

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2022 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022

STANDING ORDERS UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE GENERAL SYNOD (REMOTE MEETINGS) (TEMPORARY STANDING ORDERS) MEASURE 2020 (GS 2177)

Motion for revival under section 3(6) of the Measure

1 The motion

‘That the Standing Orders made on 9th November 2020 under section 1 of the General Synod (Remote Meetings) (Temporary Standing Orders) Measure 2020 (GS 2177) be revived and in operation until 7th August 2022’

was carried.

WORSHIP

The Revd Sue Lucas led the Synod in an act of Worship.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

2 The Ven Luke Miller (the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury); the Revd Kate Wharton (the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York); Canon Dr Jamie Harrison (the Chair of the House of Laity); and Alison Coulter (the Vice-Chair of the House of Laity) were presented to the Presidents.

The following introductions were made:

New members

The Very Revd Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester
The Revd David Tolhurst, Diocese of Durham, replacing the Revd Bill Braviner
The Revd Ross Meikle, Diocese of Oxford, replacing the Revd Andrew Lightbown

The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley (Bishop of Taunton) acting for the Bishop of Bath & Wells during the Vacancy in See, the Rt Revd Mark Wroe (Bishop of Berwick) acting for the Bishop of Newcastle during the Vacancy in See, the Rt Revd Rob Wickham (Bishop of Edmonton) acting for the Bishop of Portsmouth during the Vacancy in See, the Rt Revd Simon Burton Jones (Bishop of Tonbridge) acting for the Bishop of Rochester during the Vacancy in See, the Rt Revd Karen Gorham (Bishop of Sherborne) acting for the Bishop of Salisbury during the Vacancy in See, and the Rt Revd Debbie Sellin (Bishop of Southampton) acting for the Bishop of Winchester during the Vacancy in See.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

3 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2241)

4 The motion

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

was carried.

PATTERN OF MEETINGS 2024 – 2026 (GS 2242)

5 The motion

‘That this Synod meet within the following dates in 2024 – 2026:

2024

Monday 19 February – Tuesday 27 February

Friday 5 July – Tuesday 9 July

Monday 18 November – Wednesday 20 November (if required)

2025

Monday 10 February – Tuesday 18 February

Friday 11 July – Tuesday 15 July

Monday 17 November – Wednesday 19 November (if required)

2026

Monday 9 February – Tuesday 17 February

Friday 10 July – Tuesday 14 July

Monday 16 November – Wednesday 18 November (if required)’

was carried.

RACIAL JUSTICE: INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHBISHOPS’ RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION, AND UPDATE TO SYNOD ON RACIAL JUSTICE WORK (GS 2243)

6 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

7 The motion

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

was carried.

QUESTIONS

8 Supplementary questions in respect to questions 1 – 8, questions 79 – 87, questions 30 – 40, questions 61 – 62 questions 136 – 147 and questions 9 – 16 as set out on the Questions Notice Paper, were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

Members of the Community of St Anselm led the Synod in an act of Worship.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY dismissed the Synod with a blessing at 7.18 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2022 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.30 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2022

HOLY COMMUNION

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY presided at a celebration of Holy Communion.

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business for the sitting on Tuesday 9 February was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that Item 500A would be taken not later than 12 p.m and if not completed by the end of the morning sitting, resumed as the first item of business at the afternoon sitting.

SAFEGUARDING (GS 2244)

9 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

22 The motion

‘That this Synod expresses its disapproval of the Safeguarding report GS2244 for the following reasons:

- a. The report persists in referring to “Vulnerable” persons – a terminology which has been deemed to be derogatory and restrictive to the understanding of its applicability – which was replaced by the term “Adults At Risk of Abuse or Neglect” under the Care Act 2014 in recognition of the dynamic nature of the Risk of Abuse in relation to individuals.
- b. The report makes no reference to the creation of Key Performance Indicators for the operation of the National Safeguarding Team (NST) in order to address the very many real and valid concerns that have been raised about its focus, effectiveness and method of operating. For a Team comprising 26.5 FTE’s which includes consultants, the absence of such Key Performance Indicators represents a substantial weakness in the management of a resource which represents a considerable ongoing financial commitment.
- c. It does not provide any detail which would enable the Synod to form a view about the NST’s effectiveness in making the Church of England a safe place for its entire worshipping community and for those who work for it in a remunerated or voluntary basis.
- d. The report shows a praiseworthy focus on sexual and spiritual abuse, but it makes no mention of bullying in the Church which is widely acknowledged to be a serious issue within churches, nor does it propose how and how bullying can be addressed.

