

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 12.45 P.M.
ON MONDAY 8th JULY 2024

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business for afternoon sitting was varied by the Chair with the consent of the Synod so that Item 508 (Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order (GS 2367)) and Item 509 (Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2024 (GS 2368)) would be taken immediately after Item 24 (Living in Love and Faith (GS 2358)) if time allows; otherwise they would be taken at the evening sitting. The evening sitting would be cancelled if not required for the consideration of that business.

Under Standing Order 9(1)(a), the order of business for Tuesday 9th July 2024 was varied by the Chair with the consent of the Synod so that Item 28 (Farewells) is taken immediately before Item 506 (Abuse (Redress) Measure (GS 2325A)).

SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE UPDATE (GS 2364)

21 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

22 The motion

‘That this Synod thank the Response Group for its work, welcome the progress update set out in GS 2364, and noting that feedback has identified concerns with:

- (a) Professor Jay’s recommendations on spiritual abuse and the definition of safeguarding; and
 - (b) the role of bishops in decision-making on safeguarding cases,
- ask for detailed analysis of the options set out in the paper to be undertaken for the General Synod in February.’

was carried.

62 The further motion under Standing Order 105(6) was not moved.

SPECIAL AGENDA IV:

DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS

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

23 The motion

‘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; and
- 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.'

was moved.

63 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was lost.

64 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

65 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

66 The amendment (Order Paper VI) was carried.

23 The motion (as amended)

‘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) note further that 2/3 of those who use food banks have disabilities or long-term health conditions who find it nearly impossible to navigate the benefits system and be supported adequately, and so applaud the incredible ministry and example of these churches and others who tirelessly run food banks, whilst lamenting and acknowledging the incredible personal and financial cost to this, which is driving some organisations to breaking point;
- d) believe that this dependence reflects serious inadequacies in the social security system;
- e) 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';
- f) 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; and
- g) 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 and consider the feasibility of introducing an Essentials Guarantee; and
- h) believing that all children are a gift from God and bear the image of Christ, urge the House of Bishops and in particular the Lords Spiritual, to use every opportunity available to them to engage with the new Government and strongly encourage them to do everything

possible to bring about an immediate end to the two child benefit limit, which disadvantages families and forces large numbers of children into the use of food banks or to otherwise go hungry.’

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

FOR 274

AGAINST 1

No abstentions were recorded.