

Agenda

November Group of Sessions 2023

**GENERAL SYNOD
NOVEMBER GROUP OF SESSIONS 2023
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER**

TIMES OF SITTINGS

Monday 13 November	1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. 6.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.
Tuesday 14 November	10.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 15 November	9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.

SERVICES

Monday 13 November	
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
2.00 p.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
6.45 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Tuesday 14 November	
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Midday Prayer in the Chapel
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Wednesday 15 November	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel

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 (Monday 13 November)

5.30 p.m. on Friday 10 November.

Notice of amendments to the motion relating to Living in Love and Faith (Item 7, Tuesday 14 November)

10.00 a.m. on Thursday 9 November.

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 has determined that notice of Questions under Standing Orders 112-113 must be delivered **not later than 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 October 2023.**

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 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

in respect of submissions to Revision Committees:

revisioncommittee@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.

CONTINGENCY BUSINESS

11. If there is no uncompleted business and a gap appears in the Agenda during this group of sessions, contingency business will be taken as follows:

FUTURE OF WORK (GS 2320A AND GS 2320B)

... 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.’

CLERGY PENSIONS (GS 2330A AND GS 2330B)

The Revd Dr Ian Paul (Southwell & Notts) to move:

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council, the Pensions Board, and the Church Commissioners to work together to find a way to make use of the whole range of assets and resources across the Church to enable the restoration of the clergy pension to its pre-2011 benefit level as soon as possible.’

PAROCHIAL FEES (GS 2331A AND GS 2331B)

... 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 to reflect the contribution made by parishes in support of such services.’

The deadline for amendments to these items of business is 10.00 a.m. on Monday 13 November (SO 27(5))

CONTACT

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

clerk@churchofengland.org.

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023

1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

WORSHIP

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

JOINT PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- 2 *The Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York will give a Joint Presidential Address.*
-

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2323)

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

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

Not later than 2.50 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 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 October 2023.***

Between 4.30 p.m. and 6.15 p.m., Synod members will be invited to engage informally with Living in Love and Faith

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023

6.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PENSIONS BOARD (GS 2324)

One of the Presidents to move:

- 5** 'That the appointment of Mr Clive Mather as Chair of the Church of England Pensions Board be approved.'

6.45 p.m. Evening Worship

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

10.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

A service of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Assembly Hall at 9.00 a.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following item (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I – see page 12) will be taken:

- 500** Abuse (Redress) Measure (**GS 2325**)
- *First Consideration*
-

Not later than 11.45 a.m.

6 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 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 October 2023.***

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA I: LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 501** The Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2023 (**GS 2326**)
- *For approval*
-

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS

Notes:

1. *The Standing Orders Committee has reported on the proposed amendments in its 62nd Report (GS 2327).*
 2. *The motions for the amendment of the Standing Orders contained in the Order Paper will be moved.*
-

Not later than 3.30 p.m.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2328)

The Bishop of London to move:

- 7** 'That this Synod, conscious that the Church is not of one mind on the issues raised by Living in Love and Faith, that we are in a period of uncertainty, and that many in the Church on all sides feel pain at this time, recognise the progress made by the House of Bishops towards implementing the motion on Living in Love and Faith passed by this Synod in February 2023, as reported in GS 2328, and encourage the House to continue its work of implementation.'

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2328)

- 7** *Debate continued from Tuesday afternoon sitting.*
cont. *See Order Paper IV for the details of the motion and amendments.*

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

2.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2328)

- 7** *Debate continued from this morning's sitting.*
cont. *See Order Paper IV for the details of the motion and amendments.*

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

- 502** Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (**GS 2329**)
- *For Approval*
-

Not later than 4.45 p.m.

8 PROROGATION

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

DRAFT ABUSE (REDRESS) MEASURE (GS 2325)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

The Chair of the Steering Committee to move:

- 500** ‘That the Measure entitled “Abuse (Redress) Measure” be considered for revision in committee.’

Note:

*If item 500 is carried, any member who wishes to submit proposals for amendment to the revision committee must send them in writing to the Clerk to the Synod so as to reach her **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th December 2023.***

PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST ORDER 2023 (GS 2326)

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

The Revd Flora Winfield (ex officio) (Third Church Estates Commissioner) to move:

- 501** ‘That the Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2023 be approved.’

