

## GENERAL SYNOD

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS FOR THE 2021-2026 QUINQUENNium

## Update February 2025

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## GENERAL SYNOD

**November 2021**

General Synod met on 16th to 17th November 2021 in Church House, Westminster. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

|   |                              |
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| <p><b>Item 5 GS 2234 Generosity and Diocesan Finances:</b> this debate was to bring forward legislative proposals to a future group of sessions to look at how dioceses can be more generous with their historic wealth and enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth. Synod carried the following motion: <i>‘That this Synod request the Archbishops’ Council to develop legislative proposals, to be brought to a future Group of Sessions, to give dioceses more freedom to be generous with their historic wealth to other dioceses in the Church of England, and in this way enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the July 2022 group of sessions, the Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure received First Consideration.</li> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure went through the Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee</li> <li>• The Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in April 2023 and received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and came into force on that day.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b>             |
| <p><b>Item 8 GS 2170A and GS 2170B Wealth Gap:</b> this was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Leeds which focused on the inequalities between the richest and poorest in society. Synod carried the following motion:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod</i><br/> <i>(a) recommit to working both nationally and locally to respond to human need by loving service, and to transform unjust structures of society which are creating the wealth gap; and</i><br/> <i>(b) call on Her Majesty’s Government (and all political parties) to adopt an explicit policy of reducing the wealth gap between the rich and the poor and the disadvantages) flow from it.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (<i>paragraph b</i>)</li> </ul>   | <b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lords Spiritual engaged with all the main parties before the General Election, and with the new government after it, and addressing poverty was a key theme. In particular, the Church of England, through the bishops and Faith and Public Life, have continued to press for the abolition of the two-child limit which would immediately lift a large number of children out of poverty.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><b>Item 10 GS 2237 Appointment of a member of the Archbishops' Council:</b> this was a formal item requesting the approval of the re-appointment of Mark Sheard as a member of the Archbishops' Council.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Sheard will be able to remain a member of the Archbishops' Council until <b>14 February 2027</b>.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

