

Agenda

Special Session September 2020

**GENERAL SYNOD
SPECIAL SESSION SEPTEMBER 2020
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER**

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Thursday 24 September

10.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.

3.15 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

SERVICES

Thursday 24 September

10.30 a.m.

Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall

GENERAL NOTES

SPECIAL SESSION

1. This special session has been summoned by the Presidents under SO 2(6)(b).
2. In accordance with SO 4(6), the agenda for a special session must include only such business as the Business Committee specifies, subject to the possibility of business being added by the Presidents under SO 4(3).

NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS

3. Notice of amendments to legislative business must be given by **5.30pm on Friday 18 September**.
4. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chair (SO 26(4)(a)).
5. The email address in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda is: **amendments@churchofengland.org** .

ORDER OF BUSINESS

6. Business set out in the Agenda will be taken at the times shown.

CONTACT

7. Please address queries or other matters not covered in these notes to the Clerk to the Synod as follows:

clerk@churchofengland.org.

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

10.30 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.

WORSHIP

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

500 Draft General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders)
Measure (**GS 2176**)

- *First Consideration*

Draft General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders)
Measure (**GS 2176**)

- *Revision Stage*

3.15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA I LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

501 - Draft General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders)
502 Measure (**GS 2176**)

- *Final Drafting (if required) and Final Approval*

Not later than 6.55pm

2 PROROGATION

**DRAFT GENERAL SYNOD (REMOTE MEETINGS) (TEMPORARY
STANDING ORDERS) MEASURE (GS 2176)**

Draft Measure for First Consideration

Draft Measure for Revision in Full Synod

Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval

First Consideration Stage

*The Chair of the Steering Committee (Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC)
(Manchester) to move:*

- 500** 'That the Measure entitled "General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders) Measure" be considered for revision in Full Synod.'

Revision Stage

- 1. If item 500 is carried, the Revision Stage, without a prior Revision Committee Stage, will follow.*
- 2. On the Revision Stage in Full Synod, the Measure is subject to the same general procedure as a Measure on a Revision Stage following a Revision Committee stage – i.e. consideration of the Measure clause by clause, together with any amendments of which due notice has been given.*
- 3. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment for the Revision Stage under SO 59(1) must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 18 September 2020.***

Final Drafting Stage

*The Chair of the Steering Committee (Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC)
(Manchester) to move:*

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

Note:

- 1. If the Steering Committee considers that it is unnecessary to consider the Measure in respect of its final drafting, the Synod will be informed accordingly and item 501 will not be moved.*
- 2. If item 501 is moved and carried, any special amendments will then be moved (SO 61(8)).*

Final Approval Stage

*The Chair of the Steering Committee (Mr Geoffrey Tattersall QC)
(Manchester) to move:*

- 502** 'That the Measure entitled "General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders) Measure" be finally approved.'

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 7 September 2020.

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Mr Edward Shaw (Bristol) to move:

That this Synod, convinced that all people without exception are loved by God and made in His image and are invited to fullness of life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, affirm:

- (a) its rejection of the fear or dislike of anyone on the basis of their sexual orientation.
- (b) the radically inclusive nature of Jesus's ministry and message to all people: "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
- (c) that marriage, as defined by Jesus, is the lifelong sexual union of a man and a woman.
- (d) that both those who marry and those who are single, as Jesus Himself was, can enjoy Christ-like relationships and the fullness of life which He offers all.
- (e) that all Christians should repent of any sexual activity outside marriage, in the assurance of God's loving forgiveness in Christ.
- (f) that all God's holy people are called to live out this calling, for their own good and for the life of the world they are called to serve.

104 signatures

March 2017

REVIEW OF THE ‘FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES’

Mr David Lamming (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to move:

That this Synod:

- (a) share the sadness and regret of the Rt Revd Philip North in his decision, announced on 9 March 2017, to withdraw acceptance of his nomination to the See of Sheffield;
- (b) note the substantial support for Bishop North's nomination from many women and men, lay and ordained, in the dioceses of both Sheffield and Blackburn, and in the wider Church of England;
- (c) express its full support for Bishop North in his future ministry, whether in the Blackburn diocese or elsewhere;
- (d) note, with concern, the implications of Bishop North's decision, and the public debate that preceded it, for the 'mutual flourishing' of the Church of England; and
- (e) request the House of Bishops urgently to review the 'Five Guiding Principles' and to consider whether they need to be amended or amplified in order to ensure that there is an equal place at all levels in the Church for men and women of different theological convictions on the issue of women's ordination, and to report to the Synod by February 2018.

