

Agenda

April Group of Sessions 2021

GENERAL SYNOD

**APRIL GROUP OF SESSIONS 2021
REMOTE MEETING**

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Friday 23 April	12.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Saturday 24 April	9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

SERVICES

Friday 23 April	
12.30 p.m.	Opening Worship
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship
Saturday 24 April	
9.15 a.m.	Opening Worship

GENERAL NOTES

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS

1. Save where a special note is included in the Agenda, the following rules apply under the Standing Orders of the General Synod to notice of motions and amendments other than procedural motions:

NEW BUSINESS

2. The period of notice of new business **has expired**, save for urgent or other specially important business included by the direction of the Presidents.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS ARISING OUT OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

3. Notice of motions and amendments arising out of business on the Agenda (other than amendments to legislative business and to proposed amendments to Standing Orders) must be delivered to the Clerk as follows (SOs 10-13 and 27):

Business appointed for the first day of the group of sessions (Friday 23 April)

4.30 p.m. on Thursday 22 April.

Business appointed for the remaining days of the group of sessions

Business appointed for a *morning* sitting:

10.00 a.m. the day before.

Business appointed for an *afternoon* sitting:

4.00 p.m. the day before.

4. Under Standing Orders 10 and 27, such notice must be accompanied by evidence of support from two or more members of the Synod in addition to the member giving the notice. (This provision does *not* apply to amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders.)
5. Notice of amendments to legislative business or to proposed amendments to Standing Orders must be given in accordance with the notes accompanying the relevant item in the Agenda
6. An amendment of which due notice has not been given may only be moved by permission of the Chair (SO 26(4)(a)).
7. The email address in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda is: **amendments@churchofengland.org**.

QUESTIONS

8. In exercise of its power under SO 12 the Business Committee had determined that notice of Questions under Standing Orders 112-113 must be delivered **not later than 12 noon on Tuesday 13 April 2021**.

NOTICE

9. Notice must be given to the Clerk to the Synod in writing signed by the member or by e-mail, from an address notified to the Clerk, to the relevant one of the email addresses below. The postal address is Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3AZ. The fax number is 020 7898 1369. The e-mail addresses are:

in respect of questions:

questions@churchofengland.org

in respect of amendments and motions arising out of business on the Agenda:

amendments@churchofengland.org.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

10. Business set out in the Agenda will be taken on the day and at the times shown. If business set down for a particular day is completed before the next timed business is due to be called, the opportunity will be taken to complete any business already partly considered at this group of sessions.

CONTACT

11. Please address queries or other matters not covered in these notes to the Clerk to the Synod as follows:

clerk@churchofengland.org.

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2021

12.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

WORSHIP

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

One of the Presidents to move:

- 28** 'That this Synod request that Presidents convey to Her Majesty the heartfelt sympathy of the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, assuring Her Majesty of the honour in which his memory will be held by them and of their prayers for Her Majesty and all the Royal Family.'

Note: This item has been added to the Agenda under the direction of the Presidents (SO 4(3)).

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2196)

Canon Robert Hammond (Chelmsford) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

- 2** 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'
-

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following item (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I - see pages 8-10) will be taken

Draft Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure (**GS 2182**)

- *Revision Stage*

ADJOURNMENT/SCREEN BREAK

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (GS 2197)

The Bishop of Leeds to move that:

- 3** 'That this Synod, believing that freedom of religion or belief is of importance to everyone, everywhere, and that Christians who enjoy this freedom should be active in advocating the same freedom for others:
- (a) note with concern that 83% of the global population live in countries where violations to freedom of religion or belief occur;
 - (b) affirm that freedom of religion or belief, as set out in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is a necessary condition for human and societal flourishing;
 - (c) call upon the Mission and Public Affairs Council to use the resources produced by its involvement in the Freedom of Religion and Belief

Leadership Network to assist parishes and dioceses to advocate for freedom of religion or belief internationally

- (d) call upon Her Majesty's Government to
- (i) implement the recommendations of the *Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians* (2019) and
 - (ii) to strengthen its commitment to upholding and protecting the right to freedom of religion or belief for all in its foreign, international development, defence and trade policy.'