**February 2022**

General Synod met on 8th to 10th February 2022 in Church House, Westminster. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Item 1 GS 2177 Temporary Standing Orders:</b> Synod approved the temporary Standing Orders to enable the meeting to take place in a hybrid way, so members are able to speak and vote from either the Chamber or remotely. This was in place until 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the temporary Standing Orders were extended until 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</li> <li>• Section one of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure covers the temporary Standing Orders to make provision for hybrid meetings indefinitely.</li> <li>• At the July 2023 group of sessions completed Final Drafting and Final Approval stage. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</li> <li>• Section one came into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 5 GS 2242 Pattern of Meetings 2024 - 2026:</b> Synod approved the envelopes for the groups of sessions for 2024, 2025 and 2026 as follows:</p> <p><i>2024</i><br/> <i>Monday 19 February – Tuesday 27 February</i><br/> <i>Friday 5 July – Tuesday 9 July</i><br/> <i>Monday 18 November – Wednesday 20 November (if required)</i></p> <p><i>2025</i><br/> <i>Monday 10 February – Tuesday 18 February</i><br/> <i>Friday 11 July – Tuesday 15 July</i><br/> <i>Monday 17 November – Wednesday 19 November (if required)</i></p> <p><i>2026</i><br/> <i>Monday 9 February – Tuesday 17 February</i><br/> <i>Friday 10 July – Tuesday 14 July</i><br/> <i>Monday 16 November – Wednesday 18 November (if required)</i></p>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p><a href="#">Item 500 GS 2245 Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022.</a></p> <p>The amendments give effect to recommendations made by the Net-Zero Carbon Faculty Working Group for changes to the faculty system as part of the Church's commitment to working towards net zero carbon emissions, in line with the General Synod's resolution on climate change in February 2020.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022 were laid before Parliament on 23rd February 2022 and came into force on 1st July 2022</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><a href="#">Item 10 GS 2246A and GS 2246B Challenging Slavery and Human Trafficking</a> this was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Durham which addressed Modern Slavery and in particular the issue of minors who have been trafficked. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Government has played internationally in challenging slavery;</i></li> <li>b) <i>ask Her Majesty's Government to ensure the proper protection of minors who are trafficked and enslaved is enshrined in law including updating the 2018 Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance in accordance with the request from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, and to implement the other findings of her Annual Report in particular around effective access to support, accommodation, work and education for victims of modern slavery</i></li> <li>c) <i>encourage all dioceses, deaneries, and parishes in the Church of England to raise awareness of modern slavery in our communities in the UK and internationally, working with the resources from partners such as the Church of England's Clewer Initiative and others, helping individuals and congregations to address this evil by:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>seeking to identify potential victims of modern slavery in the community,</i></li> <li>ii. <i>offering services to victims and survivors, and</i></li> <li>iii. <i>supporting organisations which already provide services to help people leaving exploitation and/or with preventative work;</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>d) <i>encourages dioceses, safeguarding leads, and training institutions and organisations in using resources like these within existing training, especially where individuals hold roles in authorised ministry, embedding understanding of modern slavery and equipping them with ways to respond;</i></li> <li>e) <i>ask that the issues of challenging human trafficking and modern slavery are raised at the global gathering of bishops of the Anglican</i></li> </ol> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p><i>Communion at the 2022 Lambeth Conference, and that the conference consider the international Church's role in tackling injustice and violence around the world and address the factors which create vulnerability to exploitation; and</i></p> <p><i>f) call on all individuals to pray regularly for victims and survivors of modern slavery and for those organisations working to help and support them both in the UK and overseas, that we may come closer to fulfilling Jesus' injunction to 'proclaim release to the captives'.</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Home Secretary on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, and received a response from Rachel Maclean MP, Minister for Safeguarding on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 which referenced the work of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians and highlighted the proposals in the Nationality and Borders Bill to protect children and young people from modern slavery. (<i>paragraphs a and b</i>)</li> <li>• Modern Slavery was one of the issues considered at the Lambeth Conference 2022 (<i>paragraph e</i>)</li> </ul>                   |                  |
| <p><b>Item 15: GS 2249 Report by the Governance Review Group:</b> members engaged with the recommendations from the Governance Review Group with a view to Synod considering further proposals emerging from the report's recommendations in future. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <p><i>a) thank the Governance Review Group for its work in preparing the report GS 2239 and its Chair for update note GS 2249;</i></p> <p><i>b) invite the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners to engage with stakeholders in the Church and State on the Report's recommendations; and</i></p> <p><i>c) invite the Archbishops' Council, in the light of the outcome of that engagement, to introduce legislation for consideration by this Synod to give effect to proposals that involve legislative change.'</i></p> <p><b>Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Board has engaged with stakeholders on the Report's recommendations.</li> <li>• At the July 2023 a further motion was considered by Synod which took forward the proposal for legislation. (see below for details)</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 16: GS 2250 Appointment of the Chair of the Appointments Committee:</b> this was a formal item to request the approval of the appointment of the Venerable Pete Spiers as Chair of the Appointments Committee. This was approved by Synod on a show of hands.</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ven Pete Spiers will be Chair of the Appointments Committee until <b>13 February 2027</b>.</li> </ul>  |                  |
| <p><b>Item 17: GS 2251 Appointment of the Chair of the Dioceses Commission:</b> this was a formal item to request the approval of the appointment of Dame Caroline Spelman as Chair of the Dioceses Commission. This was approved by Synod on a show of hands.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dame Caroline Spelman will be Chair of the Dioceses Commission until <b>30 April 2027</b>.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 18 GS 2252A and GS 2252B Persecuted Church in the World:</b> this was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Lichfield. It built on Freedom of Religion and Belief debate in April 2021 and highlighted the persecution of people of faith in many parts of the world. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod request that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) the Church of England not only pray for the persecuted church, but that its dioceses offer support to link dioceses where the church is facing persecution,</i></li> <li><i>b) organisations and dioceses consider joining the UK Freedom of Religion or Belief Forum to work with Christian and other groups in addressing the persecution of Christians and the global violation of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB),</i></li> <li><i>c) churches consider using resources such as the practical Everyday Faith – Hidden Church during the Thy Kingdom Come novena between Ascension and Pentecost, 26 May – 6 June,</i></li> <li><i>d) in the run up to the International Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief (The Ministerial FoRB) Conference 5-6 July 2022 individuals and groups consider hosting information events, prayer groups and fringe events using the Toolkits for Places of Worship and Schools and Communities on the End The Persecution website,</i></li> <li><i>e) churches and individuals contact their MPs in advance of The Ministerial FoRB, asking them to raise awareness of the persecuted church, and other FoRB violations, suggesting some of the actions in the FoRB Toolkit,</i></li> <li><i>f) that Her Majesty’s Government implement in full the previously accepted 22 recommendations in the Bishop of Truro’s Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support for Persecuted Christians, published in July 2019, by the third anniversary of the report in July 2022, as indicated within the report, and</i></li> <li><i>g) the next Lambeth Conference address the issue of the persecution of Christians.’</i></li> </ol> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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**Update:**

