

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 PM
ON FRIDAY 7 JULY 2023

WORSHIP

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

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

- 1 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK introduced the following new members:
 - The Rt Revd Joanne Grenfell, Bishop of Stepney, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd John Perumbalath)
 - The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley)
 - The Rt Revd Stephen Race, Suffragan Bishops (who had replaced the Rt Revd Philip North)
 - The Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Deans (who had replaced the Very Revd Andrew Nunn)
 - Mrs Christiana Olomolaiye, Diocese of Bristol (who had replaced Miss Abigail Scott)
 - The Revd Simon Drew, Diocese of Chester (who had replaced the Revd Dr Rob Munroe)
 - Mr Peter Kelsey, Diocese of Derby (who had replaced Mrs Sian Kellogg)
 - Mr Nathan Obokoh, Diocese of Leicester (who had replaced Miss Venessa Pinto)
 - Dr Rosemary Gomes, Diocese of London (who had replaced Dr Liz Brutus)
 - The Ven Jonathan Chaffey, Diocese of Oxford (who had replaced the Revd Tim Norwood)
 - The Ven Sally Gaze, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, (who had replaced the Revd Leslie Siu)
 - Sister Beverley CSF, Religious Communities (who had replaced Sister Anita Cook CSC)

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK welcomed bishops attending this group of sessions under Standing Order 123 in place of the diocesan bishop:

- The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, for the Diocese of Birmingham
- The Bishop of Grimsby, the Rt Revd David Court, for the Diocese of Lincoln
- The Bishop of Brixworth, the Rt Revd John Holbrook, for the Diocese of Peterborough
- The Bishop of Southampton, the Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, for the Diocese of Winchester.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK welcomed the following Anglican Communion representatives and other ecumenical guests:

- The Most Reverend Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa and Bishop of Asante-Mampong
- The Right Reverend Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania and President of Compass Rose Society
- The Right Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion
- The Very Reverend Dr Sarah Rowland Jones, Church in Wales
- The Right Reverend Erik Eckerdahl, Bishop of Visby
- The Rt Revd Ralf Meister, Bishop of Hanover

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

2 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK gave a Presidential Address.

ADDRESS BY AN ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

3 The Rt Revd Erik Eckerdahl, Bishop of Visby (Church of Sweden) addressed the Synod under Standing Order 121.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2297)

4 The motion

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

was carried.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) presented a petition to the Synod in accordance with Standing Order 43.

SPECIAL AGENDA III: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION CHURCH OF ENGLAND YOUTH SYNOD (GS 2298A and GS 2298B)

5 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the national strategy to 'grow younger and more diverse'
- (b) take note of the report 'Rooted in the Church' (2016) which observes that young adults feel a sense of belonging if they i) are included within the whole church family, ii) are treated as equal members of the church, iii) are supported by leaders who act as bridges or mentors, and iv) are given a safe space to ask questions;
- (c) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;
- (d) recognise the valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);

and therefore call on the Archbishops' Council to:

- (e) establish the Church of England Youth Synod (CEYS) or similar, to replace the recently disbanded Church of England Youth Council (CEYC), as a meeting of young Anglicans between the ages of 18 and 25 who meet prior to each meeting of General Synod to discuss and debate the motions of General Synod;
- (f) invite each Diocesan Synod to nominate two young adults as members of both their local Diocesan Synod and the Church of England Youth Synod;
- (g) arrange for the co-option of 5 young adults elected by the Youth Synod as members of General Synod with the right to speak and vote;

- (h) appoint a part-time post with responsibility for democratic engagement with young people;
- (i) ensure that a sufficient budget is made available to support the work of the Youth Synod; and
- (j) ensure that the Youth Synod has representation on the Archbishops' Council by co-opting a member of the Youth Synod as a member of Archbishops' Council.'

was moved.

52A The amendment (Order Paper I, item 52) was carried.

52B The amendment

‘leave out paragraph (g) and insert:

“() appoint three young adults to attend General Synod in accordance with Standing Orders”.’

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

IN FAVOUR 164

AGAINST 130

20 recorded abstentions were recorded.

53 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

The Registrar addressed the Synod under SO 147(b) and advised that, in the light of SO 25 (reconsideration), the amendment at item 54 should be read as replacing everything in the main motion from “and therefore call” to the end, except for the paragraph substituted by item 52B (i.e. paragraph (m)).

