

GENERAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Meeting of the House of Laity, Assembly Hall, Church House
7.20 p.m. on Sunday 25 February 2024

The meeting will end not later than 8.45 p.m.

Church House
Westminster SW1P 3AZ

19 February 2024

A G E N D A

PRAYERS AND WELCOME

CONCERNS OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY

HL(24)01

Martin Sewell (Rochester) to move:

1. That this House
 1. Note with concern that the Church of England and the General Synod are entering into a period of significant challenge in particular in respect of
 - a. governance reform;
 - b. the implementing of recommendations from the Wilkinson and Jay Reviews;
 - c. clear divisions within our Church in matters relating to Prayers of Love and Faith, with an increasing risk of secession and consequent resource allocation implications;
 - d. structural parish re-organisation; and

- e. the allocation and application of Church Commissioners' monies between local and more centralised initiatives; and
 2. further note the concerns of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse that a culture of deference had not served the Church well in certain aspects of its safeguarding responsibilities; and
 3. further note that a significant number of members of this House have expressed concerns at the management of Synod and that a democratic deficit may have already developed, contributing to the creation or exacerbation of current and future controversies;
 4. request that those elected by the House to, and those who are ex-officio members of, the Archbishops' Council and Business Committee, note the stated concerns of this House and present them to the bodies they serve; and
 5. further request that the Standing Committee bring a written report on these concerns to a meeting of the House during the July 2024 group of sessions.
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Notes

1. The meeting of the House has been called pursuant to House Standing Order 2(c). The agenda has been set by the Standing Committee under House Standing Order 9.
2. Amendments to the motion are in order and notice, accompanied by evidence of support for the amendment from at least two members of the House, must be given to the Secretary to the House by **4pm on Saturday 24 February 2024**.
3. The Chair of the House has decided to vacate the chair for the duration of the debate on item 1. Under House Standing Order 7(c) the chair is taken by the Vice-Chair of the House who in the exercise of her powers under article 11(3) of the Constitution of the General Synod has determined that Geoffrey Tattersall KC shall chair item 1.