57th REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (GS 2198)

Notes:

1. *The motions for the amendment of the Standing Orders contained in the First Notice Paper will be moved, insofar as they need to be debated.*

2. *The Business Committee has determined under Standing Order 40(5) that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders contained in items 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26 on the First Notice Paper do not need to be debated.*

3. *Under SO 40(5) those amendments will accordingly be deemed to have been approved by the Synod without amendment unless either:*

- *notice is given by not less than 5 members by 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 22 April 2021 that they wish a proposed amendment to be debated;*
or
- *notice is given by 5.30 p.m. on Monday 19 April 2021 of an amendment to any proposed amendment.*

ADJOURNMENT/SCREEN BREAK

502 Draft Legislative Reform (Church of England Pensions) Order 2021 (**GS 2193A**)

- *For Approval*

Not later than 6.00 p.m.

4 QUESTIONS

Note: *The Business Committee has determined in exercise of its power under SO 12 that notice of any question must be delivered **not later than 12 noon on Tuesday 13 April 2021.***

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021

9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

WORSHIP

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 503** Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 (**GS 2199**)
- *For Approval*
-

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS BOARD (GS 2200)

One of the Presidents to move:

- 5** 'That the appointment of Mr Clive Mather as Chair of the Church of England Pensions Board for a further term expiring on 31 March 2024 be approved'.
-

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE DIOCESES COMMISSION (GS 2201)

One of the Presidents to move:

- 6** 'That the appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission for a term expiring on 30 April 2022 be approved'.
-

7 **FAREWELLS**

ADJOURNMENT/SCREEN BREAK

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 500** Draft Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure (**GS 2182A**)
-
501 - *Final Drafting and Final Approval*
-

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021

1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATION: A REVIEW OF THE ELECTION PROCESSES TO THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION (GS 2202)

Mr Aiden Hargreaves-Smith (London) to move:

- 8 'That this Synod endorse the recommendations set out in section 6 of the report *Responsible Representation: a review of the electoral processes to the Crown Nominations Commission* (GS 2202).'

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2020: ALLOCATION OF SEATS AMENDMENT RESOLUTION (GS 2203)

Canon Robert Hammond (*Chelmsford*) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

- 9 'That the resolution passed by the Synod as item 13 at the February 2020 group of sessions (General Synod elections 2020: allocation of seats) be amended as follows:
- (a) in paragraph (a), for "2020" substitute "2021";
 - (b) in paragraph (b) –
 - i. for "2020" substitute "2021"; and
 - ii. for "Appendix B of GS 2162" insert "Appendix A of GS 2203".'

ADJOURNMENT/SCREEN BREAK

SAFEGUARDING: NATIONAL PROJECTS AND WORKSTREAMS IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE *INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE* OCTOBER 2020 INVESTIGATION REPORT (GS 2204)

The Bishop of Huddersfield to move:

- 10 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'

11 FAREWELLS

DEEMED BUSINESS (if required)

Deemed items of legislative business will be taken at this point if requested.

Not later than 5.00 p.m.

12 PROROGATION

DRAFT SAFEGUARDING (CODE OF PRACTICE) MEASURE (GS 2182)

Draft Measure for Revision in Full Synod

Draft Measure for Final Drafting and Final Approval

(First Consideration at the November 2020 group of sessions)

Revision Stage

Notes:

1. *The draft Measure received First Consideration at the November 2020 group of sessions. The Synod resolved that the draft Measure should be considered for revision in Full Synod without a prior Revision Committee Stage.*
2. *The Revision Stage in Full Synod will be taken on Friday 23rd April 2021. On the Revision Stage in Full Synod the Measure is subject to the same general procedure as a Measure on a Revision Stage following a Revision Committee stage – i.e. consideration of the Measure clause by clause, together with any amendments of which due notice has been given.*
3. *Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment under SO 59(1) must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Monday 19th April 2021.***
4. *Amendments notice of which has been given will be marshalled in the order in which they are to be taken on the relevant Order Paper.*

Final Drafting Stage

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Right Worshipful Morag Ellis QC) (Dean of the Arches and Auditor) to move:

500 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.'

