

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	281 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

¹ The figure announced by the Chair was 271 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

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

IN FAVOUR	278
AGAINST	0

2 abstentions were recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR	275 ²
AGAINST	0

1 abstention was recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR	276
AGAINST	2

1 abstention was recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR	282 ³
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² The figure announced by the Chair was 274 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

AGAINST 0

1 abstention was recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR 281⁴

AGAINST 0

1 abstention was recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR 274

AGAINST 1

11 abstentions were recorded.

511 The motion ‘that clause 1 stand part of the Measure’ (Order Paper I) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 289⁵

AGAINST 0

1 abstention was recorded.

³ The figure announced by the Chair was 281 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

⁴ The figure announced by the Chair was 282 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

⁵ The figure announced by the Chair was 290 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

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. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	207
AGAINST	10

17 abstentions were recorded.

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

IN FAVOUR	263
AGAINST	1

2 abstentions were recorded.

513 The motion ‘that clause 2 stand part of the Measure’ (Order Paper I) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	272
AGAINST	0

3 abstentions were recorded.

514 The motion ‘that clause 3 stand part of the Measure’ (Order Paper I) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	289 ⁶
AGAINST	0

2 abstentions were recorded.⁷

515 The motion ‘that the Long Title stand part of the Measure’ (Order Paper I) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	294
AGAINST	0

2 abstentions were recorded.

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

⁶ The figure announced by the Chair was 288 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

⁷ The figure announced by the Chair was 1 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

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 ⁸
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;

⁸ The figure announced by the Chair was 89 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

- 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	303 ⁹
AGAINST	0

3 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

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

502 The motion

⁹ The figure announced by the Chair was 313 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

‘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.

GENERAL SYNOD
APRIL 2021 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.30 P.M.
ON SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2021

WORSHIP

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 29(8)

The motion

‘That Standing Order 38(9) be suspended for the duration of
the remainder of the current Group of Sessions.’

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

IN FAVOUR	270
AGAINST	4

2 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 (GS 2199)

503A The motion

‘That the Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 be
considered.’

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

IN FAVOUR	306 ¹⁰
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

516 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried after a after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	300
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

503B The motion

‘That the Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 (as amended) be approved.’

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

IN FAVOUR	301 ¹¹
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

The Chair reported that the Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 (as amended) would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

¹⁰ The figure announced by the Chair was 305 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

¹¹ The figure announced by the Chair was 306 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS BOARD (GS 2200)

5 The motion

‘That the appointment of Mr Clive Mather as Chair of the Church of England Pensions Board for a further term expiring on 30 April 2024 be approved’.

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

IN FAVOUR	301
AGAINST	0

1 abstention was recorded.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE DIOCESES COMMISSION (GS 2201)

6 The motion

‘That the appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission for a term expiring on 30 April 2022 be approved’.

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

IN FAVOUR	302
AGAINST	0

4 abstentions were recorded.

FAREWELLS

- 7 The Archbishop of Canterbury paid tribute to the Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth who was retiring.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Draft Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure (GS 2182A)

- 501 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure” be finally approved.’

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	29	0
Clergy	131	0
Laity	146	0

No abstentions were recorded.

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

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 to bring forward consideration of item 504 (Clergy Discipline Measure 2003: Code of Practice) from before item 12 to before item 8. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	296
AGAINST	0

2 abstentions were recorded.

**SPECIAL AGENDA
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

**CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003: CODE OF PRACTICE (GS
2205)**

**Code of Practice under section 39 of the Clergy Discipline Measure
2003 for approval**

504 The motion

‘That the revised Clergy Discipline Measure 2003: Code
of Practice be approved.’

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

IN FAVOUR	285
AGAINST	0

6 abstentions were recorded.

GENERAL SYNOD

APRIL 2021 GROUP OF SESSIONS

BUSINESS DONE AT 5.30 P.M.

ON SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2021

RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATION: A REVIEW OF THE ELECTION PROCESSES TO THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION (GS 2202)

8 The motion

‘That this Synod endorse the recommendations set out in section 6 of the report Responsible Representation: a review of the electoral processes to the Crown Nominations Commission (GS 2202).’

was moved.

36 The amendment (Order paper III) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 302

AGAINST 9

10 abstentions were recorded.

37 The amendment (Order paper III) was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 115

AGAINST 195

14 abstentions were recorded.

38 The amendment (Order paper III) was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	98
AGAINST	190 ¹²

24 abstentions were recorded.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

The motion

‘That the debate be now adjourned and resumed at the July 2021 group of sessions’

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

IN FAVOUR	34
AGAINST	266

12 abstentions were recorded.

8 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod receive the recommendations set out in section 6 of the report Responsible Representation: a review of the electoral processes to the Crown Nominations Commission (GS 2202) and request that steps be taken towards their implementation, including bringing the necessary legislative business and Standing Orders amendments to the Synod for decision.’

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

¹² The figure announced by the Chair was 189 but this was subsequently found to be inaccurate when the figures recorded on the voting system were examined.

IN FAVOUR	293
AGAINST	18

16 abstentions were recorded.

VARIATION IN 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 so that item 9 would be taken after item 10 and that the rubric preceding item 12 (Prorogation) be amended to read “not later than 5.30 p.m.” after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	202
AGAINST	27

11 abstentions were recorded.

SAFEGUARDING: NATIONAL PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OCTOBER 2020 INVESTIGATION REPORT (GS 2204)

10 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	295
AGAINST	0

0 abstentions were recorded.

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2020: ALLOCATION OF SEATS AMENDMENT RESOLUTION (GS 2203)

9 The motion

‘That the resolution passed by the Synod as item 13 at the February 2020 group of sessions (General Synod elections 2020: allocation of seats) be amended as follows:

- (a) in paragraph (a), for “2020” substitute “2021”;
- (b) in paragraph (b) –
 - i. for “2020” substitute “2021”; and
 - ii. for “Appendix B of GS 2162” insert “Appendix A of GS 2203”.’

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

IN FAVOUR	256
AGAINST	1

4 abstentions were recorded.

FAREWELLS

- 10 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to: the Revd Sue Boys, Chair of the Business Committee; the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam; and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Revd Peter Hancock who were attending their last meeting of the Synod. The ARCHBISHOP also paid tribute to the Revd Canon John Rees upon his retirement as Provincial Registrar of the Province of Canterbury.

PROROGATION

- 12 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod until Friday 9th July 2021 and dismissed it with the blessing at 5.30 p.m.