100 signatures

March 2017

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

LITURGIES FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

Ms Christina Baron (Bath & Wells) to move:

That this Synod,

Request the House of Bishops to commend an Order of Prayer and Dedication after the registration of a civil partnership or a same sex marriage for use by ministers in exercise of their discretion under Canon B5, being a form of service neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter, together with guidance that no parish should be obliged to host, nor minister conduct, such a service.

102 signatures

March 2018

EUCCHARISTIC PRESIDENCY

Mr David Lamming (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) to move:

‘That this Synod, having regard in particular to:

- (a) changes in thinking on the role of the laity in leadership in the Church over the past 25 years, and
- (b) the lack of any Scriptural basis for the Church’s current practice restricting the administration of the sacrament at Holy Communion to ordained priests,

request the House of Bishops to reconsider its position (as set out in its April 1997 report Eucharistic Presidency, GS 1248) that the Church should maintain its inherited position that the person who presides at the Eucharist must be an ordained priest.

57 signatures

February 2019

THE FURTHER USE OF CHURCHYARDS

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) to move:

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to:

- (a) consider the position in relation to further burials in churchyards which have been closed by Order in Council; and
- (b) make representations to Her Majesty's Government on the matter with a view to primary legislation being brought forward (whether by way of Measure or Act of Parliament) to facilitate such burials in appropriate cases.’

4 signatures

September 2019

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

SAFEGUARDING & TENDERING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising that the use of tendering for professional services is widely regarded as good practice in the charitable and commercial sectors, and noting the need for high levels confidence that must exist regarding commercial relationships between the Church and its service providers in the field of safeguarding:

invite the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward legislation and associated guidance which require the use of regular tendering processes in the provision of legal, financial and insurance services by parishes, dioceses and the National Church Institutions.’

November 2019

FUNDING OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS

Mr Samuel Margrave (Coventry) to move:

That this Synod, valuing the ministry of Parish Priests, call on the National Church Institutions to:

- (a) work to end all unnecessary expenditure which does not resource parish churches or parish ministry
- (b) reduce Bishops’ stipends to the same level as that of a parish Priest;
- (c) undertake a review of the funding of Bishops;
- (d) target funding to support poorer parishes through financial difficulties and to radically invest in the reinvigoration of poorer parishes, and
- (e) publish the expenditure of Bishops’ offices and associated costs in the same way as MPs.

2 signatures

July 2020

HOLY COMMUNION USING INDIVIDUAL CUPS

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to move:

That this Synod, mindful of Our Lord’s command that we should both eat and drink in remembrance of Him, ask that legislation be brought forward to provide that, in times when risk of serious infection makes it unsafe to communicate using a common cup, it shall be lawful to administer Holy Communion using individual cups.

64 signatures

July 2020

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT

NB: Bath & Wells, Chelmsford, Guildford, Lincoln, London, Oxford and St Albans Diocesan Synods have now withdrawn their DSM on the Anglican Communion

... to move on behalf of the Manchester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and
- (c) call on the House of Bishops:
 - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England’s involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
 - (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
 - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference. ’

March 2012

[The Newcastle, and Worcester Diocesan Synods passed a motion in identical terms.]

ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT

... to move on behalf of the Southwark Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason, all as set out in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the draft Anglican Communion Covenant;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and
- (c) call on the House of Bishops:
 - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England’s

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

- involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
- (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
 - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.'

March 2012

LITURGIES FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

... to move on behalf of the Hereford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

request the House of Bishops to commend an Order of Prayer and Dedication after the registration of a civil partnership or a same sex marriage for use by ministers in exercise of their discretion under Canon B5, being a form of service neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter, together with guidance that no parish should be obliged to host, nor minister conduct, such a service.