Notes:

1. *In the event that the Steering Committee considers that it is unnecessary to consider the Measure in respect of its final drafting, it will inform the Synod on a Notice Paper and item 500 will not be moved.*
2. *If item 500 is carried, any special amendments will be moved (SO 61(8)).*

Final Approval Stage

The Chair of the Steering Committee (The Right Worshipful Morag Ellis QC) (Dean of the Arches and Auditor) to move:

501 'That the Measure entitled "Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure" be finally approved.'

**DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM (CHURCH OF ENGLAND PENSIONS)
ORDER 2021 (GS 2193A)**

Draft Legislative Reform Order for approval

A member of the Archbishops' Council to move:

- 502** 'That the draft Legislative Reform (Church of England Pensions) Order 2021 be approved.'

Notes:

1. *On 27th October 2020 the Archbishops' Council laid a draft Order before the General Synod under section 5(1) of the Legislative Reform Measure 2018.*
2. *The Scrutiny Committee has considered the draft Order, made amendments to it, and submitted a report to the Synod (GS 2193Y).*
3. *The Archbishops' Council has, under SO 69H(1), tabled a motion for approval of the draft Order as amended by the Scrutiny Committee (item 502).*
4. *Amendments cannot be made by the Synod to the draft Order. But any member may give notice under SO 69H(2) 'That the draft Legislative Reform (Church of England Pensions) Order 2021 be referred back to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration of ...'. A motion for referral back to the Scrutiny Committee may relate either to the whole of the draft Order or to such of its provisions as are specified in the motion. Notice of a motion for referral back to the Scrutiny Committee must be given **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Monday 19th April 2021.***

THE CLERGY DISCIPLINE (AMENDMENT) RULES 2021 (GS 2199)

Rules under sections 83 and 94 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 for approval

The Reverend Paul Benfield (Blackburn) to move:

- 503** 'That the Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Rules 2021 be approved.'

Notes:

1. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the Rules shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
2. *Amendments to the Rules are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 22nd April 2021.***

CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003: CODE OF PRACTICE (GS 2205)

Code of Practice under section 39 of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 for approval

Notes:

1. *The Clergy Discipline Commission has laid the Code of Practice (GS 2205) before the General Synod for approval under section 39 of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003.*
2. *The Business Committee has determined (as provided by that section) that the Code of Practice does not need to be debated.*
3. *Under SO 71(2), any member who wishes to debate the Code of Practice must give notice in accordance with SO 13 by **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd April 2021.***
4. *Amendments to the Code of Practice are permissible. Under SO 71(5), any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 22nd April 2021.***

PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST ORDER 2021 (GS 2206)

Order under section 65 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 for approval

Notes:

1. *The Church Commissioners have laid the Order (GS 2206) before the General Synod for approval under section 65 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.*
2. *The Business Committee has determined (as provided by that section) that the Order does not need to be debated.*
3. *Under SO 71(2), any member who wishes to debate the Order must give notice in accordance with SO 13 by **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd April 2021.***
4. *Amendments to the Order are not permissible.*

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 1 March 2021.

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Mr Edward Shaw (Bristol) to move:

‘That this Synod, convinced that all people without exception are loved by God and made in His image and are invited to fullness of life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, affirm:

- (a) its rejection of the fear or dislike of anyone on the basis of their sexual orientation.
- (b) the radically inclusive nature of Jesus's ministry and message to all people: "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
- (c) that marriage, as defined by Jesus, is the lifelong sexual union of a man and a woman.
- (d) that both those who marry and those who are single, as Jesus Himself was, can enjoy Christ-like relationships and the fullness of life which He offers all.
- (e) that all Christians should repent of any sexual activity outside marriage, in the assurance of God's loving forgiveness in Christ.
- (f) that all God's holy people are called to live out this calling, for their own good and for the life of the world they are called to serve.’

