

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7.15 P.M.
ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2024

VARIATION

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

47A The amendment (Notice Paper XI) lapsed.

12 The motion (as amended)

‘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, whether paid or unpaid, as a significant component of human flourishing;
- b) endorse the Rome Call for promoting an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI);
- c) endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by fair work;
- d) encourage all parishes, benefices, dioceses, cathedrals, Theological Educational Institutions and other Church of England organisations to implement, at a minimum, the living wage for employees and to have a regard for work/life balance and dignity at work; and
- e) 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 including specific advice on how these changes impact the work of women and to look at Biblical wisdom on work, employment and economy in its widest sense; and to consider a range of practical solutions from recent economic thinking in harmony with the Christian tradition's emphasis on grace, justice and mercy, such as questions around pay ratios within organisations, Basic Citizens' Income, poverty and wealth lines, to strengthen our Christian voice in the public square as a Church.’

was carried.

ESTATES EVANGELISM (GS 2345)

19 The motion

‘This Synod:

- a) dedicate itself afresh to the goal of achieving a loving, serving and worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate to mark the fifth anniversary of Synod Motion GS 2122;
- b) commend the work of all who minister on our estates and gives thanks for those Dioceses who have responded positively to the 2019 Motion;
- c) call on all Dioceses to include in their strategic mission and ministry plans the goal of planting and renewing churches on social housing estates/other economically marginalised communities;
- d) call on the whole church to address as a matter of urgency the structural and financial injustices that prevent flourishing and sustainable worshipping communities on every estate (for example the financial inequalities between dioceses and the distribution of LInC Funding);
- e) commit itself to taking the necessary steps to raise up a new generation of lay and ordained leaders from estates and working class backgrounds (by for example addressing the recommendations of the Ministry Council’s Report ‘Let Justice Roll Down’) at all levels in the church.’

was moved.

59 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

60 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

61 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

62 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

19 The motion (as amended)

‘This Synod:

- a) dedicate itself afresh to the goal of achieving a loving, serving and worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate to mark the fifth anniversary of Synod Motion GS 2122;

- b) commend the work of all who minister on our estates and gives thanks for those Dioceses who have responded positively to the 2019 Motion;
- c) call on all Dioceses to include in their strategic mission and ministry plans the goal of planting and renewing churches on and/or doubling the number of young active disciples in social housing estates/other economically marginalised communities;
- d) call on the whole church to address as a matter of urgency the structural and financial injustices that prevent flourishing and sustainable worshipping communities on every estate (for example the financial inequalities between dioceses and the distribution of LInC Funding);
- e) commit itself to taking the necessary steps to raise up and support a new generation of lay and ordained leaders from estates and working class backgrounds (by for example addressing the recommendations of the Ministry Council’s Report ‘Let Justice Roll Down’) at all levels in the church including a commitment to invest creatively in local and grassroots forms of ministry and leadership training.
- f) request the Estates Evangelism Task Group to work alongside diocesan vocations advisors, the 30,000 Project and other related bodies to ensure that priority is given to the formation of young people from estates and low-income communities to serve as children’s and young people’s leaders, as well as in other forms of Christian ministry.’

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

FOR	364
AGAINST	0

There were no recorded abstentions.

SPECIAL AGENDA III:

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

CLERGY PENSIONS (GS 2330A & GS 2330B)

20 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

- 63 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.
- 64 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.
- 20 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod

- a) request the Archbishops’ Council, the Pensions Board, and the Church Commissioners to work together with dioceses to explore ways in which the level of clergy pensions and stipends might be improved in a sustainable manner, with reference being made to the impact of changes to clergy pension benefits and the National Minimum Stipend (NMS) since 1998, including the change in level of the pension benefit from 2/3 of NMS prior to 2011;
- b) in doing this work to have regard to the findings of the Clergy Remuneration Review (GS 2247 and GS Misc 1298) and in particular the policy that the National Minimum Stipend should, in future, on average, increase in line with inflation (as measured by CPIH) subject to three yearly reviews and the need to review this position if high levels of inflation establish themselves; and
- c) request the Archbishops’ Council, the Pensions Board and the Church Commissioners to consider what steps may be taken to remedy the fall in the real value of pensions for clergy retiring since 2021, and to avoid such a fall reoccurring in any future period of high inflation.’

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

IN FAVOUR 382

AGAINST 0

There were no recorded abstentions.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2346)

21 The motion

‘That this Synod welcome the further work carried out on Living in Love and Faith and the focus on reconciliation and bridge building; and ask that the proposal for a set of commitments through which the whole Church can continue to pursue the implementation of the motions previously passed by Synod on Living in Love and Faith, be brought back to Synod as soon as possible.’

was moved.

65 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

EXTENSION OF SITTING

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

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

	FOR	AGAINST
Bishops	8	20
Clergy	83	92
Laity	86	98

2 abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops, 2 in the House of Clergy and 1 in the House of Laity.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by the Community of St Anselm.