

GENERAL SYNOD

NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2021

THIRD NOTICE PAPER

INAUGURATION 2021: INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS

The Eleventh General Synod of the Church of England will be inaugurated on Tuesday 16 November 2021 in the presence of His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex. The programme for the day will be:

From 8.15 am	Members to arrive at Church House
10.15 am	Members to be seated in Westminster Abbey
10.45 am	A Service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey
12.45 pm	Opening Ceremony in the Assembly Hall of Church House
2.45 pm	First Session of the General Synod

ACCESS

Church House will be open from 8.15 a.m. Please use the North Door entrance on Great Smith Street only. There will be restricted access to Church House and you must show your ticket for the Abbey service and at least one form of photographic identification as you enter the North Door. This can include your Synod pass which can be collected from 9.30am on Monday 15 November in Church House.

Security staff will **not allow anyone into Westminster Abbey or Church House without a ticket and some form of photographic identification.** If you have not received your ticket through the post, please speak to the Synod team, preferably on Monday 15 November, to arrange a replacement.

You will need to leave all your belongings in Church House. The basement will be used as a cloakroom. After depositing your belongs, you should head over to Westminster Abbey via the cloister entrance. Please do not take anything larger than a handbag with you to the Abbey. There will be stewards along the route to assist you. **Allow plenty of time.**

Please expect to be searched as you enter Westminster Abbey.

CLOAKROOM AND ROBING ARRANGEMENTS

Bishops and Clergy are to wear Convocation robes. These are:

For Bishops Cassock; rochet; scarlet chimere; black scarf

For Clergy Cassock and bands; academic gown (or black priest's gown) and hood (if applicable) or doctoral robe; black scarf

Members of the House of Laity will wear ordinary day dress, except the Legal Officers, representatives of Religious Orders and the Armed Forces Synodical Council.

Ordained Ecumenical Representatives are invited to robe according to the tradition of their own churches.

The following rooms have been allocated as robing and cloakrooms for the morning of 16 November:

Female Bishops: Donald Coggan Room, Basement

Male Bishops: Bishops' Robing Room, First floor

Female Clergy: Abbey Room, Ground Floor

Male Clergy: William Temple Room & Michael Ramsey Room, Basement

Ecumenical Guests: Westminster Room, Ground floor

Deaf Anglicans Together gathering room: Herbert Baker Room, Ground floor

There will be no specific changing facilities for other members of Synod so you are advised to arrive dressed as you intend to be for the remainder of the day.

Please note that Church House will be subject to a Police security search whilst the service is in progress in Westminster Abbey and will therefore not be open until after the service has finished.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY SERVICE

Members of the General Synod will be seated in diocesan blocks and will be directed to their seats by stewards. Guests of Synod members have been allocated seats elsewhere in the Abbey.

The preacher will be Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London.

Hard copy orders of service will be available on your seat.

After the service, members will be directed back to Church House for the inauguration ceremony, stewards will be on hand to direct members.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY: CHURCH HOUSE

Members are asked to **move quickly** from the Abbey to Church House via Dean's Yard. Entrance to Church House will be by the Dean's Yard entrance. **Members will not be admitted to Church House or to the Assembly Hall unless they have a ticket and some form of photographic of identification.** Please carry your ticket so that the security staff and stewards can readily see it.

Members are asked to exercise patience if there is congestion in the corridors and on the stairs. Bishops and Clergy are to continue to wear their robes for the opening ceremony in Church House. Members are asked to be in their seats by 12.30pm. Stewards will be on duty to help members to find seats.

White or gold tickets: please go directly to the Assembly Hall on the first floor.

Lilac tickets: please make your way to the balcony on the second floor.

During the Opening Ceremony, members are asked to stand and remain silent when The Earl of Wessex enters the Assembly Hall. The Earl will be escorted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Joint Presidents of the Synod.

The ceremony itself will consist of a speech by the Archbishop of Canterbury greeting The Earl of Wessex, a formal announcement of Returns by the Registrar and the Secretary General, followed by a short address delivered on behalf of The Queen and a response by the Archbishop of York.

At the end of the ceremony, members will stand as The Earl of Wessex leaves the Hall. They should then resume their seats until they are told to depart.

The first working session of the General Synod will begin at 2.45 pm. A bell will be rung to warn members of the commencement of the session.