- The Clerk wrote to the Home Secretary on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, and received a response from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister responsible for human rights on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 which confirmed the committee of HMG to protecting freedom of religion and belief and highlighted the plans for the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief. (*paragraph f*)
- The persecuted Church was considered at the Lambeth Conference 2022 (*paragraph g*)

## GENERAL SYNOD

## July 2022

General Synod met on 8th to 12th July 2022 at the University of York. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Presentation of Petitions:</b> two petitions were presented to Synod under Standing Order 43.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Business Committee considered the petitions at their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and concluded that there was no further action required</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 5 GS 2258 Route map to Net Zero Carbon by 2030:</b> This gave an update on progress towards net zero carbon as requested by the motion from the February 2020 group of sessions. The final motion as carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, having recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God’s creation, and a fundamental injustice, and following General Synod’s motion passed in February 2020 to plan to reach net zero carbon by 2030:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>endorse the “Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030” (GS 2258).</i></li> <li><i>request every Diocesan Synod to debate the Routemap as it applies to their structures, parishes and BMOs, and to agree a feasible programme of action towards achieving net zero carbon by 2030;</i></li> <li><i>request high energy users within the Church (every cathedral, TEI, school, office and the top 20% of energy consuming churches) to similarly draw up a programme of action, with a clear time frame, based on the Routemap.</i></li> <li><i>call on the Environment staff team to report back to Synod on progress against the Routemap in 2025, 2028 and 2031, and for reports on the Church’s carbon emissions every year.’</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">GS Misc 1347</a> provided an update on progress for this work and noted that work is progressing well.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Committee to consider allocating time on the agenda during a group of sessions in 2025 to review progress against the Routemap.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 6 GS 2259 War in Ukraine:</b> Dioceses and parishes were called upon to work towards providing long term refuge and hospitality to refugees from Ukraine and other conflicts and forms of danger, and to contribute to the</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