Notes:

- 1. The Church Commissioners have laid the Order (GS 2326) before the General Synod for approval under section 65 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.*
- 2. Amendments to the Order are not permissible.*

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES (AMENDMENT) REGULATION (GS 2329)

Regulation for Approval

A member of the Crown Nominations Commission to move:

- 502** ‘That the Vacancy in See Committees (Amendment) Regulation 2023 be approved.’

Notes:

- 1. The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the draft Regulation shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
- 2. Amendments to the draft Regulation 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 Tuesday 14 November 2023.*

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 10 October 2023.

CLERGY PENSIONS

The Revd Dr Ian Paul (Southwell & Notts) to move:

‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council, the Pensions Board, and the Church Commissioners to work together to find a way to make use of the whole range of assets and resources across the Church to enable the restoration of the clergy pension to its pre-2011 benefit level as soon as possible.’

118 signatures

March 2022

REMOVAL OF DIVORCE IMPEDIMENT TO ORDINATION

The Revd Mark Bennet (Oxford) to move:

‘That this Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council introduce the necessary legislation to remove the canonical impediment to ordination in respect of a person who has remarried and, the other party to that marriage being alive, has a former spouse still living; or who is married to a person who has been previously married and whose former spouse is still living.’

138 signatures

March 2022

VOCATIONS PROCESS AND ISSUES IN HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Revd Mae Christie (Southwark) to move:

‘That this Synod request that the House of Bishops remove any requirements relating to *Issues in Human Sexuality* from the Vocations (Shared Discernment) Process.’

136 signatures

June 2022

GROOMING OF CHILDREN

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod believes the sexualisation and grooming of Children on our streets and in the media is abhorrent to the nature of God, contrary to the Christian faith, and that no member of the Church of England, Parish or Cathedral should endorse, support, resource or be associated with any activity that exposes children to sexualisation or grooming.’

21 signatures

December 2022

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

BULLYING BY LAY OFFICERS

The Ven Mark Ireland (Blackburn) to move:

‘That this Synod, recognising:

- a) that bullying is unacceptable behaviour within the Church of God, whether by clergy or lay people, and where it exists needs to be addressed; and
- b) the serious pastoral problems and unfairness that arise while clergy can be subject to penalties for bullying that include prohibition and removal from office but there is no means of disqualifying a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who is guilty of bullying from holding office;

request the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward legislative proposals which would enable a churchwarden, PCC member or other lay officer who was found to have conducted him- or her-self in such a manner to be disqualified from holding office.’

176 signatures

December 2022

FURTHER USE OF CHURCHYARDS

The Revd Andrew Dotchin (St Edmundsbury & 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 His 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.’

28 signatures

January 2023

INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE WITHIN THE SOUL SURVIVOR NETWORK

The Revd Robert Thompson (London) to move:

‘That this Synod, being deeply disquieted at the continued controversies over the actual independence of Safeguarding structures within the Church of England, does not accept that an internal Church inquiry into the allegations of abuse and cover-up within the Soul Survivor network is either sufficient or right in principle.

It accordingly calls upon the Archbishop’s Council to commission, on agreed terms of reference with survivors, a report into those allegations from an independent King’s Counsel without delay.’

143 signatures

May 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

LGBTQIA+ AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Mr Sam Wilson (Chester) to move:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) recognise the importance of including age-appropriate LGBTQIA+ content in relationship education
- (b) commend the use of ‘Valuing All God’s People’ to all Church of England schools in order to help combat anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying
- (c) thank the teachers and staff who help to create welcoming and inclusive environments for all pupils, especially those who do so with personal sacrifice as LGBTQIA+ role models.’

102 signatures

May 2023

REFORM OF DIOCESAN WORKING PRACTICES

Professor Roy Faulkner (Leicester) to move:

‘That this Synod request a working group be set up to consider Diocesan reform with a view to reporting back to the next group of sessions with firm proposals for more efficient Diocesan working practices, driven by mission statements.’

37 signatures

May 2023

REQUEST FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO RESIGN

Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry) to move:

‘That this Synod call upon The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, to resign.’

