

**GENERAL SYNOD**  
**FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS**  
**BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.**  
**ON SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE (RESUMED DEBATE)**

- 31 The amendment (Order Paper III) was lost after a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	4	26
Clergy	46	111
Laity	73	87

4 abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops, 9 in the House of Clergy, and 5 in the House of Laity.

- 32 The amendment (Order Paper III) lapsed.
- 32A The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.
- 33 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried by a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	167
AGAINST	107

80 abstentions were recorded.

- 34 The amendment (Order Paper III) was lost.
- 9 The motion as amended

‘That this Synod thank Sarah Wilkinson and Alexis Jay for their work and request that the process set out in paragraph 12 of GS 2336 for forming a response to, and considering any necessary implementation of, their recommendations be pursued as a matter of priority;

That this Synod adopt and endorse the apologies expressed by the Archbishops to the Survivors impacted by the matters described within the Wilkinson Report, and specifically acknowledge and apologise for its own collegiate shortcomings within the scrutiny process;

That this Synod apologise to all members of the former Independent Safeguarding Board for the stress harm and professional embarrassment they have endured which have arisen as a result of the ISB formation, structuring, resourcing, implementation and management for which they were not responsible.'

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

IN FAVOUR	337
AGAINST	21

20 abstentions were recorded.

## **LAND AND NATURE (GS 2319)**

### 10 The motion

'That this Synod, recognising the need to respond urgently to the ecological crisis, in line with the global scientific consensus that the climate change and biodiversity loss crises are intricately linked

- (a) welcome the work being done by the Church Commissioners, the NCIs, and many dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage all or part of their land for climate and nature, in urban and rural communities alike;
- (b) request Diocesan Secretaries to take a named person/committee in their dioceses to create an action plan to achieve the 'Land' section of Eco Diocese at Silver level by 2026 at the latest.
- (c) request Chairs and Secretaries of all diocesan property/finance committees to incorporate nature-positive objectives into their asset management policies within the next 6 months.
- (d) call on parishes, cathedrals, TEIs, NCIs offices with land they manage or influence to:
  - i. create a simple land management plan, with reference to the guidance and examples from Caring for Gods Acre,
  - ii. work towards an increasing level of Eco Church, including the actions in the 'Land' section, and
  - iii. record the biodiversity of their green spaces, through taking part in Churches Count on Nature each year.
- (e) call on Diocesan Boards of Education to work in accordance with the Department for Education Sustainability Strategy.'

was moved.

38 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

38A The amendment (Notice Paper X) lapsed.

10 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod, recognising the need to respond urgently to the ecological crisis, in line with the global scientific consensus that the climate change and biodiversity loss crises are intricately linked

- (a) welcome the work being done by the Church Commissioners, the NCIs, and many dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage all or part of their land for climate and nature, in urban and rural communities alike;
- (b) request Diocesan Secretaries to take a named person/committee in their dioceses to create an action plan to achieve the ‘Land’ section of Eco Diocese at Silver level by 2026 at the latest.
- (c) request Chairs and Secretaries of all diocesan property/finance committees to incorporate nature-positive objectives into their asset management policies within the next 6 months.
- (d) call on parishes, cathedrals, TEIs, NCIs offices with land they manage or influence to:
  - i. create a simple land management plan, with reference to the guidance and examples from Caring for Gods Acre,
  - ii. work towards an increasing level of Eco Church, including the actions in the ‘Land’ section, and
  - iii. record the biodiversity of their green spaces, through taking part in Churches Count on Nature each year.
- (e) call on Diocesan Boards of Education to work in accordance with the Department for Education Sustainability Strategy.’
- (f) request the Church Commissioners to report back to General Synod within three years about their progress with:
  - i. enhancing and supporting biodiversity across their agricultural and forestry land;
  - ii. engagement and collaboration with tenants about sustainable farming, and
  - iii. their leadership amongst landowners in a way that recognises the importance of shared learning, support and respect in achieving these objectives.

was carried.

## **SYNOD CODE OF CONDUCT**

11 The motion

‘That this Synod, acknowledging the feedback from members outlined in GS 2337, requests that the Business Committee revise the current General Synod Members’ Code of Conduct and present their proposals to Synod at a future group of sessions.’

was carried.

## **SPECIAL AGENDA IV:**

### **DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

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

12 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

39 The amendment (Order Paper III) was lost following a counted vote of the whole Synod. The voting was as follows:

IN FAVOUR	88
AGAINST	124

14 abstentions were recorded.

40 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

41 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

- 42 The amendment (Order Paper III) fell.
- 43 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.
- 44 The amendment (Order Paper III) was lost.
- 45 The amendment (Order Paper III) was carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE**

Under Standing Order 15(7)(a) the Chair adjourned the debate at 7.00 p.m.

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

The Synod was led in an act of worship by the Diocese of Birmingham.