988 be approved.’

was carried.

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a) the order of business for the sitting was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod in that item 10 (Living in Love and Faith and Pastoral Advisory Group) would have begin no later than 6.00 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA III

PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION

HOMELESS TASK FORCE (GS 2110A & GS2110B)

9 The motion

‘That this Synod, noting:

- a) the substantial levels of homelessness in the United Kingdom; and
- b) initiatives to address this problem by Her Majesty's Government, such as the Homelessness Reduction Taskforce announced in the 2017 Autumn Budget

and celebrating the good works already being undertaken by the Church of England, other Christian denominations, faith groups, charities and social enterprises, call upon the Archbishops' Council to enable the formation of a Church of England led Homelessness Taskforce including representatives from the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity to undertake:

- (i) the formation of plans at national, diocesan and parish levels to utilise Church resources (whether financial, volunteers or buildings) to provide shelter and support services for the vulnerable on a nationwide basis, building upon the wide experience of government and Third Sector initiatives in this field; and
- (ii) the implementation of those plans in partnership (where appropriate) with local authorities, homeless charities, voluntary organisations, faith groups and social enterprises.'

was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	335
AGAINST	1

No abstentions were recorded.

**LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH AND PASTORAL ADVISORY GROUP
(GS MISC 1200)**

10 A presentation was given under SO 107.

EXTENSION OF SITTING

Under Standing Order 15(6) the sitting was extended by 15 minutes by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod.

EVENING WORSHIP

Mrs Margaret Swinson led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK dismissed the Synod with the blessing
at 7.30 pm.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 1.00 P.M.
FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2019

BIBLE STUDY

The Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley led the Synod in a Bible Study.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES (GS 2094A, GS 2094B and GS Misc 1212) (Resumed debate)

11 The motion,

‘That this Synod:

- (a) recognise the escalating threat to God’s creation from global warming and climate change, and the suffering caused, particularly to the poor;
- (b) recall the previous resolution of the Synod, including 3 ‘to develop Shrinking the Footprint (StF) to enable the whole Church to address the issue of climate change;
- (c) call on every diocese to have an environment programme with a designated member of the bishop’s staff team to lead and advocate for the programme;
- (d) call on the Environmental Working Group, supported by the national teams for the Church of England Environmental Programme (CoEEP) and Mission & Public Affairs:
 - (i) to prepare and submit a framework plan to the Archbishops’ Council for the promotion , coordination and rapid acceleration of the CoEEP, with particular attention to reducing the Church of England’s energy use and CO2 emissions;
 - (ii) to continue developing, and making available, tools for the annual collation of the energy consumption

- of cathedrals, churches and church halls and calculation of their total CO2 emissions to enable monitoring of progress towards the Church’s target of reducing CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050;
- (iii) to promote communication and peer-review between individual dioceses as a means of encouraging best practice in the area of environmental policy, with special reference to investments, property and land use; and activities supporting the CoEEP and Eco Church Initiatives;
- (iv) to compile and submit a progress report to the Synod at least every three years; and
- (e) call on the Archbishops’ Council urgently to assess what human and financial resources would be required to enable the work in (d) above, and to report this back at the February 2019 group of sessions.

was carried after a vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	279
AGAINST	3

4 abstentions were recorded.

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP (GS 2118) and Annex A

12 The motion

‘That this Synod, welcoming the report from the Archbishops’ Evangelism Task Group and commending the work of the new Evangelism and Discipleship Department:

- a) call on every worshipping community to make evangelism a planned priority for the coming year;
- b) affirm the importance of prayer in the work of evangelism and call on every parish to be involved in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’;
- c) encourage dioceses to envision, equip and enable lay and ordained people to be more confident in the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives; and

- d) ask the Evangelism and Discipleship Team to bring a report to the Synod on the progress made carrying forward the recommendations in GS2098 no later than July 2020.

was moved.

42 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

43 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

44 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost.

