THE CONTRIBUTION OF FAITH TO THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS (GS 2294A AND GS 2294B)

Mrs Kashmir Garton (Worcester) to move:

10 ‘That this Synod, recognising that faith and belief can have a positive impact on an offender's behaviour:

(a) note with pleasure the decision made by the Probation Service to recognise faith and belief 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 Probation Service as an important additional support in churches' welcome of people leaving prison, including training of clergy and authorised lay ministers;

i. call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.’

The Revd Matt Beer (Lichfield) to move as an amendment:

56 ‘After paragraph (a) insert:

“( ) rejoice at the effectiveness of courses such as Alpha and Christianity Explored in helping prisoners and detainees come to faith in Christ and transform their lives so that they can make a positive contribution to society, and therefore call on governors and chaplains to promote and facilitate the provision of such courses in all penal establishments”.’
Mr Andrew Cornes (Chichester) to move as an amendment:

57 ‘At the end insert:

“( ) call on dioceses to enable a swift welcome of offenders after release into an appropriate church community, subject to agreed and clear safeguarding boundaries; and to make this part of the brief for their Diocesan Safeguarding Team.”.’

After 3.15 p.m., there will be an opportunity for an informal update on Living in Love and Faith (GS 2303)