

## General Synod

### Update on the Review of the Mission & Pastoral Measure

#### Summary

This paper updates General Synod on 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. There was a period of public consultation following Synod and the analysis of the feedback was presented in February 2022 as GS Misc. 1312. At the July 2022 session of Synod, a short update paper was tabled setting out an expected timetable for bringing forward proposals and then draft legislation.

This paper updates Synod on the progress that has been made between July 2022 and February 2023, together with changes to the expected timetable.

#### Timetable

In July 2022, we informed Synod that we hoped to bring draft proposals on the MPM for presentation in February 2023. We are now of the view that proposals should be presented at the Synod session in July 2023. This is in light of the very extensive consultation process that has been undertaken (see below) and also in view of other significant matters on the Synod's agenda for February. That includes an update on the review of national church Governance, which in itself has a bearing upon the MPM review given that the Governance review's proposals will cover recommendations for how the MPM functions should be managed in any new structure, and so the MPM proposals need to be framed in that context.

The Board of the Church Commissioners have agreed to the extension of the timetable for the MPM review and that MPM proposals will now be presented to the Board in April 2023 before being presented to Synod in July. Work and engagement will continue between January and March to finalise the recommendations.

#### Review roadmap

The section below provides a brief update on the progress made over the last few months:

- a. **Local visits** – the Third Church Estates Commissioner and staff team have completed a series of visits and online meetings to gather first-hand feedback about the experience of the MPM in parish and church settings. Some visits were delayed because of the train strikes and the funeral of the late Queen and they are being re-scheduled. Visits have been made to parishes in the dioceses of Exeter,

Lincoln, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Hereford and London, and engagement has continued with NCI teams, and external partners. There have been online meetings with Archdeacons in several dioceses including Liverpool and Durham. The Church Commissioners are very grateful to all those who have helped organise the visits and meetings and given their time to the review. The conversations have been fruitful, and a summary of the feedback will be included in the proposals paper for Synod.

- b. An informal **General Synod reference group** was established in February 2022 and has been meeting regularly since to discuss and inform the development of proposals, and to encourage a consensual approach to the review. Synod members were also given the opportunity to learn more about the Measure at the informal (on-line) session in November. The slide presentation from that briefing is available on the MPM review page<sup>1</sup>. The Church Commissioners are grateful to everyone for being so generous with their time and the group will continue to meet..
- c. **Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament** – There has been continuing engagement with parliament, through two general briefings for members of the House of Commons, and one briefing for the members of the House of Lords, both of which have included questions and discussions on the subject of the MPM review. These have been another valuable source of input to the process of identifying and developing consensus. It may be valuable to seek an informal meeting of members of the Ecclesiastical Committee ahead of new legislation being brought forward, and this is now likely to take place in Autumn 2023, after the proposals paper has been presented to Synod in July.

Wendy Matthews, Head of Mission, Pastoral & Church Property, February 2023

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<sup>1</sup> [Review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 | The Church of England](#)

## Annex A: Members of the Synod reference group

Title	First name	Last Name	Synod no	Diocese
Dr	Chris	Angus	265	Carlisle
Lay Canon	Nigel	Bacon	342	Lincoln
Mr.	Jonathan	Baird	400	Salisbury
Lay Canon	Peter	Bruinvels	318	Guildford
The Reverend Canon	Simon	Butler	221	Southwark
The Reverend Canon	Amatu	Christian-Iwuagwu	159	London
Ms	Wendy	Coombey	321	Hereford
Miss	Prudence	Dailey	376	Oxford
The Venerable	Douglas	Dettmer	117	Exeter
Mrs	Julie	Dziegiel	377	Oxford
The Right Worshipful	Morag	Ellis KC	454	Ex Officio
The Reverend Canon	Tim	Goode	224	Southwark
Mr.	Andrew	Gray	399	St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Professor	Roy	Faulkner	333	Leicester
Mr.	Timothy	Hamilton	311	Exeter
Dr.	Ian	Johnston	387	Portsmouth
Mr.	Neil	Logan-Green	264	Canterbury
Mr.	Andrew	Orange	430	Winchester
The Reverend	Sam	Maginnis	83	Chelmsford
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.