March 2018

(following an amendment to the Diocesan Synod Motion submitted in November 2017)

THE WEALTH GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR

... to move on behalf of the Leeds Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod call on Her Majesty's Government (and all political parties) to adopt an explicit policy of reducing the wealth gap between the rich and the poor and the disadvantages that flow from it.

June 2018

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PCC MEMBERSHIP AND ENTRY ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

... to move on behalf of the Canterbury Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod invite the Archbishops' Council:

- (a) to conduct a review of:
 - (i) the qualifications for membership of parochial church councils, in the light of the existence of bishops' mission initiatives; and
 - (ii) the qualifications for enrolment on a church electoral roll, and the form of application for enrolment, in the light of the experience of parishes in the diocese that those who attend church regularly do not necessarily understand them; and
- (b) to report to the Synod on the conclusions of the review.

July 2018

CHALLENGING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

... to move on behalf of the Durham Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Government has played internationally in challenging slavery; and
- (b) ask Her Majesty's Government to introduce legislation to ensure proper provision for the ongoing support and protection of trafficked minors is enshrined in law.

July 2018

INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

... to move on behalf of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, noting:

- (a) the various public goods that are delivered by charities, including in the case of churches through their care of nationally valued heritage assets and their provision of community services; and
- (b) the fact that the money needed by charities to meet their liabilities, including Insurance Premium Tax, has to be raised by them, including in the case of churches through fund raising in their local communities

call on Her Majesty's Government to exempt charities, including churches, from liability for Insurance Premium Tax.

April 2019

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PERSECUTED CHURCH

... to move on behalf of the Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod request that:

- (a) the Church of England not only pray for the persecuted church, but that its dioceses offer support to link dioceses where the church is facing persecution, and
- (b) the next Lambeth Conference address the issue of the persecution of Christians.

July 2019

REDUCE PAROCHIAL FEES FOR MARRIAGES

... to move on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod call on the Archbishops' Council:

to introduce an order to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that the fees relating to marriages are set at nil or at a minimal amount in order to demonstrate the Church's commitment to marriage and pastoral care.

March 2020

PRISONER REHABILITATION SCHEMES

... to move on behalf of the Worcester Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, recognising that faith can have a positive impact on an offender's behaviour:

- (a) note with pleasure the decision made by the National Probation Service to recognise faith as a protective factor in reducing reoffending, and its desire to work in partnership with churches, prison and community chaplains and faith communities to support rehabilitation;
- (b) commend the value of partnership working with the National Probation Service as an important additional support in churches' welcome of people leaving prison, including training of clergy and authorised lay ministers;
- (c) call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.

March 2020

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

... to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, affirming the fifth mark of mission, concerned by the scientific evidence that climate change is proceeding at a rapid rate and by the impact of climate events, and seeking to build on the decisions taken with respect to GS 2159:

- (a) urge the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England to prioritise investment in renewable energy;
- (b) call on all parts of the Church of England to review their policies and procedures, in order to ensure that they give due priority to creation care;
- (c) urge the Church of England to further develop pre- and post-ordination and lay training to deepen understanding in how care for the earth is part of our Christian faith and a missional imperative;
- (d) urge all parts of the Church of England to seek to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, in the awareness that our nation has been among those who have benefited most from the emissions that have caused the crisis;
- (e) commit earnestly and regularly to pray - and to promote prayer - about the climate and wider environmental crisis.
- (f) call upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations for the delivery of substantial reduction of the Church's carbon footprint, including, but not restricted to, the following immediate actions in respect of Church buildings:
 - (i) ensuring that the NCIs are adequately resourced to provide DACs, Buildings Departments, Education Departments and others with authoritative national guidance notes, advice and training on key technical and procedural questions relating to adaptation of buildings for the net zero target; and
 - (ii) ensuring that Parish Buying and other national-level entities have the capacity to engage with manufacturers and suppliers of products and processes recommended for making our buildings more efficient, with a view to using the scale of the national net zero project to achieve both sympathetic design and economies of scale on cost.

April 2020

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