

## **GENERAL SYNOD**

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### **FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2020**

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#### **TENTH NOTICE PAPER**

#### **QUESTIONS ERRATA**

There have been revisions to the answers submitted to question 55 and 82. The revised answers are set out below.

#### **QUESTION 55**

**Mr Martin Sewell (Rochester) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

Following the withdrawal of PTO to the Revd Jonathan Fletcher in the context of abuse allegation, investigation, and victim support costs to the Church of England, what steps have been taken, by letters to clergy or otherwise, to ensure that Churches known to have historically welcomed and promoted his ministry, neither permit him to worship without a comprehensive Safeguarding Agreement in place, nor hold him out as teaching with the authority of our Church and under its insurance cover, formally or informally?

*The Bishop of Bath & Wells to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:*

When the Revd Jonathan Fletcher no longer held the Bishop of Southwark's Permission To Officiate, those known to be intending to use Jonathan Fletcher as a preacher were informed that he did not have the Bishop's authority to preach. The Diocese of Southwark is continuing to seek a comprehensive Safeguarding Agreement with the Revd Jonathan Fletcher, which would stipulate arrangements for worship and all other

involvement in any Church of England church in the Diocese and beyond.

## **QUESTION 69**

### **Mrs Karen Galloway (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**Q69** In November 2019, in answer to a question (Q.27) from Mrs Kat Alldread (Derby) asking for a brief update as to progress on the “long-awaited” Safe Spaces Project, the Bishop of London stated: “The invitation to tender for the Safe Spaces project has taken place and an evaluation panel for prospective providers happened on November 11th. This Panel included both officers and survivors. The recommendations of the Panel evaluation will be discussed at the next Safe Spaces Management Board in November and next steps determined.”

On 21 December 2019, a statement posted on the C of E website, “Update on Safe Spaces following Media report” (being a reference to a report, “Not a prayer...” on page 38 of Private Eye No. 1512) by “a spokesperson for the National Safeguarding Team,” regretted and apologised for the delay in progressing the proposed support service (first officially discussed in 2014) and stated: “no money from the £592,000 grant has been spent to date, and no new company has been set up. Pre set-up costs, procurement, project management and development are separate to this and the cost is being shared across both Churches” [i.e. the C of E and the Roman Catholic church.]

In the light of the Bishop of London’s answer and the above media statement, can the House of Bishops provide Synod members with an update on the progress of the project since November 2019, including the amount so far spent from each relevant funding source?

### *The Bishop of London to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:*

The evaluation panel that was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> unanimously agreed that the applications received were not of sufficient standard to identify a provider to deliver the project. Following the Safe Spaces Board referred to above, work was directed to canvas other providers in the market including some who had originally expressed interest in the tender and not made a subsequent bid. This work revealed that some organisations expressed interest in submitting further bids through a revised and streamlined process. These subsequent bids needed to have been received by February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will then identify a partner to take on the contract, involving survivors in that selection process and the subsequent partnership development. Money from the

relevant funding sources allocated to the project contract (£592k combined from the All Churches Trust, the Roman Catholic Church and the Archbishops' Council) has not been spent.

## **QUESTION 82**

### **Mrs April Alexander (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

It is now two years since Professor O'Donovan reported in great detail about how Synod should conduct its elections to the CNC and about how the Crown Nominations Commission should conduct itself. Only one clutch of proposals has come to Synod and that was defeated. What plans are there for bringing back those proposals to Synod and for making the other changes which the Professor put forward?

### ***The Bishop of Lichfield to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:***

The oversight group set up to monitor the progress on the discussion and implementation of the recommendation set out in "Discerning in Obedience" (GS Misc 1171) has presented two reports to Synod: GS Misc 1209 and GS Misc 1232. These reports explain the progress that is being made and set out the plans for the future.

It is anticipated that the CNC Election Process Review Group will report to Synod in July 2020. Other standing order work, such as reviewing the process for a vacancy in the See of Canterbury, will be the focus after this. Work is also progressing in relation to other recommendations such as earlier engagement with dioceses, ways of working and managing episcopal lists. Some of these will require engagement with Synod.

There are currently no plans for bringing the proposals defeated in February 2019 back to Synod.