45 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

12 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod, welcoming the report from the Archbishops’ Evangelism Task Group and commending the work of the new Evangelism and Discipleship Department

- a) invite every worshipping community to recognise the depth of what God has done for them in Christ, in calling them to a community of praise and thanksgiving;
- b) call on every worshipping community to make evangelism a planned priority for the coming year and always;
- c) affirm the importance of prayer in the work of evangelism and call on every parish to be involved in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’;
- d) encourage dioceses to envision, equip and enable lay and ordained people to be more confident in the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives; and
- e) encourage every worshipping community, diocese, and the National Church Institutions to promote, within the national discourse, a renewed confidence in Christian evangelism and discipleship as bringing a positive, wholesome and practical benefit to individual lives and the life of the nation; and
- f) ask the Evangelism and Discipleship Team to bring a report to the Synod on the progress made carrying forward the recommendations made in GS2098 no later than July 2020.

was carried.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2019

- 23 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was moved.
- 46 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.
- 47 The amendment (Order Paper V) lapsed
- 23 The amendment (Notice Paper I) as amended was lost.
- 24 The amendment (Notice Paper I) lapsed.
- 25 The amendment (Notice Paper I) lapsed.
- 27 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was carried.
- 29 The amendment was not moved.
- 30 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was carried.
- 31 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was carried.
- 32 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was carried.
- 33 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was carried.
- 34 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was lost.
- 35 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was lost after a counted vote by Houses.

The voting was as follows.

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
BISHOPS	19	14
CLERGY	76	66
LAITY	63	99

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 4 in the House of Clergy and 5 in the House of Laity.

36 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was moved.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

37 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was not moved.

38 The amendment (Notice Paper I) was not moved.

GROWING FAITH: MINISTRY AMONGST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (GS 2121)

13 The motion

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the House of Bishops’ vision set out in Growing Faith (GS 2121); and
- b) encourage all dioceses, parishes, fresh expressions, Church of England schools and college or university chaplaincies to ensure they weave it through every strand of their strategies for mission and ministry.’

was moved.

48 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

13 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the House of Bishops’ vision set out in Growing Faith (GS 2121); and

- b) encourage all dioceses, parishes, fresh expressions, Church of England schools, cathedrals and college or university chaplaincies to ensure they weave it through every strand of their strategies for mission and ministry.’

was carried.

FAREWELLS

- 14 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to the Bishop of Dover and the Bishop of Norwich who were attending their last meeting of the Synod.

ESTATES EVANGELISM (GS 2122)

- 15 The motion

‘That this Synod, committed to the Church of England’s vocation to be a Christian presence in every community, and noting the historic marginalisation of social housing estates in the policies of both church and nation:

- a) commend the vision of the Estates Evangelism Task Group to see a serving, loving and worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate in the country;
- b) urge every diocese to build ministry and mission on estates into its mission strategies, clergy deployment plans and SDF funding bids; and
- c) give thanks for the Christian leadership offered by people from estate communities and calls upon the Archbishops’ Council, the Church Commissioners and the NCIs, through their work under the Renewal and Reform programme, to enable the voices of people from estates and other marginalised communities to be heard and heeded in the life of the Church of England.’

was carried.

WORSHIP

The Revd Graham Hunter led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with a blessing at 7.30 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 1.00 P.M.
SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2019

WORSHIP

The community of St Anselm led the Synod in an act of worship.

**CENTURIES OF MARGINALISATION, VISIONS OF HOPE:
MISSION AND MINISTRY AMONG GYPSY, ROMA AND
TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES (GS 2123)**

16 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

17 The motion

That this Synod, mindful of the Church of England's commitment to combat racism in all its manifestations:

- a) call upon the Church's leadership, including the Lords Spiritual, other bishops, senior staff, the Mission and Public Affairs Division and others, to speak out publicly against racism and hate crime directed against Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Roma, and urge the media to stop denigrating and victimising these communities;
- b) request every diocese to appoint a chaplain to Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, to provide pastoral care, harness the potential for church growth among these communities and help combat racism in the Church and wider communities; and
- c) request the Mission and Public Affairs Council, in its forthcoming work on housing, to evaluate the importance of provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in wider housing policy and recommend Church bodies to play their

part in lobbying for and enabling land to be made available for such sites.’

was moved.

- 49 With the permission of the Chair, the amendment (Order Paper VI) was moved in the following form:

‘() request the Lords Spiritual and staff of the National Church Institutions to meet with representatives from Her Majesty's Government and Loyal Opposition, as well as leaders from Local Government, including the Local Government Association, to co-ordinate and collaborate on shared plans to make traveller stopping points available across England, to develop community cohesion.’

The amendment was carried.