54 The amendment (Order Paper I) was carried.

55 The amendment (Order Paper I) fell.

5 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the national strategy to 'grow younger and more diverse'
- (b) take note of the report 'Rooted in the Church' (2016) which observes that young adults feel a sense of belonging if they i) are included within the whole church family, ii) are treated as equal members of the church, iii) are supported by leaders who act as bridges or mentors, and iv) are given a safe space to ask questions;
- (c) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;
- (d) recognise the valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);
- (e) request the Business Committee to bring a report to Synod with recommendations that increase the voice and representation of young people within Synodical bodies and through Synod elections and detailing how the above has progressed enabling children and young people's opinions and concerns to be heard;
- (f) recognise the role played by children and young people in the development of the Church of England Vision and Strategy;
- (g) values the work being undertaken through the Growing Faith Foundation to listen to the voices of children, young people and young adults;

and therefore call on each diocese to work alongside Children, Youth and Family advisors and practitioners to develop ways of ensuring that children, youth and young adult voices are heard within their decision making processes; and actively involve them in decision making;

- (h) request the Business Committee to bring forward proposals, including legislation if necessary that:
 - (i) seek to enable greater numbers of young adults be elected to General Synod;
 - (ii) enable the voices of children, youth and young adults be heard within the debates of General Synod
- (i) encourage each General Synod member to work with Children, youth and Family advisors and practitioners to listen to the voice of children, youth and young adults in their preparation for each meeting of General Synod.
- (j) request the Archbishops' Council to:

- (i) ensure that all policies seek to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the vision of being a younger and more diverse church;
 - (ii) develop ways whereby the voices of children, youth and young adults are fed into their discussions and decision making processes;
- (k) call on the Archbishops' Council to establish a regular Church of England National Young Adults Gathering (name to be determined) which will enable young Anglicans between the ages of 18 and 25 to:
- (i) meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship,
 - (ii) engage with and discuss issues identified as being important by young adults themselves, and
 - (iii) relate to decision-making structures including Dioceses, General Synod and Archbishops Council;
- (l) request to the Archbishops' Council that funding be found from within the budget for a first such national gathering whilst exploring provision of longer term funding;
- (m) call on the Archbishops' Council to appoint three young adults to attend General Synod in accordance with Standing Orders

was carried.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2023 (GS 2299)

500 The motion

‘That the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2023 be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2023 would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

VARIATION

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that it would proceed immediately to Item 6 (Appointment of a Member of the Archbishops' Council (GS 2301)).

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2301)

6 The motion

‘That the appointment of Mr Carl Hughes as member of the Archbishops' Council and Chair of the Finance Committee be approved.’

was carried.

QUESTIONS

7 Supplementary questions in respect of questions 1 to 59 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

Prudence Dailey and Bradley Smith led the Synod in an act of worship.

DEEMED BUSINESS

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS (FEES) ORDER 2023 (GS 2300)

The Order under section 86 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated or notice of any proposed amendment.

**SCHEME OF VARIATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF DEANERY SYNODS
(GS 2317)**

The Scheme made by the Lincoln Diocesan Synod under rule 22 of the Church Representation Rules was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated.

**DRAFT SCHEME AMENDING THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE
CONSTITUTION (GS 2318)**

The Draft Scheme laid before the Synod was deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.45 PM
ON SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA I
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
MEASURE (GS 2272B)

AMENDING CANON NO. 43 (GS 2273B)

DRAFT MEASURE AND DRAFT AMENDING CANON FOR FINAL
DRAFTING AND FINAL APPROVAL

502 The motion

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

was carried.

512 The amendment (Order Paper II) was carried.

503 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure” be finally approved.’

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
BISHOPS	20	1
CLERGY	123	0
LAITY	146	1

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops; 3 in the House of Clergy, and 5 in the House of Laity.

504 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 43” be finally approved.’

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
BISHOPS	19	0
CLERGY	119	0
LAITY	151	1

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

505 The motion

‘That the petition for His Majesty’s Royal Assent and Licence (GS 2273C) be adopted.’

was carried.

AMENDING CANON NO. 42 (GS 2269D)

AMENDING CANON FOR ENACTMENT

506 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 42” be made, promulged and executed.’

was carried.

**NATIONAL INVESTING BODIES: REPORT ON JULY 2018 SYNOD
MOTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GS 2302)**

8 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

The motion

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

was lost.

QUESTIONS

9 Supplementary questions in respect of questions 60 to 101 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper, were answered.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 3.15 PM
ON SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

VARIATION

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that:

- Item 14 Diocesan Synod Motion (Responding to the Climate Emergency (GS 2306A and GS 2306B) would be taken at Tuesday morning's sitting, immediately after item 510.
- The debate on the Archbishops' Council's Audit Committee Annual Report would be taken immediately after Item 11 at Sunday's afternoon sitting (a debate having been requested).
- Item 511 Legislative Business (Safeguarding Code of Practice Reviews Code of Practice (GS 2295)) would be taken at Sunday's afternoon sitting immediately after item 13;

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTION

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

10 The motion

‘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;
- c) call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.'

was moved.

56 The motion (Order Paper III) was lost.

57 The motion (Order Paper III) was carried.

10 The motion (as amended)

'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;
- c) call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.'
- d) 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.

