

**Sunday 25 February 2024**

**7.20 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.**

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**ORDER PAPER I**

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**PRAYERS AND WELCOMES**

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**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.'

*Mr Chris Angus (Carlisle) to move as an amendment:*

- 2 'In paragraph (1) *leave out* "in particular" and *insert* "including".'

*Mrs Debbie McIsaac to move as an amendment:*

- 3 'After (e) *insert*  
“( ) current Synodical process and practice”.'

*Mr Chris Angus (Carlisle) to move as an amendment:*

- 4 '*Leave out* paragraph (4) and *insert*:  
“( ) express our thanks and support to those elected by this House, and those who are ex officio members of, the Archbishops Council, Business Committee and Appointments Committee and request that they note the stated concerns of this House and represent them to the bodies they serve;”.'

*Mr Chris Angus (Carlisle) to move the following amendments:*

- 5 'At the end *insert*:  
“( ) commit ourselves to a period of study and prayerful reflection culminating in a special gathering of the House to take place during the July 2024 Group of Sessions”.'

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

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