

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 1.16 PM
TUESDAY 11 JULY

WORSHIP

The Chaplain to the Synod, the Revd Dylan Turner, led the Synod in an act of worship.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS CODE OF PRACTICE (GS 2295)

511 The motion

‘That the Safeguarding Practice Reviews Code of Practice be approved.’

was moved.

The motion

‘That Item 511 be adjourned until the next group of sessions’
was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	74
AGAINST	184

24 abstentions were recorded.

511 The motion (Order Paper IX) was carried after a vote by Houses. The voting was as follows

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	27	0
Clergy	113	0
Laity	112	18

18 abstentions were recorded in the House of Clergy and 24 in the House of Laity

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS (APPLICATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS) MEASURE (GS 2264)

510 The motion (Order Paper IX) was moved.

510 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure” be finally approved’

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	23	0
Clergy	123	0
Laity	141	0

2 abstentions were recorded in House of Laity

The Chair reported that the Measure automatically stood committed to the Legislative Committee.

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY (GS 2306A AND GS 2306B)

14 The motion

‘That this Synod, affirming the fifth mark of mission, concerned by the scientific evidence that climate change is proceeding at a rapid

rate and by the impact of climate events, and seeking to build on the decisions taken with respect to GS 2159:

- a) urge the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England to prioritise investment in renewable energy;
- b) call on all parts of the Church of England to review their policies and procedures, in order to ensure that they give due priority to creation care;
- c) urge the Church of England to further develop pre- and post-ordination and lay training to deepen understanding in how care for the earth is part of our Christian faith and a missional imperative;
- d) urge all parts of the Church of England to seek to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, in the awareness that our nation has been among those who have benefited most from the emissions that have caused the crisis;
- e) commit earnestly and regularly to pray - and to promote prayer - about the climate and wider environmental crisis.
- f) call upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations for the delivery of substantial reduction of the Church's carbon footprint, including, but not restricted to, the following immediate actions in respect of Church buildings:
 - (i) ensuring that the NCIs are adequately resourced to provide DACs, Buildings Departments, Education Departments and others with authoritative national guidance notes, advice and training on key technical and procedural questions relating to adaptation of buildings for the net zero target; and
 - (ii) ensuring that Parish Buying and other national-level entities have the capacity to engage with manufacturers and suppliers of products and processes recommended for making our buildings more efficient, with a view to using the scale of the national net zero project to achieve both sympathetic design and economies of scale on cost.
- (g) request that Bishops and the Liturgical Commission to encourage confirmation services to include an additional question 'Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth?'
- (h) ask that HM Government review the weight given to the environmental public benefit in planning regulations to facilitate the installation of renewable technologies, including for buildings that are listed or in conservation areas.'

was moved.

82 The amendment (Order Paper IX) was carried.

83 The amendment (Order Paper IX) was carried.

84 The amendment (Order Paper IX) was carried after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 139

AGAINST 124

25 abstentions were recorded

85 The amendment (Order Paper IX) was lost following a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	2	20
Clergy	47	81
Laity	68	78

2 abstentions were recorded in House of Bishops; 47 abstentions were recorded in House of Clergy; 68 abstentions were recorded in House of Laity.

86 The amendment (Order Paper IX) lapsed.

14 The motion (as amended):

‘That this Synod, affirming the fifth mark of mission, concerned by the scientific evidence that climate change is proceeding at a rapid rate and by the impact of climate events, and seeking to build on the decisions taken with respect to GS 2159:

- a) commend the recent disinvestment announcements by the Church Commissioners for England and Church of England Pensions Board, and urge each of the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England to prioritise and scale up investment in renewable energy and other climate solutions, in line with their fiduciary duties, and ask each to report back on progress to General Synod each quinquennium;

- b) urge all parts of the Church of England to review their relevant policies and procedures, in order to ensure that they are up to date and give due priority to creation care;
- c) urge the Church of England to further develop pre- and post-ordination and lay training to deepen understanding in how care for the earth is part of our Christian faith and a missional imperative;
- d) urge all parts of the Church of England to seek to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, in the awareness that our nation has been among those who have benefited most from the emissions that have caused the crisis;
- e) commit earnestly and regularly to pray - and to promote prayer - about the climate and wider environmental crisis.
- f) call upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations for the delivery of substantial reduction of the Church's carbon footprint, including, but not restricted to, the following immediate actions in respect of Church buildings:
 - (i) ensuring that the NCIs are adequately resourced to provide DACs, Buildings Departments, Education Departments and others with authoritative national guidance notes, advice and training on key technical and procedural questions relating to adaptation of buildings for the net zero target; and
 - (ii) ensuring that Parish Buying and other national-level entities have the capacity to engage with manufacturers and suppliers of products and processes recommended for making our buildings more efficient, with a view to using the scale of the national net zero project to achieve both sympathetic design and economies of scale on cost;
 - (iii) commit expenditure, reflective of the £10 million committed by Oxford Diocese, on environmental works to improve the carbon footprint of vicarages.
- (g) request that Bishops and the Liturgical Commission to encourage confirmation services to include an additional question 'Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth?'
- (h) ask that HM Government review the weight given to the environmental public benefit in planning regulations to facilitate the installation of renewable technologies, including for buildings that are listed or in conservation areas.'

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

IN FAVOUR	256
AGAINST	36

16 abstentions were recorded

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

REDUCE PAROCHIAL FEES FOR MARRIAGES (GS 2282A AND GS 2282B)

29 The motion

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops' Council to introduce an order to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that the fees relating to marriages are set at nil or at a minimal amount in order to demonstrate the Church’s commitment to marriage and pastoral care.’

was moved.

87 The amendment (Order Paper IX) was carried.

88 The amendment (Order Paper IX) fell.

89 The amendment (Order Paper IX) fell.

29 The motion (as amended),

‘That this Synod

- a) request the Archbishops’ Council to design, fund and implement a time-limited, regional trial of providing weddings free of all statutory fees; and
- b) report back to Synod on the impact it made on the number of weddings conducted, pastoral and missional contacts made, on charitable giving in connection with provision of wedding services, and on projected parochial and diocesan finances.

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	15	4
Clergy	104	19
Laity	118	17

2 abstentions were recorded in House of Bishops; 8 abstentions were recorded in House of Clergy; and 7 abstentions were recorded in House of Laity.

SYNOD COMPLAINTS PROCESS (GS 2316)

30 A presentation was made under Standing Order 107.

FAREWELLS

31 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to the Rt Revd Robert Atwell (Bishop of Exeter); the Rt Revd Peter Eagles (Bishop of Sodor and Man); the Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth (Bishop of Coventry); and the Rt Revd James Newcome (Bishop of Carlisle) who were attending their last meeting of the Synod

PROROGATION

32 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK prorogued the Synod at 1.16 pm