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

IN FAVOUR 331

AGAINST 2¹

3 abstentions were recorded.

¹ The number of electronic votes recorded. Ms Sophie Clarke (House of Laity) requested that it be recorded that she accidentally voted against the motion. She wished to vote in favour of the motion.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 6 PM
ON SUNDAY 9 JULY 2023

WORSHIP

Ms Joanna Stobart led the Synod in an act of worship.

**PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE
INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING BOARD**

11 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

ADOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the Synod at 4.19 pm for ten minutes for the better conduct of the Synod's business under Standing Order 15(8)(a).

**ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
(GS MISC 1340)**

51 The motion

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

was carried.

SAFEGUARDING REDRESS (GS 2305)

12 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

13 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- a) acknowledge and deeply regret the safeguarding failures of the Church of England and especially their effect on victims and

survivors, noting the vital importance of their voice in the Church's ongoing safeguarding work;

- b) welcome the work undertaken to develop the Redress Scheme as a proper expression of that regret and look forward to its further development.'

was moved.

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.

13 The motion

'That this Synod:

- a) acknowledge and deeply regret the safeguarding failures of the Church of England and especially their effect on victims and survivors, noting the vital importance of their voice in the Church's ongoing safeguarding work;
- b) welcome the work undertaken to develop the Redress Scheme as a proper expression of that regret and look forward to its further development.'

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

IN FAVOUR 324

AGAINST 0

1 abstention was recorded

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 10 PM
ON SUNDAY 9 JULY 2023

NATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE (GS 2307)

15 A presentation was made by Sir David Lidington under Standing Order 107.

16 The motion

‘That this Synod:

(a) confirm the recommendations of the National Church Governance Project Board set out in GS 2307 as the basis for the reform of the National Church Institutions and Governance Structures of the Church of England;

(b) request the introduction of draft legislation to give effect to the necessary statutory changes for the implementation of these proposals no later than the February 2024 Group of Sessions.’

was moved.

58 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

59 The amendment (Order Paper V) was lost.

60 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

61 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

62 The amendment (Order Paper V) was lost after a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 83

AGAINST 260

15 abstentions were recorded.

16 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod:

- a) welcome the recommendations of the National Church Governance Project Board set out in GS 2307 as the basis for the reform of the National Church Institutions and Governance Structures of the Church of England except in respect of recommendation 13, where specific provision should be made so that a majority of the members of the CENS board are either elected or appointed from the members of Synod and except in respect of recommendation 14, where specific provision should be made so that two members of the Audit and Risk Committee are members of either the House of Laity or the House of Clergy of the General Synod and are jointly elected by the members of those Houses;
- b) request the introduction of draft legislation to give effect to the necessary statutory changes for the implementation of these proposals no later than the February 2024 Group of Sessions.’

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

IN FAVOUR	328
AGAINST	17

10 abstentions were recorded.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK dismissed the Synod with a blessing at 10 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.45 PM
MONDAY 10 JULY

WORSHIP

The Reverend Canon Lisa Battye led the Synod in an act of worship.

VARIATION

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that:

- Item 25 (Farewell) would be taken after Item 24
- Items 35 and 36 (Amendments to the Standing Orders) 507A, 513, 514, 507B (Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules) and Item 501 (Electronic Book of Services Register) would be taken after Item 33.

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT (GS 2308)

- 17 A presentation was made under Standing Order 107
- 63 The further motion (Order Paper VI) was moved in accordance with Standing Order 106(9).

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

The motion

‘That under Standing Order 34(1)(c), the debate on Item 63 be adjourned and resume after items 18 to 24’

was carried.

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL BUDGET 2024 AND PROPOSALS FOR APPORTIONMENT 2024 (GS 2309)

18 The motion

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

was carried.

19 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure for the year 2024, as shown in its budget, of £14,998,000 in respect of Training for Ministry’

was carried.

20 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure for the year 2024, as shown in its budget, of £34,180,628 in respect of National Church Responsibilities’

was carried.

21 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure for the year 2024, as shown in its budget, of £1,518,779 in respect of Grants’

was carried.

22 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure for the year 2024, as shown in its budget, of £426,510 in respect of mission agency pension contributions’

was carried.

23 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s expenditure for the year 2024, as shown in its budget, of £6,137,441 in respect of the clergy retirement housing grant’

was carried.

24 The motion

‘That this Synod approve the Archbishops’ Council’s proposals (set out in the Table of Apportionment contained in GS 2309) for:

- a) the apportionment amongst the dioceses of the net sum to be provided by them to enable the Council to meet the expected expenditure shown in its budget for the year 2024; and
- b) the pooling adjustment for 2024 in respect of additional maintenance grants for ordinands.’

was carried.

