

Agenda

February Group of Sessions 2024

**GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2024
AT CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER
TIMES OF SITTINGS**

Friday 23 February	2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Saturday 24 February	9.00 a.m to 12.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 25 February	2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Monday 26 February	9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m.to 7.00 p.m.
Tuesday 27 February	9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

SERVICES

Friday 23 February	
2.00 p.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Saturday 24 February	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Sunday 25 February	
2.30 p.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Monday 26 November	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall
1.10 p.m.	Holy Communion in the Chapel
7.00 p.m.	Closing Worship in the Assembly Hall
Tuesday 27 November	
9.00 a.m.	Opening Worship in the Assembly Hall

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 February)

5.30 p.m. on Thursday 22 February.

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 noon on Tuesday 13 February 2024.**

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:

FOOD BANKS AND INADEQUACIES IN SOCIAL SECURITY (GS 2351A AND GS 2351B)

... 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.'

The deadline for amendments to this item of business is 10.00 a.m. on Friday 23 February (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.

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

WORSHIP

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2333)

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

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

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The following items (full details of which are contained in Special Agenda I – see pages 18-20) will be taken:

- 504** Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 (**GS 2334**)
- *Consolidation instrument*
- 505** Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024
- *Proclamation as Act of Synod*
- 502** Amending Canon No 43 (**GS 2273C**)
- *For Enactment*
-

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PAROCHIAL FEES (GS 2331A AND GS 2331B)

The Revd Christopher Trundle (London) to move:

- 4** '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.'

Not later than 5.30 p.m.

5 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 Tuesday 13 February 2024.***

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2024

9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV:
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS (GS
2335A AND GS 2335B)**

The Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale (Chelmsford) to move:

- 6** 'That this 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.'

7 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 Tuesday 13 February 2024.***

Not later than 11.15 a.m.

SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE (GS 2336)

- 8** Presentation under SO 107.

The Bishop of Stepney to move:

- 9** '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.'

SATURDAY 24 FEBRURY 2024

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE (GS 2336)

- 9** *Debate continued from Saturday morning sitting.*
cont. *See Order Paper II for the details of the motion and amendments.*
-

LAND AND NATURE (GS 2319)

The Bishop of Norwich to move:

- 10** '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 task 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 all 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 all Diocesan Boards of Education to work in accordance with the Department for Education Sustainability Strategy.'
-

SYNOD CODE OF CONDUCT (GS 2337)

The Revd Canon Paul Cartwright (Leeds) to move:

- 11** 'That this Synod, acknowledging the feedback from members outlined in GS 2337, request 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'.

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV:
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

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

The Bishop of Oxford to move:

12 '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.'

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024

2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

RACIAL JUSTICE: FURTHERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ‘FROM LAMENT TO ACTION’ (GS 2338)

The Bishop of Dover to move:

- 13** ‘That this Synod:
- a) commend the practical and positive outcomes in From Lament To Action but recognising the need to further embed racial justice in the life and practice of our Church, request that the national Church ensures crucial resources remain available including appropriate governance arrangement and funding, recommend that Dioceses give priority to the collection, monitoring and measuring of relevant data, and encourage parishes and deaneries to develop local action plans to address issues of racial injustice.
 - b) note that the Archbishops’ Commission for Racial Justice shall complete its mandated three-year term in November 2024 and request the Archbishops’ Council ensure effective structures exist for monitoring actions and outcomes on racial justice, including a possible review and strengthening of the role of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, and that the Synod Group Sessions in February 2025 review the progress made by Dioceses, the NCIs and other related institutions in implementing the recommendations in From Lament To Action.’
-

**SPECIAL AGENDA III:
PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS**

BULLYING BY LAY OFFICERS (GS 2339A AND GS 2339B)

The Ven Mark Ireland (Blackburn) to move:

- 14** ‘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;

- c) 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.'
-

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS

Notes:

1. *The Standing Orders Committee has reported on the proposed amendment in its 63rd Report (GS 2340)*
 2. *The motion for the amendment of the Standing Orders contained in the Order Paper will be moved.*
-

ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS (GS 2321)

The Bishop of Durham to move:

- 15** 'That this Synod:
- (a) welcome the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households' Report, "Love Matters";
 - (b) commend the Report and the Recommendations for consideration in dioceses, deaneries and parishes;
 - (c) encourage the Archbishops' Council to develop practical responses in line with the vision and priorities to be a 'younger, more diverse; mixed ecology and missionary discipleship church' believing that the recommendations in "Love Matters" will aid the implementation of this vision; and
 - (d) urge HM Government to implement the recommendations made to Government, and look forward to receiving a full Government response to all the recommendations.'

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2024

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

**CHURCH COMMISSIONERS' RESPONSE TO LINKS TO
TRANSATLANTIC CHATTEL SLAVERY (GS 2341)**

16 Presentation under SO 107.

Note: *the Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

Not later than 10.15 a.m.

**SPECIAL AGENDA I:
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

503 Parochial Fees Order 2024 (**GS 2342**)

- *For Approval*

500 Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners' Liability) Measure (**GS 2343**)

- *First Consideration*

**REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
(GS 2344)**

One of the Presidents to move

17 'That the reappointment of The Revd Charlotte Cook as a member of the Archbishops' Council for a term ending on 22 February 2029 be approved.'

