

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by the Chaplain to the Synod, the Revd Dylan Turner.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOMES

- 1 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY introduced the following new members:

The Rt Revd Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham, replacing the Rt Revd David Urquhart;

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough, replacing the Rt Revd Donald Allister;

The Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston, Suffragan Bishops, replacing the Rt Revd Karowei Dorgu;

Mr Paul Hannah, Diocese of Blackburn, replacing Mrs Vivienne Goddard;

The Revd Jenny Bridgman, Diocese of Chester, replacing the Ven Ian Bishop;

The Revd Mark Wallace, Diocese of Guildford, replacing the Ven Paul Davies.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY welcomed the bishops who were attending this group of sessions under Standing Order 123 (during a vacancy in see):

The Bishop of Penrith, the Rt Revd Rob Saner-Haigh, for the Diocese of Carlisle;

The Bishop of Taunton, the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, for the Diocese of Coventry;

The Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd Dagmar Winter, for the Diocese of Ely;

The Bishop of Crediton, the Rt Revd Jackie Searle, for the Diocese of Exeter;

The Bishop of Middleton, the Rt Revd Mark Davies, for the Diocese of Sodor and Man;

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY welcomed the following Anglican Communion guests:

The Most Revd Brent Alawas, Prime Bishop of The Philippines; and

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

2 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY gave a Presidential Address.

REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2333)

3 The motion

‘That the Synod do take note of this Report.’

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION 2024 (GS 2334)

Draft Consolidation Instrument for Approval

504 The motion

‘That the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 be approved.’

was carried.

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEES REGULATION 2024

Affirmation and proclamation as an Act of Synod

505 The motion

‘That the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 2024 be solemnly affirmed and proclaimed an Act of Synod.’

was carried.

The Presidents signed the instrument ratifying and confirming the Act of Synod in their respective Provinces and proclaiming it to their dioceses. The Registrar then read the customary form of proclamation.

AMENDING CANON NO 43 (GS 2273C)

Canon for Enactment (Final Approval July 2023 Group of Sessions)

The Chair reported that the Royal Assent and Licence to promulge Amending Canon No. 43 had been received and the Registrar read the Instrument of Enactment.

502 The motion

‘That the Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 43” be made, promulged and executed.’

was carried.

The Instrument of Enactment was signed by the Archbishops, the Prolocutors and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

PAROCHIAL FEES (GS 2331A AND GS 2331B)

4 The motion

‘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.’

was carried.

QUESTIONS

- 5 Supplementary questions in respect of questions 1 to 121 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper were answered.

EVENING WORSHIP

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

DEEMED BUSINESS

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CLERGY DISCIPLINE (AMENDMENT) RULES 2024 (GS 2350)

The Rules under sections 83 and 94 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 were deemed approved, no member having given notice of their wish for this item to be debated or notice of any proposed amendment.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.45 P.M.
ON SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

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

SPECIAL AGENDA IV

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PCCS (GS 2335A AND GS 2335B)

6 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

27 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

28 The amendment (Order Paper II) was lost.

6 The motion was carried following a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	30	1
Clergy	128	23
Laity	105	52

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 4 in the House of Clergy, and 8 in the House of Laity

QUESTIONS

- 7 Supplementary questions in respect of questions 122 to 167 as set out in the Questions Notice Paper were answered.

SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE

- 8 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

- 9 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

- 29 The amendment (Order Paper II) lapsed.

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

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Bishops	8	27
Clergy	62	95
Laity	83	80

2 abstentions were recorded in the House of Bishops, 7 in the House of Clergy, and 8 in the House of Laity.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON SATURDAY 24TH 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
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AGAINST	21
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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.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 7 P.M.
ON SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by a group of members from the Diocese of Durham.

RACIAL JUSTICE: FURTHERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ‘FROM LAMENT TO ACTION’

13 The motion,

‘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.’

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

IN FAVOUR 364

AGAINST 0

2 abstentions were recorded.

SPECIAL AGENDA III:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

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

14 The motion

‘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.’

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

IN FAVOUR	273
AGAINST	15

22 abstentions were recorded.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS (GS 2340)

26 The motion (Order Paper IV) was carried.

48 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was lost.

49 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

50 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

51 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

52 The amendment (Order Paper IV) fell.

53 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was moved.