- e. It demonstrates a piece-meal approach to safeguarding development by the NST rather than the wholesale reform that is needed.
- f. The report does not address the concerns raised in paragraph 8(f) of the first report of the Independent Safeguarding Board, which is attached as an appendix to GS 2244 – concerns that have been raised both privately and publicly with and about the NST by many people over recent years.
- g. Given that the ISB report states in its paragraph 6 that “It [The Board] does not have powers to sanction, direct, regulate, inspect or insist” there is no provision within the safeguarding arrangements for any independent external scrutiny with powers to intervene in cases where negligence, misconduct or performance failures are alleged or identified; nor does it indicate how the NST and the national safeguarding functions of the Church of England can intervene in cases where bishops and dioceses are not following good safeguarding practice or following the codes of practice or guidance.

This Synod therefore calls for a full independent assessment of the work and performance reporting of the NST and the myriad national safeguarding bodies of the Church of England; for this evaluation to be published in full; and for a debate on its contents at a future Group of Sessions to enable the Synod to be fully engaged in the decisions about the future direction and shape of the Church of England’s safeguarding work.’

was moved.

The motion

‘That the Synod do pass to the Next Business.’

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

IN FAVOUR	236
AGAINST	75

22 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2022 (GS 2245)

Rules under section 83 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 for approval

500A The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022 be considered.’

was moved.

The Chair adjourned the sitting at 12.30 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2022 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.03 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2022

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2022 (GS 2245) (Resumed debate)

Rules under section 83 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 for approval

500A The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022 be considered.’
was carried.

501 The amendment (Order Paper II) lapsed.

503 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

504 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	142
AGAINST	145

12 abstentions were recorded.

505 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

500B The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022 as amended be approved.’
was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

CHALLENGING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING (GS 2246A AND GS 2246B)

10 The motion

‘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.'

was moved.

- 23 The amendment (Order Paper III, subject to the erratum as shown on the 6th Notice Paper) was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	301
AGAINST	2

3 abstentions were recorded.

- 10 The motion (as amended)

'That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Government has played internationally in challenging slavery;
- (b) ask Her Majesty's Government to ensure the proper protection of minors who are trafficked and enslaved is enshrined in law including updating the 2018 Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance in accordance with the request from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, and to implement the other findings of her Annual Report in particular around effective access to support, accommodation, work and education for victims of modern slavery;
- (c) encourage all dioceses, deaneries, and parishes in the Church of England to raise awareness of modern slavery in our communities in the UK and internationally, working with the resources from partners such as the Church of England's Clewer Initiative and others, helping individuals and congregations to address this evil by:
 - i. seeking to identify potential victims of modern slavery in the community,
 - ii. offering services to victims and survivors, and
 - iii. supporting organisations which already provide services to help people leaving exploitation and/or with preventative work;
- (d) encourages dioceses, safeguarding leads, and training institutions and organisations in using resources like these within existing training, especially where individuals hold roles in authorised ministry, embedding understanding of modern slavery and equipping them with ways to respond;
- (e) ask that the issues of challenging human trafficking and modern slavery are raised at the global gathering of bishops of the Anglican Communion at the 2022 Lambeth Conference, and that

- the conference consider the international Church's role in tackling injustice and violence around the world and address the factors which create vulnerability to exploitation; and
- (f) call on all individuals to pray regularly for victims and survivors of modern slavery and for those organisations working to help and support them both in the UK and overseas, that we may come closer to fulfilling Jesus' injunction to 'proclaim release to the captives'.

