

## GENERAL SYNOD

### REVIEW OF THE MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 GENERAL SYNOD UPDATE JULY 2024

#### Introduction

1. This paper provides a brief update for General Synod on the review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 and the progress that has been made since July 2023.

#### Background

2. In October 2020 the Legislative Reform Committee of the Archbishops' Council asked the Church Commissioners to complete a review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (the 'MPM'). The Measure is a regulatory framework which enables the Church to support the provision of local worship, mission and ministry, and to adapt that provision as circumstances change over time. The Measure supports change in three main areas:
  - Pastoral change – which relates primarily to the administrative geography of worship, mission and ministry.
  - Ministry provision change – which relates primarily to the people resources that are needed for local worship, mission and ministry.
  - Building provision change – relates to the buildings which are needed to provide a home for local worship, mission and ministry.
3. In July 2023 the Commissioners tabled the final review recommendations in GS2315 and Synod overwhelmingly approved them, and voted for new legislation to be brought forward in the form of a primary Measure and a suite of secondary legislation.
4. In November 2023 the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors delegated the responsibility for decision making on the outstanding policy areas set out in GS2315 to the Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee (MPCPC), which is chaired by the Third Church Estates Commissioner. The Committee have received regular updates and discussed the outstanding policy issues in March 2024.

#### Progress

5. After the July Synod 2023, progress began on legislative drafting and there have been three main areas of activity:
  - i. Establishing the outlines of the new primary Measure and the scope of the secondary legislation. We are making the structure of the legislation more straight forward and accessible to aid reading and understanding. We are also giving attention to the detail of the process for the consultation and publication of orders and schemes, which are the legal instruments used in the Measure to enact decisions. As part of that work, the structure of the legislation is also being made more accessible to aid reading and understanding.
  - ii. Reviewing the clauses of the existing Measure and deciding which provisions need to be transferred to the new legislation, and which need to be updated and amended to meet the recommendations set out in GS2315. Most of the existing clauses and schedules are expected to transfer across to the new legislation.

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### Church buildings

6. Along with the work set out above, the main focus has been exploring how the ideas set out in GS2315 in relation to church buildings could be realised in the new legislation. A joint working group which included members of the Church Building Council (CBC) and their Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC) has worked with the Commissioners' team to inform the development of the draft legislation. There will be further discussions on the detail with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and other partner organisations later in the year. The Commissioners would like to record their thanks to the members of the CBC and the SAC who gave their time to the group.

### Timing

7. When GS2315 was presented to Synod, the Commissioners made a commitment that a draft of both the primary Measure and the secondary legislation would be published together, so that Synod could have confidence that it had sufficient clarity about how the new legislation would work, before taking the decision to refer it to the Revision Committee. This was particularly important to the MPCPC given the importance of ensuring trust in the MPM review process, and as we seek to model the greater transparency that the new MPM will provide.
8. The Commissioners' original intention was to table the draft legislation for first consideration in July 2024 and a review of progress was conducted at the end of April by the Commissioners and the Legal Office with this timetable in mind. The review concluded that, whilst good progress had been made in all three areas listed above, further work is needed on the policy and legislative details to ensure that the draft legislation can be presented in sufficient detail to give Synod the assurance and clarity it needs for good decision making. Therefore, the Commissioners have taken the decision that more time is needed to get the detail right, and so plan to table the draft legislation at the February group of sessions of General Synod in 2025. Whilst we appreciate that this may be disappointing to some Synod members, on balance the Commissioners felt that the additional time was appropriate.

### Communications

We have been continuing to engage and communicate with the various groups who have an interest in the outcomes of the MPM review.

The Commissioners' team will continue to send out regular briefings on the progress of the review. If you would like to be included in these communications please email [everarda.slabbekoorn@churchofengland.org](mailto:everarda.slabbekoorn@churchofengland.org).

If members of Synod have any follow up questions or queries please email [wendy.matthews@churchofengland.org](mailto:wendy.matthews@churchofengland.org).

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