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| <p>Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Appeal or the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe. The full motion as carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod, committed in Christ to support peacemakers and to work for the reconciliation of humanity to God in a world marked by division and conflict:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) lament Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the suffering and terror experienced by Ukrainians and the repercussions and anxiety felt globally for our common future;</i></li> <li><i>b) urge all Christians and people of faith to pray that the war in Ukraine be ended justly, that the risk of strategic miscalculation between conflicting parties be avoided and that the Russian people find respite from an authoritarian government;</i></li> <li><i>c) call on each diocese and each parish to work towards providing long term refuge and hospitality to refugees from Ukraine and other conflicts and forms of danger, and to contribute to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Appeal or the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe;</i></li> <li><i>d) call on Her Majesty's Government to work to secure a negotiated peace that provides for the flourishing of relations in Ukraine and between nations in Europe and to provide a generous response to those seeking refuge from the conflict.'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Foreign Secretary on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (<i>paragraph d</i>)</li> <li>• Synod was invited to engage with this item further at the February 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><b>Items 8 – 12 GS 2260 See of Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission:</b><br/>This followed the Take Note debate in February 2022 at which members were told that a final proposal for changes to the Standing Orders would be brought to the July 2022 Synod. Members debated the policy proposals at this session.</p> <p>The motions as carried were as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod request that the necessary amendments be moved to the Standing Orders to reduce from six to three the number of members elected by the Diocese of Canterbury to the Crown Nominations Commission for consideration of a vacancy in the see of Canterbury'</i></p> <p><i>'That this Synod request that the necessary amendments be moved to the Standing Orders to increase from one to five the number of representatives of other churches of the Anglican Communion who are members of the CNC for consideration of a vacancy in the see of Canterbury.'</i></p> <p><i>'That this Synod request that the necessary amendments be moved to the Standing Orders to provide that one such representative is to be chosen by</i></p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council from each of the five regions of the Anglican Communion (the Europe region to include the provinces of the British Isles other than England).’</i></p> <p><i>‘That this Synod request that the necessary amendments be moved to the Standing Orders to provide that of those so chosen, at least one must be a primate, one a deacon or priest and one a lay person who is an actual communicant, and that at least half rounded down shall be male and at least half rounded down shall be female, and that a majority of them must be Global Majority Heritage.’</i></p> <p><i>‘That this Synod request that the necessary amendments be moved to the Standing Orders to provide for vacancies in the see of Dover to be considered by the CNC as if it were a diocesan see.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amendments to the Standing Orders to give effect to the policy proposals were debated on 12 July and the amendments came into effect as of 13 July.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><b>Item 14 GS 2261 Review of Strategic Development Funding (SDF) &amp; Lowest Income Communities Funding (LInC):</b> There was a following motion to the Take Note debate. This was carried as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, acknowledging with gratitude the enormous value of the independent review performed by Sir Robert Chote and his colleagues, request the Strategic Investment Board commission a follow-up independent review to determine the extent to which the recommendations of and lessons learned from this review have been implemented, and with what success. The results of such a follow-up review to be made available to General Synod when for consideration when it meets in July 2024.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent review has been commissioned which will report in Spring 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Action needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">GS Misc 1382</a> was presented to the July 2024 group of sessions to update Synod on the review.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 15 GS 2262 Spending Plans of the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council:</b> This item focused on the spending plans of the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council for financial distributions over 2023-2025 and indicative distributions for the subsequent six years. The motion as carried was as follows:</p>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>‘That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome the spending plans by the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council, set out in GS 2262, for financial distributions over 2023 to 2025 and indicative distributions for the subsequent six years;</i></li> <li><i>b) welcome the investment in ministry in parishes, chaplaincies, schools, Cathedrals and other forms of church in support of the Church’s vision and strategy as set out in Annex A of GS 2262; and</i></li> <li><i>c) welcome the focused investment to support previously agreed commitments to a 2030 net zero carbon target and to address racial justice.’</i></li> </ol>  |                  |
| <p><b>Item 17 GS 2263 Safeguarding and Independence: Update and Next Steps:</b><br/>This gave an update on the work of the Independent Safeguarding Board. The motion carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) acknowledge and deeply regret the safeguarding failures of the Church of England and especially their effect on victims and survivors, noting the vital importance of their voice in the Church’s ongoing safeguarding work;</i></li> <li><i>b) recognise the challenges involved in changing the culture and practice of safeguarding across the Church of England as well as the effort that is being put into this nationally and in dioceses and parishes,</i></li> <li><i>c) urge the Archbishops’ Council to ensure that IICSA’s recommendations for the Church of England are fully met as soon as possible, and</i></li> <li><i>d) request regular updates on progress at each group of sessions, especially concerning the strengthening of independent accountability and oversight of the Church’s safeguarding work at all levels.’</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further debates have been held at subsequent groups of sessions</li> <li>• Two independent reviews related to safeguarding independence have reported to Synod at the February 2024 group of sessions (see below for further details)</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 500 GS 2264 Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure:</b> This Measure further extends the period during which the Church Commissioners are permitted to resort to capital to meet their obligations under the pre-1998 clergy pension scheme. It completed its First Consideration stage.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the Church of England</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p>Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure went through the Revision Stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It went through Final Drafting and Final Approval at the July 2023 group of sessions. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• The Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</li> </ul>   |           |
| <p><a href="#">Item 505 GS 2278 Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2022 &amp; GS 2279 Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2022:</a> These are the usual annual fees orders providing for the annual retainers paid to diocesan registrars and for court fees in the ecclesiastical courts.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were laid before Parliament on 28th July 2022 and came into force on 1st January 2023</li> </ul>   | COMPLETED |
| <p><a href="#">Item 20: GS 2266A and GS 2266B Assisted Suicide:</a> This Private Members' Motion by Dr Simon Eyre (Chichester) affirmed that the current legislation in relation to Assisted Suicide referenced in Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (and its application through the Director of Public Prosecutions guidelines) should remain unchanged. It was carried after a count of the Synod. The motion as carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) appreciate the enormous and untiring efforts of health professionals, including healthcare chaplains, in constantly developing and maintaining the excellence of palliative and end of life care provision in this country;</i></li> <li><i>b) call on Her Majesty's Government to guarantee and expedite the adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services within the NHS to ensure that the highest possible standards of care are achieved and made universally accessible; and</i></li> <li><i>c) affirm that the current legislation in relation to Assisted Suicide referenced in Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (and its application through the DPP guidelines) should remain unchanged.'</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and received a response from Neil O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Care, noting that assisted suicide as an issue of conscience rather than Government policy (<i>paragraphs b and c</i>)</li> </ul> | COMPLETED |