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

IN FAVOUR	331
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF CLERGY REMUNERATION (GS 2247)

11 The motion

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

was carried.

GOD'S PEOPLE SET FREE: LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE WHOLE OF LIFE TO BRING TRANSFORMATION TO THE CHURCH AND WORLD (GS 2248)

12 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

13 The motion

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

was carried.

Item 24 was not moved.

QUESTIONS

14 Supplementary questions in respect to questions 17 – 29, questions 41 – 60, and questions 63 – 76 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper, were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Ven Alexander Hughes led the Synod in an act of worship.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2022 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.39 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2022

OPENING WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr Sara Batts Neale led the Synod in an act of worship.

REPORT BY THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW GROUP (GS 2249)

15 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the Report of the Governance Review Group (GS 2239);
- (b) invite the Archbishops’ Council and the Church Commissioners to engage with stakeholders in the Church and State on the Report’s recommendations; and
- (c) invite the Archbishops’ Council, in the light of the outcome of that engagement, to introduce legislation for consideration by this Synod to give effect to proposals that involve legislative change.’

was moved.

25 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	162
AGAINST	154

10 abstentions were recorded.

26 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	124
AGAINST	199

24 abstentions were recorded.

27 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	150
AGAINST	185

16 abstentions were recorded.

15 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod:

- (a) thank the Governance Review Group for its work in preparing the report GS 2239 and its Chair for update note GS 2249;
- (b) invite the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners to engage with stakeholders in the Church and State on the Report's recommendations; and
- (c) invite the Archbishops' Council, in the light of the outcome of that engagement, to introduce legislation for consideration by this Synod to give effect to proposals that involve legislative change.'

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	30	0
Clergy	126	18
Laity	110	53

No abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops, 5 in the House of Clergy and 6 in the House of Laity.

EXTENSION OF SITTING

Under Standing Order 15(6) the sitting was extended by 15 minutes by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (GS 2250)

16 The motion

'That the appointment of the Venerable Pete Spiers as Chair of the Appointments Committee be approved.'

was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE DIOCESES COMMISSION (GS 2251)

17 The motion

'That the appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission be approved.'

was carried.

The Chair adjourned the sitting at 12.39 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2022 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 4.30 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2022

SPECIAL AGENDA IV

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PERSECUTED CHURCH IN THE WORLD (GS 2252A AND GS 2252B)

18 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

28 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

18 The motion (as amended)

‘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,
- (b) organisations and dioceses consider joining the UK Freedom of Religion or Belief Forum to work with Christian and other groups in addressing the persecution of Christians and the global violation of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB),
- (c) churches consider using resources such as the practical Everyday Faith – Hidden Church during the Thy Kingdom Come novena between Ascension and Pentecost, 26 May – 6 June,
- (d) in the run up to the International Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief (The Ministerial FoRB) Conference 5-6 July 2022 individuals and groups consider hosting information events, prayer groups and fringe events using the Toolkits for Places of Worship and Schools and Communities on the End The Persecution website,
- (e) churches and individuals contact their MPs in advance of The Ministerial FoRB, asking them to raise awareness of the persecuted church, and other FoRB violations, suggesting some of the actions in the FoRB Toolkit,

(f) that Her Majesty's Government implement in full the previously accepted 22 recommendations in the Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support for Persecuted Christians, published in July 2019, by the third anniversary of the report in July 2022, as indicated within the report, and

(g) the next Lambeth Conference address the issue of the persecution of Christians.'

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

IN FAVOUR	329
AGAINST	0

No abstentions were recorded.

SEE OF CANTERBURY: MEMBERSHIP OF THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION (GS 2253)

19 The motion

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

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	26	0
Clergy	102	27
Laity	112	43

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 13 in the House of Clergy and 12 in the House of Laity.

FAREWELLS

20 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to the Right Reverend Timothy Dakin, who has retired as the Bishop of Winchester.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to the Right Reverend Paul Bayes who is due to retire as the Bishop of Liverpool before the next group of sessions.

PROROGATION

21 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod and dismissed it with the blessing at 4.30 pm.