

Agenda

November Group of Sessions 2021

**GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2021
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER**

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Tuesday 16 November	2.45 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 17 November	9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

SERVICES

Tuesday 16 November	
10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey <i>(entry by ticket only)</i>
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Wednesday 17 November	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.05 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel

GENERAL NOTES

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS

1. Save where a special note is included in the Agenda, the following rules apply under the Standing Orders of the General Synod to notice of motions and amendments other than procedural motions:

NEW BUSINESS

2. The period of notice of new business **has expired**, save for urgent or other specially important business included by the direction of the Presidents.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS ARISING OUT OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

3. Notice of motions and amendments arising out of business on the Agenda (other than amendments to legislative business and to proposed amendments to Standing Orders) must be delivered to the Clerk as follows (SOs 10-13 and 27):

Business appointed for the first day of the group of sessions (Tuesday 16 November)

5.30 p.m. on Monday 15 November.

Business appointed for the remaining days of the group of sessions

Business appointed for a *morning* sitting:

10.00 a.m. the day before.

Business appointed for an *afternoon* sitting:

4.00 p.m. the day before.

4. Under Standing Orders 10 and 27, such notice must be accompanied by evidence of support from two or more members of the Synod in addition to the member giving the notice. (This provision does *not* apply to amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders.)
5. Notice of amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders must be given in accordance with the notes accompanying the relevant item in the Agenda
6. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chair (SO 26(4)(a)).
7. The email address in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda is: amendments@churchofengland.org.

QUESTIONS

8. In exercise of its power under SO 12 the Business Committee had determined that notice of Questions under Standing Orders 112-113 must be delivered **not later than 12 noon on Thursday 4 November 2021.**

NOTICE

9. Notice must be given to the Clerk to the Synod in writing signed by the member or by e-mail, from an address notified to the Clerk, to the relevant one of the email addresses below. The postal address is Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3AZ. The fax number is 020 7898 1369. The e-mail addresses are:

in respect of questions:

questions@churchofengland.org

in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda:

amendments@churchofengland.org.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

10. Business set out in the Agenda will be taken on the day and at the times shown. If business set down for a particular day is completed before the next timed business is due to be called, the opportunity will be taken to complete any business already partly considered at this group of sessions.

CONTACT

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

clerk@churchofengland.org.

MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY

12. The House of Laity will meet from 4.45 p.m. on Wednesday 17 November in the Assembly Hall

TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2021

2.45 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

2 WELCOME TO THE FIRST CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- 3 *The Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York will give a Presidential Address.*
-

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2233)

Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

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

GENEROSITY AND DIOCESAN FINANCES (GS 2234)

The Bishop of Sheffield to move:

- 5 'That this Synod request the Archbishops' Council to develop legislative proposals, to be brought to a future Group of Sessions, to give dioceses more freedom to be generous with their historic wealth to other dioceses in the Church of England, and in this way enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth.'
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Not later than 5.30 p.m.

6 QUESTIONS

Note: *The Business Committee has determined in exercise of its power under SO 12 that notice of any question must be delivered **not later than 12 noon on Thursday 4 November 2021.***

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

WORSHIP

LOYAL ADDRESS

The Archbishop of Canterbury to move:

- 7 'That a Loyal Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen.'
-

SPECIAL AGENDA IV DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

THE WEALTH GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR (GS 2170A AND GS 2170B)

The Revd Canon Paul Cartwright (Leeds) to move:

- 8 '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.'
-

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL BUDGET 2022 AND APPORTIONMENT 2022 – UPDATE REPORT (GS 2235)

Canon John Spence (ex officio) (Chair of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee) to move:

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

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following item (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I – see page 6) will be taken:

- 500 Vacancy in See Committees Regulation (GS 2236X)
- *Proclamation as an Act of Synod*
-

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2237)

One of the Presidents to move:

- 10 'That the appointment of Mr Mark Sheard as a member of Archbishops' Council for a further term expiring on 14 February 2027 be approved.'
-

WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021

2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

VISION AND STRATEGY (GS 2238)

- 11 Presentation under SO 107

Note: The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.

REPORT BY THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW GROUP (GS 2239)

- 12 Presentation under SO 107

Note: The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.

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- 13 FAREWELLS

-
- 14 PROROGATION
-

MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY

The House of Laity will meet at 4.45 p.m. in the Assembly Hall

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION (GS 2236X)

Affirmation and proclamation as an Act of Synod

One of the Presidents being in the Chair to move:

- 500** 'That the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993, as amended by the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2003, the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2007, the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2008, the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2013 and the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2021, be solemnly affirmed and proclaimed an Act of Synod.'

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

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

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

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;

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

- (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

ECO-DIOCESE PROGRAMME

... to move on behalf of the St Albans Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod, following the motion passed by this Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request that every diocese register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme.'

December 2020

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PAROCHIAL FEES

... to move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to lay a draft order before the Synod to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that a fee payable to the parochial church council is prescribed in respect of funeral services that take place at crematoria and cemeteries.’

March 2021

FUTURE OF WORK

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

‘That this Synod:

mindful of the deep economic effects of the pandemic, the impacts of new technology, and the global rise of new forms of working--

- (a) affirm the dignity and value of purposeful work as a significant component of human flourishing
- (b) endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by Fair.work and
- (c) call for the Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) together with Mission and Public Affairs Committee to advise on what is essential to purposeful, dignified, and fair work in the context of the fourth industrial revolution now in progress.’

March 2021

KAIROS PALESTINE

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

‘That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the “Cry for Hope” expressed by Palestinian Christians and the ‘Global Kairos for Justice’ coalition (GKfJ);
- (b) request that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

- (c) instruct the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and thereby make decisions regarding engagement with, and divestment from, companies which profit from the occupation.'

October 2021