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| <p>Items 22 – 28 GS 2268 <b>Archbishops’ Council Budget 2023 &amp; Proposals for Apportionment 2023</b>: This is a regular item for the July group of sessions, as under its Standing Orders, General Synod must be invited to approve the Archbishops’ Council’s annual budget and its proposals for the diocesan apportionment. These were all approved by Synod and were as follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">       £15,744,000 Training for Ministry<br/>       £33,080,016 National Church Responsibilities<br/>       £1,520,634 Grants<br/>       £603,000 Mission agency pension contributions<br/>       £5,845,182 Clergy retirement housing grant     </p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Archbishops’ Council is operating to the budget as approved by Synod.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b>             |
| <p>Item 501 GS 2269 <b>Amending Canon No 42</b>: This Amending Canon implements a recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse that the role of diocesan safeguarding adviser be changed to one of diocesan safeguarding officer. This completed its First Consideration Stage at this group of sessions</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at the February 2023 group of sessions.</li> <li>The final stage for this Canon took place in July 2023 group of sessions</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>             |
| <p>Item 507 GS 2281 <b>Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 – Amending Code of Practice</b>. It makes amendments to the existing Code of Practice. One set of amendments removes the presumption from current guidance that it will always be necessary to pause CDM proceedings pending the outcome of the police investigation or a criminal trial. The other amendment transfers responsibility for publishing details of penalties by consent from dioceses to the President of Tribunals.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These amendments came into effect on 24 October 2022</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>             |
| <p>Item 29 GS 2270 <b>Affirming and Including Disabled People in the Whole Life of the Church</b>: this item addressed disability issues and reflected on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the life of the Church. It included a request to encourage dioceses to cluster together to employ a full time Disability Adviser across a manageable group of dioceses.</p>   | <b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

The full motion as carried was as follows:

*'That this Synod, affirming disabled people (with hidden as well as visible disabilities) to be fearfully and wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God, and mindful of the progress already made in removing some of the barriers which disabled people, clergy and lay, face; commit to working towards the removal of all remaining barriers to full participation for disabled people in the life and ministry of the church, and, in initiating that process:*

- a) request the Faith and Order Commission and the Liturgical Commission to consider how our liturgies might be made more inclusive to disabled people (e.g., by removing rubrics such as "all stand");*
- b) call upon the Research and Statistics team to interrogate existing data and gather new data, which quantifies the numbers of disabled people among clergy, whilst also planning to extend to include lay ministers and NCI/diocesan staff in the future, so that Synod can monitor the representation of disabled people within the church and encourage accountability for progress.*
- c) request the Archbishops' Council to introduce legislation to amend the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 to require every DAC to include at least one person with direct experience and knowledge of accessibility issues in its membership or co-opted if not appointed as a member;*
- d) acknowledging that the General Synod motion passed in July 2007 (that every Diocese should appoint a lead person on disability issues), request that the ongoing review of dioceses, recognising that resources for additional officers in every diocese are limited, encourage dioceses to cluster together to employ a full time Disability Adviser across a manageable group of dioceses.'*

**Update:**

- An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion (*paragraph d*) and work to encourage more dioceses to have Disability Advisers – whether for one diocese or a group of dioceses – continues, with the active engagement of the network of DDAs.
- Paragraph c was addressed through the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure.
- The Liturgical Commission has discussed this at a recent meeting to consider next steps
- Rubrics such as "All stand" are for the guidance of ministers and are not compulsory. Through diocesan disability advisers and others, CMDDP is encouraging the practice of adapting the use and wording of rubrics to their context. An Accessibility in Worship working group is considering the question of printed rubrics etc and expects to report, initially to the College of Bishop during 2024.