104 signatures

March 2017

REVIEW OF THE ‘FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES’

Mr David Lamming (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to move:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) share the sadness and regret of the Rt Revd Philip North in his decision, announced on 9 March 2017, to withdraw acceptance of his nomination to the See of Sheffield;
- (b) note the substantial support for Bishop North's nomination from many women and men, lay and ordained, in the dioceses of both Sheffield and Blackburn, and in the wider Church of England;
- (c) express its full support for Bishop North in his future ministry, whether in the Blackburn diocese or elsewhere;
- (d) note, with concern, the implications of Bishop North's decision, and the public debate that preceded it, for the 'mutual flourishing' of the Church of England; and
- (e) request the House of Bishops urgently to review the 'Five Guiding Principles' and to consider whether they need to be amended or amplified in order to ensure that there is an equal place at all levels in the Church for men and women of different theological convictions on the issue of women's ordination, and to report to the Synod by February 2018.’

100 signatures

March 2017

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

LITURGIES FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

Ms Christina Baron (Bath & Wells) to move:

‘That this Synod,

Request the House of Bishops to commend an Order of Prayer and Dedication after the registration of a civil partnership or a same sex marriage for use by ministers in exercise of their discretion under Canon B5, being a form of service neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter, together with guidance that no parish should be obliged to host, nor minister conduct, such a service.’

103 signatures

March 2018

THE FURTHER USE OF CHURCHYARDS

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) to move:

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to:

(a) consider the position in relation to further burials in churchyards which have been closed by Order in Council; and

(b) make representations to Her Majesty's Government on the matter with a view to primary legislation being brought forward (whether by way of Measure or Act of Parliament) to facilitate such burials in appropriate cases.’

4 signatures

September 2019

SAFEGUARDING & TENDERING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising that the use of tendering for professional services is widely regarded as good practice in the charitable and commercial sectors, and noting the need for high levels confidence that must exist regarding commercial relationships between the Church and its service providers in the field of safeguarding:

invite the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward legislation and associated guidance which require the use of regular tendering processes in the provision of legal, financial and insurance services by parishes, dioceses and the National Church Institutions.’

November 2019

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

FUNDING OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS

Mr Samuel Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod, valuing the ministry of Parish Priests, call on the National Church Institutions to:

- (a) work to end all unnecessary expenditure which does not resource parish churches or parish ministry
- (b) reduce Bishops’ stipends to the same level as that of a parish Priest;
- (c) undertake a review of the funding of Bishops;
- (d) target funding to support poorer parishes through financial difficulties and to radically invest in the reinvigoration of poorer parishes, and
- (e) publish the expenditure of Bishops’ offices and associated costs in the same way as MPs.’

2 signatures

July 2020

HOLY COMMUNION USING INDIVIDUAL CUPS

Mr Clive Scowen (London) to move:

‘That this Synod, mindful of Our Lord’s command that we should both eat and drink in remembrance of Him, ask that legislation be brought forward to provide that, in times when risk of serious infection makes it unsafe to communicate using a common cup, it shall be lawful to administer Holy Communion using individual cups.’

67 signatures

July 2020

ABOLITION OF DEFERENTIAL TITLES

James Dudley-Smith (Bath & Wells) to move:

‘That this Synod, noting Bishop Peter Hancock’s words quoted by the IICSA Anglican Church Investigation Report October 2020, that ‘issues of clericalism and deference have allowed abuse to be covered up and the voices of the vulnerable to be silenced’ (B.6.2.4.1) ask that steps be taken to abolish, and discourage the use of, deferential titles such as Reverend, Right Reverend, Very Reverend, Most Reverend, Venerable, and that clergy be instead referred to and addressed using the names of the roles they hold, e.g. Vicar, Rector, Bishop, Dean, Archbishop, Archdeacon.’

February 2021

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod calls on HM Government to amend legislation to include the Church of England as a public authority to allow Freedom of Information requests to be made and to ensure accountability, transparency and trust in the established church.’

February 2021

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘This synod call on the NCIs to bring forward a plan to create a publicly available register of Bishops or senior staff interests (based on MPs register of interests) to ensure the public can have confidence in church leadership, and that as office holders Bishops or senior staff are transparent about any relationships or interests they share with others.’

