

General Synod

Update on the Review of the Mission & Pastoral Measure

Summary

This paper updates General Synod on the proposed timetable for the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (MPM).

The proposal to carry out a review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure was debated at the July 2021 sessions of General Synod. Sixteen people spoke in the debate and the motion to progress the work was carried with 278 voting in favour, 2 against, with 7 abstentions.

During a period of public consultation from July to October 2021, over 1,600 responses were received. The analysis of the responses was tabled at the February 2022 sessions of General Synod, as GS Misc. 1312¹. A fringe event was held for Synod members, which included a presentation and the opportunity for members to discuss the review². As well as General Synod members, attendees included Church Commissioners, members of the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC) and members of the Legislative Reform Committee (LRC). Several attendees signed up to be part of an informal MPM Synod reference group (see below).

The original intention had been to prepare a proposals paper for consideration at this July 2022 sessions of General Synod, following the original discussion paper that was debated in July 2021. In light of the extensive consultation feedback we received and given the arrival of a new Third Church Estates Commissioner in February 2022, it became clear that more time was required to consider the feedback fully, carry-out further engagement, and then draft proposals for consideration by General Synod.

Accordingly, we have reviewed the programme timetable and project plan to allow for an extended period of preparation. This will enable time for further listening and some face-to-face consultation, which we were not able to do during the Covid lockdowns, which will assist the important work to identify the areas where there is an emerging consensus for change.

Our plan will therefore be to develop draft proposals for consideration at the February 2023 sessions of General Synod. Subject to the views of Synod at that time, any legislative work would follow thereafter in 2023 and 2024.

¹ The presentation and notes from the fringe meeting can be downloaded at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/parish-reorganisation-and-church-property/review-mission-and-pastoral-measure-2011>

Review roadmap

There will be a number of important areas to address in order to develop proposals for debate at the February 2023 sessions of General Synod. These include:

- a. A **series of visits** is underway,, to allow the Third Church Estates Commissioner and others to visit different parish and church settings to hear first-hand about their experiences of the MPM in action. The visits will take place over the Summer & Autumn in different parts of England and will include rural and urban settings and churches from different traditions. The visits will primarily be focussed on listening to the experience of those involved locally in the provision of worship, mission and ministry and will help to inform the identification of areas of consensus and hence the development of proposals.
- b. An informal **General Synod reference group** is being established - members are listed in Annex A and the terms of reference are attached at Annex B. The members include those who signed up at the February 2022 fringe event, together with additional members of Synod including representatives from the MPCPC, the Church Buildings Council (CBC), and the Legislative Reform Committee, bodies that are all closely engaged with the work. The group will meet at key points in the run up to February 2023, with its first meeting held (by Zoom) on 14 June.
- c. **Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament** – as part of the process of identifying and developing consensus, it may be valuable to seek an informal meeting of members of the Ecclesiastical Committee ahead of bringing proposals to Synod in February 2022. Some initial engagement with MPs took place at a briefing session organised by the Second Church Estates Commissioners on 28 April 2022, which was attended by the Third Church Estates Commissioner, the Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council and the Secretary to the Church Commissioners. There is likely to be a further briefing for those MPs and members of the House of Lords who have a particular interest in the issues.
- d. Further **stakeholder meetings** will continue to take place to engage with a wide range of other relevant partners, including representatives from the Church Buildings Council, House of Bishops, Diocesan Secretaries, NCI colleagues and others to help identify and develop areas of consensus.
- e. We will continue to **research and gather data and evidence** to help to inform the proposals.

In developing proposals for legislative change, we intend to take an incremental approach, identifying those areas where there is consensus and with scope for suitable modernisation of the law and processes. Legal colleagues will be involved to ensure that proposals, if supported by Synod, can be developed into draft legislation for first consideration potentially in July 2023.

Wendy Matthews, Head of Mission, Pastoral & Church Property, June 2022

Annex A: Members of the Synod reference group

Title	First name	Last Name	Synod no	Diocese
Dr.	Chris	Angus	265	Carlisle
Mr.	Nigel	Bacon	342	Lincoln
Mr.	Jonathan	Baird	400	Salisbury
Lay Canon	Peter	Bruinvels	318	Guildford
The Reverend Canon	Simon	Butler	221	Southwark
The Reverend Prebendary Dr	Amatu	Christian-lwuagwu	159	London
Ms	Wendy	Coombey	321	Hereford
The Venerable	Robert	Cooper	105	Durham
Miss	Prudence	Dailey	376	Oxford
The Venerable	Douglas	Dettmer	117	Exeter
Mrs	Julie	Dziegiel	377	Oxford
Worshipful	Morag	Ellis QC	454	Ex Officio
The Reverend Canon	Tim	Goode	224	Southwark
Mr.	Andrew	Gray	399	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Mr.	Timothy	Hamilton	311	Exeter
Dr.	Ian	Johnston	387	Portsmouth
Mr	Neil	Logan-Green	264	Canterbury
Mr.	Andrew	Orange	430	Winchester
The Reverend	James	Pitkin	234	Winchester
Mr.	Paul	Ronson	257	Blackburn
Mr.	Martin	Shakespeare	340	Lichfield
The Reverend	Marcus	Walker	168	London
The Reverend Canon Dr	Flora	Winfield	459	(Chair) Third Church Estates Commissioner

Annex B: Terms of reference

Review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure

General Synod Reference Group

Purpose of the group

These terms of reference will establish an informal and consultative group which will give Members of General Synod the opportunity to engage with the Church Commissioners' work on the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. It will complement the existing governance structure which formally oversees the review and was approved in October 2020.

Chair and Members

The group will be chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner.

The group will include Members from General Synod who have expressed an interest in the work and representatives from the Legislative Reform Committee and Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee.

Frequency of meetings

The group will meet at regular intervals during the review process.

Matters for discussion

The Chair will approve the agenda which will include briefings on the progress of the review and discussions on particular topics of interest.

Voting

There will be no matters which require formal voting.

Secretariat

The Head of Pastoral and Closed Churches will be the Secretary to the group, supported by the staff team.

An agenda and any papers will be sent out electronically a week in advance of the meeting and Minutes of the meeting will be taken.