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a direct result of this motion, the Archbishops' Council agreed to fund the Disability Project within FPL to deliver a range of objectives to increase the inclusion of disabled people across the life of the church.</li> </ul>  |                  |
| <p><b>Item 502 GS 2255 Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure:</b> This legislation will allow dioceses more freedom to be generous with their historic wealth to other dioceses in the Church of England, and enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth. This was the first consideration stage.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the February 2023 group of sessions, the Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure went through the Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee</li> <li>The Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in April 2023 and received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and came into force on that day.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 30 GS 2271 Resourcing Ministerial Formation:</b> The Resourcing Ministerial Formation review has found that significant changes to the current system of funding for the training of ordinands are required. Further proposals will be brought to a future group of sessions.</p> <p>The full motion as carried was as follows:<br/> <i>That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>affirm the aims of the "Resourcing Ministerial Formation" in seeking to create a more sustainable and responsive accountable framework for ministerial formation within the calling of the whole people of God</i></li> <li><i>welcome the principles of reform set out in GS 2271; and</i></li> <li><i>request that synod be invited to consider and endorse more developed proposals prior to their implementation</i></li> <li><i>request that Ministry Council closely monitors and supports the capacity of TEIs through the RMF implementation period.'</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An update was presented at the February 2023 group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Items 503 and 504 GS 2272 Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure &amp; GS 2273 Amending Canon No 43:</b> This Measure and Amending Canon cover a wide range of provisions which would not merit free-standing legislation. Many of the provisions are of a technical nature. It completed its First Consideration Stage and stands referred to the Revision Committee.</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure and Amending Canon No 43 went through the Revision Stage</li> <li>• Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at the July 2023 group of sessions. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee</li> <li>• The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</li> </ul>  |                    |
| <p><a href="#">Item 31 GS 2254A and GS 2254B Review of Qualifications for PCC Membership and Entry on the Church Electoral Roll</a>: this is a Diocesan Synod Motion from Canterbury which calls for a review of the qualifications for membership of parochial church councils and the electoral roll in light of the existence of bishops' mission initiatives.</p> <p>The full motion as carried was as follows:<br/> <i>'That this Synod invite the Business Committee while keeping in mind that membership of a parochial church council involves spiritual leadership within a parish, which should properly be exercised by those who habitually attend public worship:</i></p> <p><i>a) to conduct a review of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. the qualifications for membership of parochial church councils; and;</i></li> <li><i>ii. the qualifications for enrolment on a church electoral roll, and the form of application for enrolment, and;</i></li> <li><i>iii. provisions concerned with disqualification from holding office on a parochial church council or a synod constituted under the Church Representation Rules and the availability of mechanisms for checking disqualifications and preventing those who are disqualified from being elected to or holding office.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>b) to report to the Synod on the conclusions of the review.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elections Review Group undertook a consultation process with PCCs in 2024 on behalf of the Business Committee. There were over 4200 responses to the consultation and staff are currently analysing the qualitative responses.</li> <li>• Further work will be presented to Synod once the consultation process has been completed.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><a href="#">Item 32 GS 2274A and GS 2274B Age Verification for Pornography Websites</a>: this is a Diocesan Synod Motion from Guildford and calls for the Government to introduce legislation requiring pornographic sites to have</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p>in place age verification systems preventing access by people under the age of 18. The motion as carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) acknowledge that our children and young people are suffering grave harm from free access to online pornography and that there is currently no legal requirement for pornography sites to have in place age verification systems to prevent children from having access to those sites.</i></li> <li><i>b) ask Her Majesty’s Government to introduce legislation requiring pornographic sites to have in place age verification systems preventing access by people under the age of 18.</i></li> <li><i>c) recommend more social and educational programmes to increase awareness of the harms of pornography, including self generated sexually explicit images.’</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and received a response from Paul Scully MP, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, noting that preventing children from accessing pornography is a priority for the government, and protecting children online is at the heart of the Online Safety Bill (<i>paragraph b</i>)</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><a href="#">Items 51 – 56 GS 2276 60th Report of the Standing Orders Committee &amp; Amendments to the Standing Orders for Membership of the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC)</a></p> <p>This introduced changes to the Standing Orders, reflecting the debate which took place earlier in the group of sessions.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These changes took effect from 13 July 2022.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><a href="#">Item 34 GS 2277 Report by the Clergy Conduct Measure Implementation Group</a>. In July 2021 Synod took note of the report from the Lambeth Working Group on the reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure. That report recommended the creation of an Implementation Group to bring forward legislative proposals to Synod for the replacement of the CDM. These proposals were debated by Synod in advance of legislation in 2023.</p> <p>The motion as carried was as follows</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome the report from the Clergy Conduct Measure Implementation Group (GS 2277); and</i></li> <li><i>b) request that the Archbishops’ Council introduce legislation to give effect to the report’s recommendations for first consideration by this Synod at the next available opportunity.’</i></li> </ol>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