18 'That the reappointment of Mr Joseph Diwakar as a member of the Archbishops' Council for a term ending on 22 February 2029 be approved.'

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2024

2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

ESTATES EVANGELISM (GS 2345)

The Bishop of Blackburn to move:

- 19** '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 GS2122
 - (b) commend the work of all who minister on our estates and give 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.'

**SPECIAL AGENDA III:
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

CLERGY PENSIONS (GS 2330A AND GS 2330B)

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

- 20** '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.'

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2346)

The Bishop of Leicester to move:

- 21** '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.'

7.00 p.m. Evening Worship

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

OPENING WORSHIP

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2346)

- 21** *Debate continued from Monday afternoon sitting.*
cont. *See Order Paper VI for the details of the motion and amendments.*
-

Not later than 11.30 p.m.

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 501** Church Funds Investment Measure (**GS 2347**)
- *First Consideration*

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

WAR IN UKRAINE AND CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL ORDER (GS 2348)

Mr Mark Sheard (ex officio) to move:

- 22** 'That this Synod, recognising the ongoing suffering and terror caused by the war in Ukraine and the repercussions and anxiety felt globally for our common future:
- (a) affirm with gratitude the churches work with others to support conflict parties and mediators and call for continued efforts to develop pathways to peace, justice and reconciliation in Ukraine;
 - (b) call on all parties to the conflict to ensure that everyone in Ukraine has full freedom to manifest and practice their religion or belief, in line with international human rights law.
 - (c) call on all UK political parties to set out ahead of the General Election their vision for a desirable international order and their strategies for ensuring that existing international rules and principles are attractive both domestically and to a broader global constituency.'

**SPECIAL AGENDA III:
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

REMOVAL OF DIVORCE IMPEDIMENT TO ORDINATION (GS 2349A AND GS 2349B)

The Revd Mark Bennet (Oxford) to move:

- 23** '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.'

Not later than 4.15 p.m.

- 24 FAREWELLS**

Not later than 4.30 p.m.

- 25 PROROGATION**
-

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHANCEL REPAIR (CHURCH COMMISSIONERS' LIABILITY) MEASURE (GS 2343)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

The Chair of the Steering Committee to move:

- 500** 'That the Measure entitled "Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners' Liability) Measure" be considered for revision in committee.'

Notes:

*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 8 April 2024.***

CHURCH FUNDS INVESTMENT MEASURE (GS 2347)

Draft Measure for First Consideration

The Chair of the Steering Committee to move:

- 501** 'That the Measure entitled "Church Funds Investment Measure" be considered for revision in committee.'

Notes:

*If item 501 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 8 April 2024.***

AMENDING CANON NO 43 (GS 2273C)

Canon for Enactment

(Finally approved at the July 2023 group of sessions)

One of the Presidents to move:

- 502** 'That the Canon entitled "Amending Canon No. 43" be made, promulgated and executed.'

SPECIAL AGENDA I – LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

PAROCHIAL FEES ORDER 2024 (GS 2342) **Draft Order for Approval**

A member of the Archbishops' Council to move:

503 'That the Draft Parochial Fees Order 2024 be approved.'

Notes:

1. *The Archbishops' Council has laid the above draft Order (GS 2342) before the General Synod for approval under section 2 of the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986.*
2. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with SO 70(1) that the Regulations are to be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
3. *Amendments to the draft Order 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 22 February 2024.***

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION 2024 (GS 2334) **Consolidation Instrument for Approval**

A member of the Crown Nominations Commission to move:

504 'That the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 be approved.'

Notes:

1. *The Business Committee has determined in accordance with Standing Order 71(9) that the draft Regulation is a Consolidation Instrument.*
2. *The Business Committee has further determined in accordance with Standing Order 70(1) that the draft Regulation shall be considered on the One Motion Procedure under SO 72.*
3. *Because the Regulation is a consolidation instrument, it is not in order to give notice of, or to move, an amendment to the Regulation unless the effect of the amendment would be—*
 - (a) to reinstate the text of one or more of the enactments or instruments being consolidated by the Consolidation Instrument, or part of them,*
 - (b) to make a correction or minor improvement in those enactments or instruments, or part of them, or*
 - (c) to correct a textual error in the Consolidation Instrument.*

(See SO 71(8))

*Any member who wishes to give notice of such an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on 22 February 2024.***

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION 2024

Affirmation and proclamation as an Act of Synod

One of the Presidents to move:

- 505** 'That the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 be solemnly affirmed and proclaimed an Act of Synod.'

CLERGY DISCIPLINE (AMENDMENT) RULES 2024 (GS 2350)

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

Notes:

1. *The Rule Committee has laid the Rules (GS 2350) before the General Synod for approval under section 83 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.*
2. *The Business Committee has determined (as provided by that section) that the Rules do not need to be debated.*
3. *Under SO 71(2), any member who wishes to debate the Rules must give notice in accordance with SO 13 by **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd February 2024.***
4. *Amendments 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 Friday 23rd February 2024.***

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 24 January 2024.

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.’

122 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.’

140 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

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;

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

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.'

179 signatures

December 2022

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.'

147 signatures

May 2023

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 Children' 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.'

106 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.'

46 signatures

May 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA III – PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

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.’

5 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.’

1 signature

July 2023

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV – DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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;
- (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

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

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