- 17 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod, mindful of the Church of England’s commitment to combat racism in all its manifestations:

- a) call upon the Church’s leadership, including the Lords Spiritual, other bishops, senior staff, the Mission and Public Affairs Division and others, to speak out publicly against racism and hate crime directed against Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Roma, and urge the media to stop denigrating and victimising these communities;
- b) request every diocese to appoint a chaplain to Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, to provide pastoral care, harness the potential for church growth among these communities and help combat racism in the Church and wider communities;
- c) request the Mission and Public Affairs Council, in its forthcoming work on housing, to evaluate the importance of provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers in wider housing policy, and recommend Church bodies to play their part in lobbying for and enabling land to be made available for such sites; and

- d) request the Lords Spiritual and staff of the National Church Institutions to meet with representatives from Her Majesty's Government and Loyal Opposition, as well as leaders from Local Government, including the Local Government Association, to co-ordinate and collaborate on shared plans to make traveller stopping points available across England, to develop community cohesion.'

The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	265
AGAINST	1

No abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA III

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION

ENCOURAGING YOUTH EVANGELISM (GS 2124A AND GS2124B)

18 The motion

'That this Synod:

- a) affirm the importance of evangelism to and with younger people, recognising that many parishes and fresh expressions of church are doing excellent work with young people;
- b) commend the work of Diocesan Youth Officers and the staff of the National Church Institutions in inspiring the wider Church in youth evangelism;
- c) support dioceses in investing resources to create more youth ministry posts across the Church; and
- d) encourage dioceses and parishes to consider fresh ways to reach young people with the good news of Jesus Christ and to nurture them as Christian disciples.'

was moved.

50 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

18 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod:

- a) affirm the importance of evangelism to and with younger people, recognising that many parishes and fresh expressions of church are doing excellent work with young people;
- b) commend the work of Diocesan Youth Officers and the staff of the National Church Institutions in inspiring the wider Church in youth evangelism;
- c) support dioceses in investing resources to create more youth ministry posts across the Church; and
- d) encourage dioceses and parishes to consider fresh ways to reach young people with the good news of Jesus Christ and to nurture them as Christian disciples, in particular by helping Christian parents fulfil these tasks with their own children.’

was carried.

ADVERTISING AND GAMBLING (GS 2125)

19 The motion

‘That this Synod, noting the greatly increased levels of gambling advertising and research showing significant levels of gambling by children:

- a) call on Her Majesty’s Government to reduce the quantity and pervasiveness of gambling advertising and introduce a mandatory levy on gambling firms to fund independently commissioned research, education, and treatment programs;
- b) encourage churches to be an open place for people who have problems with gambling to seek support; and
- c) ask churches to support initiatives which educate children and young people about risks related to gambling.’

was moved.

51 The amendment (Order Paper VI) lapsed.

19 The motion

‘That this Synod, noting the greatly increased levels of gambling advertising and research showing significant levels of gambling by children:

- a) call on Her Majesty’s Government to reduce the quantity and pervasiveness of gambling advertising and introduce a mandatory levy on gambling firms to fund independently commissioned research, education, and treatment programs;
- b) encourage churches to be an open place for people who have problems with gambling to seek support; and
- c) ask churches to support initiatives which educate children and young people about risks related to gambling.’

was carried.

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY 2019 GROUP OF SESSIONS

BUSINESS DONE AT 3.45 P.M.

ON SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

THE STATE OF THE NATION: MOTION FROM THE PRESIDENTS

20 The motion

‘That this Synod, knowing through the experiences of parishes across the country that social divisions feel more entrenched and intractable than for many years, and concerned at the divisions within the major political parties which are stifling the emergence of a hopeful and viable vision for the common good in our communities:

- a) call upon every diocese and parish regularly to hold in prayer their local MPs and politicians and the members of Her Majesty’s Government and civil servants, seeking God’s strength and wisdom for the responsibilities they bear;
- b) reaffirm the Christian commitment to putting the voices of the poor and marginalised at the heart of the nation’s concerns; and
- c) call upon the nation’s leaders, drawing on Christian hope and reconciliation, to work together for that common good at this time of division.’

was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	240
AGAINST	0

1 abstention was recorded.

FAREWELLS

- 21 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to Mr Stephen Slack, Registrar and Chief Legal Adviser to the Synod who was attending his last meeting of the Synod and the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to Mr Jonathan Spencer, Chair of the Church of England Pensions Board, who was also attending his last meeting of the Synod.

PROROGATION

- 22 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod and dismissed it with the blessing at 3.45 p.m.