54 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

53 The amendment (Order Paper IV as amended by Item 54) was carried.

55 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.

- 56 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was moved.
- 57 The amendment (Order Paper IV) was carried.
- 56 The amendment (Order Paper IV as amended by Item 57) was carried.

ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS (GS 2321)

- 15 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

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

	FOR	AGAINST
Bishops	8	8
Clergy	61	81
Laity	74	84

1 abstention was recorded in the House of Bishops, 5 in the House of Clergy and 8 in the House of Laity.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

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

EVENING WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by a group of members from the Diocese of Chester.

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS

BUSINESS DONE AT 12.30 P.M.

ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by a group of members from the Diocese of Chelmsford.

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business for the sitting was varied by the Chair with the general consent of the Synod so that the rubric preceding Item 503 be amended to read “Not later than 10.50 A.M.” and the adjourned debate on Item 15 (Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households GS 2321) be resumed immediately before Item 16 (Church Commissioners’ Response to Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery GS 2341)

ARCHBISHOPS’ COMMISSION ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS (GS 2321)

15 The motion

‘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.’

was carried following a counted vote by Houses. The voting was as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST
Bishops	23	0
Clergy	97	30
Laity	97	38

19 abstentions were recorded in the House of Clergy and 12 were recorded in the House of Laity.

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

16 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

SPECIAL AGENDA I

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

PAROCHIAL FEES ORDER 2024 (GS 2342)

503A The motion

‘That the Draft Parochial Fees Order 2024 be considered.’

was carried.

506 The amendment (Order Paper V) was carried.

503B The motion

‘That the Draft Parochial Fees Order 2024 be approved.’

was carried.

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

500 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled ‘Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners’ Liability) Measure’ be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners’ Liability) Measure stood automatically committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be not later than 5.30 p.m. on 8 April 2024.

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

17 The motion

‘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.’

was carried.

18 The motion

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

was carried.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

46 The amendment (Notice Paper XI) was carried.

47 The amendment (Notice Paper XI) lapsed.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

Under Standing Order 15(7)(a) the Chair adjourned the debate at 12:30 p.m.

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.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.30 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

The Synod was led in an act of worship by the Chaplain to the Synod, the Revd Dylan Turner.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (GS 2346) (RESUMED DEBATE)

67 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

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

	FOR	AGAINST
Bishops	8	24
Clergy	78	98
Laity	81	81

There were 2 abstentions in the House of Bishops, 8 in the House of Clergy and 7 in the House of Laity.

NEXT BUSINESS

The motion

“That this Synod do move to Next Business”

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

IN FAVOUR 322
AGAINST 69

There were 20 recorded abstentions.

21 The motion (as amended) lapsed.

SPECIAL AGENDA I:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

CHURCH FUNDS INVESTMENT MEASURE (GS 2347)

501 The motion

‘That the Measure entitled ‘Church Funds Investment Measure’ be considered for revision in committee.’

was carried.

The Chair reported that the Measure entitled “Church Funds Investment Measure” stood committed to a Revision Committee and that notice of amendments must be submitted to the Clerk to the Synod not later than 5.30 p.m on Monday 8th April 2024.

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

22 The motion

‘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.'

was moved.

70 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was carried.

22 The motion (as amended)

‘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; and
- d) call on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine until such time as a just and lasting peace is secured.

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

IN FAVOUR	254
AGAINST	3

There were 2 recorded abstentions.

GENERAL SYNOD
FEBRUARY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 4.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

SPECIAL AGENDA III:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

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

23 The motion

‘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.’

was moved.

71 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was carried.

72 The amendment (Order Paper VIII) was lost.

23 The motion (as amended)

‘That this Synod request that the Archbishops’ Council introduce the necessary legislation to revise Canon C4.5 so that a diocesan bishop or acting diocesan bishop may grant a faculty to remove the impediment under Canon C4.4, with national assessment guidelines issued by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York acting jointly to ensure consistency across dioceses’

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

IN FAVOUR	300
AGAINST	12

There were 7 recorded abstentions.

FAREWELLS

- 24 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY paid tribute to the Revd Canon Stephen Trott.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK paid tribute to the Right Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, who was attending his last meeting of the Synod.

PROROGATION

- 25 The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY prorogued the Synod at 4.00 p.m.