

GENERAL SYNOD
APRIL 2021 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2021

WORSHIP

The Revd Charlotte Cook led the Synod in an act of worship.

PRESENTATION

The Reverend Canon Joyce Jones (the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York) was presented to the Archbishop of York.

INTRODUCTION

New member

The Revd Esther Prior, Diocese of Guildford, replacing the Ven Paul Bryer

Other introductions

Canon Robert Hammond, newly elected Chair of the Business Committee

Ms Stephanie Maurel, newly appointed Chief Executive of the Corporation of Church House

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

28 The motion

‘That this Synod request that the Presidents convey to Her Majesty the heartfelt sympathy of the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, assuring Her Majesty of the honour in which his memory will be held by them and of their prayers for Her Majesty and all the Royal Family.’

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

IN FAVOUR	279 ¹
AGAINST	0

1 abstention was recorded.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

29 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2196)

2 The motion

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

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

IN FAVOUR	278
AGAINST	1

13 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT SAFEGUARDING (CODE OF PRACTICE) MEASURE (GS 2182)

Draft Measure for Revision in Full Synod

505 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

506 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

¹ This figure includes two unannounced votes in favour of the motion

- 507 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 508 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 509 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 510 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 511 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a) the order of business for the current sitting was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that all items of business related to the 57th Report of the Standing Orders Committee (i.e. items 13 to 27 and 31 to 35) were removed from the agenda for this group of sessions.

- 512 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 513 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 514 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.
- 515 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (GS 2197)

- 3 The motion

‘That this Synod, believing that freedom of religion or belief is of importance to everyone, everywhere, and that Christians who enjoy this freedom should be active in advocating the same freedom for others:

- (a) note with concern that 83% of the global population live in countries where violations to freedom of religion or belief occur;
- (b) affirm that freedom of religion or belief, as set out in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is a necessary condition for human and societal flourishing;
- (c) call upon the Mission and Public Affairs Council to use the resources produced by its involvement in the Freedom of Religion and Belief Leadership Network to assist parishes and dioceses to advocate for freedom of religion or belief internationally

(d) call upon Her Majesty's Government to

- (i) implement the recommendations of the Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians (2019) and
- (ii) to strengthen its commitment to upholding and protecting the right to freedom of religion or belief for all in its foreign, international development, defence and trade policy.'

was moved.

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

IN FAVOUR	90
AGAINST	188

30 abstentions were recorded.

3 The motion

'That this Synod, believing that freedom of religion or belief is of importance to everyone, everywhere, and that Christians who enjoy this freedom should be active in advocating the same freedom for others:

- a) note with concern that 83% of the global population live in countries where violations to freedom of religion or belief occur;
- b) affirm that freedom of religion or belief, as set out in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is a necessary condition for human and societal flourishing;
- c) call upon the Mission and Public Affairs Council to use the resources produced by its involvement in the Freedom of Religion and Belief Leadership Network to assist parishes and dioceses to advocate for freedom of religion or belief internationally
- d) call upon Her Majesty's Government to:

- (i) implement the recommendations of the Bishop of Truro’s Independent Review for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians (2019) and
- (ii) to strengthen its commitment to upholding and protecting the right to freedom of religion or belief for all in its foreign, international development, defence and trade policy.’

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

IN FAVOUR	313
AGAINST	0

3 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM (CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS) ORDER (GS 2193A)

502 The motion

‘That the draft Legislative Reform (Church of England Pensions) Order 2021 be approved.’

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

IN FAVOUR	217
AGAINST	45

29 abstentions were recorded.

The Chair reported that the Draft Legislative Reform (Church of England Pensions) Order would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

QUESTIONS

- 4 Supplementary questions were answered in respect of questions 1 to 48 set out in the Questions Notice Paper.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker led the Synod in an act of worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with the blessing at 7.00 pm.

PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST ORDER 2021 (GS 2206)

Order under section 65 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 for approval

Under Standing Order 71(2) the Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2021 was deemed to have been approved by the General Synod, no member having given notice of a wish to have the Order debated.