3 signatures

June 2023

FUNERAL FEES AND SCHEDULED MATTERS AMENDING ORDER 2019

The Revd Tom Woolford (Blackburn) to move:

‘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 for funeral services in church are set at nil.’

0 signatures

July 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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 to reflect the contribution made by parishes in support of such services.’

March 2021

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

KAIROS PALESTINE

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

‘That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the “Cry for Hope” expressed by Palestinian Christians and the ‘Global Kairos for Justice’ coalition (GKfJ);
- (b) request that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians
- (c) instruct the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and thereby make decisions regarding engagement with, and divestment from, companies which profit from the occupation.’

October 2021

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PCCS

... to move on behalf of Chelmsford Diocesan Synod

‘That this Synod request that the General Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council carry out a review to consider:

- (a) the possibility of drawing up a Code of Conduct for PCC members and lay volunteers,
- (b) the issues required to put in place a disciplinary process for their removal from the PCC in cases where this is not followed,
- (c) the resources required at national, diocesan and parish level to bring this about.’

March 2022

SAFER RECRUITMENT FOR PCCS AND SYNODS

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

That this Synod request that the Archbishops Council:

- (a) review current legislative provision dealing with disqualification from holding office on a PCC or synod constituted under the Church Representation Rules;
- (b) consult the National Safeguarding Team on appropriate safeguarding measures;

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

- (c) bring forward proposals to amend the Church Representation Rules and other relevant legislation to allow checks to be made as to the eligibility of individuals to hold office on a PCC or synod; and
- (d) bring forward legislation to provide a robust and effective means for preventing those who are disqualified on safeguarding or other grounds from being elected to, or holding, office.'

April 2022

CHURCH BUILDINGS

... to move on behalf of Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod urge the National Church Institutions and Church Buildings Council to use their influence to press for:

- (a) a reduction in the financial burden of VAT on churches through the continued funding of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPofWGS) and a broadening of the criteria for eligible expenditure together with a reduction in the administrative burden to access the LPofWGS with a simplified application process;
- (b) an intentional briefing, and greater understanding by, the local representatives of Historic England and the amenity societies of the mission and ministry objectives of the Church of England, and;
- (c) money to be made available from nationally held funds to assist churches to make reasonable adjustments to provide basic facilities for the comfort of worshippers and visitors.'

May 2022

DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

... to move on behalf of London Diocesan Synod:

'That this Synod, in the light of the motion passed at the February 2022 Group of Sessions relating to the persecuted Church (i.e. item 18 on the Agenda, as amended), request the Archbishops' Council to work ecumenically with other churches to establish a national day of prayer and action for the persecuted Church around the world.'

August 2022

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

FOOD BANKS AND INADEQUACIES IN SOCIAL SECURITY

... to move on behalf of Sheffield Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod, mindful that the fourth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is to “transform unjust structures of society”,

- (a) note the major contribution to social welfare being made by the churches and others in the provision of food banks
- (b) note with concern that levels of dependence on food banks have been increasing and that inflation is making the situation even worse
- (c) believe that this dependence reflects serious inadequacies in the social security system
- (d) note that the Trussell Trust has said: 'we stand on the edge of a precipice with a clear decision to make: either we accept food banks as a 'new normal' or we work to create a more dignified, compassionate and humane society where everyone has enough money for essentials'
- (e) welcome the Chancellor's intervention to help the least well-off households with their energy bills but note this will not remove the problem of increased dependency on foodbanks
- (f) call on the House of Bishops to urgently engage with HM Government, in particular the Secretary of State, to press it to review the adequacy of current social security provision.'

January 2023

REST PERIODS FOR OFFICE HOLDERS

.... to move on behalf of Winchester Diocesan Synod

‘That this Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council lay before it for approval draft Regulations amending the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 so that an office holder is entitled to not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of rest in any period of seven days, to include an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours, but so that the statement of particulars of office may continue to specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.’

April 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

ADD CONFIRMATION NUMBERS TO STATISTICS FOR MISSION

... to move on behalf of the Diocese of Canterbury:

‘That this Synod:

- (a) request that the number of candidates presented for confirmation should be recorded, so they could be used by parishes, deaneries or dioceses as one of their measures if they so desired; and
- (b) support the recording of confirmations, alongside baptisms, weddings and funerals in the annual Statistics for Mission online return.

September 2023