February 2021

CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003 S.9 LIMITATION OF TIME FOR INSTITUTION OF PROCEEDINGS

The Revd Stephen Trott (Peterborough) to move:

‘That this Synod express its wish to repeal S9 of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003, Limitation of time for institution of proceedings, to enable complaints by survivors to be addressed irrespective of the date when the event or events in question occurred.’

February 2021

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT

NB: Bath & Wells, Chelmsford, Guildford, Lincoln, London, Newcastle, Oxford and St Albans Diocesan Synods have now withdrawn their DSM on the Anglican Communion

... to move on behalf of the Manchester Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and
- (c) call on the House of Bishops:
 - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England’s involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
 - (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
 - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.’

March 2012

[The Southwark and Worcester Diocesan Synods passed a motion in identical terms.]

LITURGIES FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

... to move on behalf of the Hereford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

request the House of Bishops to commend an Order of Prayer and Dedication after the registration of a civil partnership or a same sex marriage for use by ministers in exercise of their discretion under Canon B5, being a form of service neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter, together with guidance that no parish should be obliged to host, nor minister conduct, such a service.

March 2018

(following an amendment to the Diocesan Synod Motion submitted in November 2017)

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

THE WEALTH GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR

... to move on behalf of the Leeds Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod call on Her Majesty's Government (and all political parties) to adopt an explicit policy of reducing the wealth gap between the rich and the poor and the disadvantages that flow from it.

June 2018

REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PCC MEMBERSHIP AND ENTRY ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

... to move on behalf of the Canterbury Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod invite the Archbishops' Council:

- (a) to conduct a review of:
 - (i) the qualifications for membership of parochial church councils, in the light of the existence of bishops' mission initiatives; and
 - (ii) the qualifications for enrolment on a church electoral roll, and the form of application for enrolment, in the light of the experience of parishes in the diocese that those who attend church regularly do not necessarily understand them; and
- (b) to report to the Synod on the conclusions of the review.

July 2018

CHALLENGING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

... to move on behalf of the Durham Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Government has played internationally in challenging slavery; and
- (b) ask Her Majesty's Government to introduce legislation to ensure proper provision for the ongoing support and protection of trafficked minors is enshrined in law.

July 2018

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

... to move on behalf of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod, noting:

- (a) the various public goods that are delivered by charities, including in the case of churches through their care of nationally valued heritage assets and their provision of community services; and
- (b) the fact that the money needed by charities to meet their liabilities, including Insurance Premium Tax, has to be raised by them, including in the case of churches through fund raising in their local communities

call on Her Majesty's Government to exempt charities, including churches, from liability for Insurance Premium Tax.

April 2019

PERSECUTED CHURCH

... to move on behalf of the Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod request that:

- (a) the Church of England not only pray for the persecuted church, but that its dioceses offer support to link dioceses where the church is facing persecution, and
- (b) the next Lambeth Conference address the issue of the persecution of Christians.

July 2019

REDUCE PAROCHIAL FEES FOR MARRIAGES

... to move on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod:

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.

March 2020

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PRISONER REHABILITATION SCHEMES

... to move on behalf of the Worcester Diocesan Synod:

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

- (a) note with pleasure the decision made by the National Probation Service to recognise faith 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 National 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.

March 2020

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

... to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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.

April 2020

ECO-DIOCESE PROGRAMME

... to move on behalf of the St Albans Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, following the motion passed by this Synod in February 2020, which recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice and which calls on all parts of the Church of England, including dioceses and parishes, to work towards net zero emissions, request that every diocese register with A Rocha UK for the Eco-Diocese Programme.’

December 2020

PAROCHIAL FEES

... to move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to lay a draft order before the Synod to amend the Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019 so that a fee payable to the parochial church council is prescribed in respect of funeral services that take place at crematoria and cemeteries.’

March 2021

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

FUTURE OF WORK

... to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod:

mindful of the deep economic effects of the pandemic, the impacts of new technology, and the global rise of new forms of working--

(a) affirm the dignity and value of purposeful work as a significant component of human flourishing

(b) endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by Fair.work and

(c) call for the Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) together with Mission and Public Affairs Committee to advise on what is essential to purposeful, dignified, and fair work in the context of the fourth industrial revolution now in progress.’

March 2021