ARCHBISHOPS’ COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT (GS 2308)

RESUMED DEBATE ON ITEM 63

63 The motion

‘That Standing Order 8(1) be suspended for the duration of Item 63’

was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod.¹ The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR 175

AGAINST 69

17 abstentions were recorded.

¹ By virtue of Standing Order 39(4), this item required a 75% majority of those present and voting in order to be carried. Recorded abstentions are not counted among those present and voting.

63 The time for consideration of the further motion (Order Paper VI) expired by virtue of Standing Order 8(1).

FAREWELL TO CANON JOHN SPENCE

25 The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to Canon John Spence CBE (Chairman of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee) who was attending his last meeting of the Synod.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS

35 The motion (Order Paper) was carried.

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 for the better conduct of the Synod's business.

36 The motion (Order Paper VI) was carried.

33 The motion (Order Paper VI) was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2023 (GS 2310)

507A The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 be considered’

was moved.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

The Chair adjourned the debate in accordance with Standing Order 15(7)(b) at 12.45 p.m.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 6.15 PM
MONDAY 10 JULY

ADDRESS BY AN ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- 3 The Rt Revd Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church) addressed the Synod under Standing Order 120A(1).

VARIATION OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that the debate on item 507A would now be resumed. Item 501 (Electronic Register Book of Services Form and Conditions GS 2291) would be taken following Item 508.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2023 (GS 2310)

RESUMED DEBATE

507A The motion (Order Paper VI) was carried.

513 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

514 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

507B The motion

‘That the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 as amended be approved.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 would be laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Statutory Instruments Act 1946.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CLERGY CONDUCT MEASURE (GS 2311)

508 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled “Clergy Conduct Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Clergy Conduct Measure stood automatically committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be submitted to the Clerk to the Synod not later than 5 pm on Friday 8th September.

THE ELECTRONIC REGISTER BOOK OF SERVICES FORM AND CONDITIONS 2023 (GS 2291)

INSTRUMENT FOR APPROVAL

501 The motion

‘That the Electronic Register Book of Services Form and Conditions 2023 be approved.’

was carried.

ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP: REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2312)

26 The motion

‘That the Synod receive the Report and agree the recommendations contained in the Annex to GS 2312.’

was carried.

71 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

78 The amendment (Notice Paper XII) lapsed.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION (GS 2313)

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL

509A The motion

‘That the Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2023 be considered.’

was carried.

515 The amendment (Order Paper VII) lapsed.

516 The amendment (Order Paper VII) lapsed.

509B The motion

‘That the Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2023 be approved.’

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
BISHOPS	18	0
CLERGY	115	2
LAITY	137	5

No abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops; 2 were recorded in the House of Clergy; and 2 in the House of Laity.

EXTENSION OF SITTING

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

REVITALISING THE PARISH FOR MISSION (GS 2314)

27 The motion

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the emphasis in the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six ‘bold outcomes’;

- b) affirm the parish system as a central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;
- c) note the research presented in ‘From Anecdote to Evidence’ as well as other recent research which contributes to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;
- d) welcome the Church’s commitment to sustaining overall numbers of parish clergy and increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses; and
- e) encourage each parish and diocese to support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission.’

was moved.

72 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

73 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

74 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

75 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

76 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was carried.

77 The amendment (Order Paper VII) was lost.

27 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod

- a) welcome the emphasis in the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six ‘bold outcomes’;
- b) affirm the parish system as the central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;

- c) note the research presented in 'From Anecdote to Evidence' as well as other recent research which contributes to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;
- d) request the Archbishops' Council bring a report collating the research that has already been in place to a future group of sessions so that the Synod might have greater confidence that church growth and revitalisation alongside other mixed ecologies of church are taking place in line with our six bold outcomes, enabling local churches to develop and implement local mission plans;
- e) welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses;
- f) encourage dioceses to work in new and creative ways to increase lay and ordained vocations;
- g) encourage each parish and diocese to support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission and put a plan in place to meet the discerned missional outcomes to be reviewed annually.

was carried.

EVENING WORSHIP

Jake Madin & St Michael le Belfrey Music led the Synod in an act of worship.

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2023 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 10 PM
ON MONDAY 10TH JULY 2023

REVIEW OF THE MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE (GS 2315)

28 The motion

‘That this Synod:

- a) welcome the Report GS 2315 on the review of the Mission & Pastoral Measure and the recommendation contains;
- b) request the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward a draft Measure for the First Consideration at a group of sessions in 2024 to give effect to the recommendations that involve legislative change;
- c) call on all concerned, including bishops, dioceses, parishes and the National Church Institutions, to welcome and embrace the call expressed in the Report for good conversations and a pastoral approach to be at the heart of any processes considering possible changes to ministry structures.’

was moved.

79 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was lost.

80 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was lost.

81 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was lost.

28 The motion (Order Paper VIII) was carried.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK dismissed the Synod with a blessing at 10 pm.

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