GENERAL SYNOD

**Update:**

- The draft Clergy Conduct Measure was presented at the July 2023 group of sessions for First Consideration.

## GENERAL SYNOD

## February 2023

General Synod met on 6th to 9th February 2023 in Church House, Westminster. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Item 1 GS 2177 Temporary Standing Orders:</b> These had to be revived as they lapsed in August 2022. Synod agreed to revive these until 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the temporary Standing Orders were extended until 4th February 2026.</li> <li>• Section one of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure covers the temporary Standing Orders to make provision for hybrid meetings indefinitely.</li> <li>• At the July 2023 group of sessions completed Final Drafting and Final Approval stage. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on 25th January 2024.</li> <li>• Section one came into effect on 25th January 2024.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 500: GS 2269A Amending Canon No 42:</b> This was the Revision Stage for this Amending Canon which will implement a recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse that the role of diocesan safeguarding adviser be changed to one of diocesan safeguarding officer. Diocesan safeguarding officers would have responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for the professional leadership on and management of matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at this group of sessions.</li> <li>• The final stage for this Canon took place in July 2023 group of sessions</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 504: GS 2255A Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure:</b> This was the Revision Stage for this legislation which will allow dioceses more freedom to be generous with their historic wealth to other dioceses in the Church of England, and enable a more equitable sharing of this wealth. The Synod voted to take note of this on a show of hands.</p>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the July 2022 group of sessions, the Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure received First Consideration.</li> <li>• At the February 2023 group of sessions, the Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure went through the Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee</li> <li>• The Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in April 2023 and received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and came into force on that day.</li> </ul>   |                  |
| <p><a href="#">GS 2264 Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure:</a></p> <p>This was the Revision Stage for this legislation which will further extend the period during which the Church Commissioners are permitted to resort to capital to meet their obligations under the pre-1998 clergy pension scheme.</p> <p><b>Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure went through Final Drafting and Final Approval at the July 2023 group of sessions. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• The Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><a href="#">Item 510 GS 2285 Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021 (consequential amendments to regulations under Canon B12) Regulations:</a></p> <p>This legislation makes amendments which are consequential on the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These Regulations came into effect as of 7 February 2023</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><a href="#">Item 509 GS 2272A Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure:</a> This was the Revision Stage for this legislation which covers a wide range of provisions which would not merit free-standing legislation. Many of the provisions are of a technical nature.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at the July 2023 group of sessions. It was then presented to the Legislative Committee</li> <li>• The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p>November 2023 and received Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>Item 9 GS 2286 Resourcing Ministerial Formation:</b> This item updated Synod on a proposed new method of funding theological education institutions to give them greater stability with an innovation fund to encourage entrepreneurship and partnership working. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome and endorse the proposals set out in GS 2286 for implementing the Resourcing Ministerial Formation Review principles of reform previously endorsed by Synod;</i></li> <li><i>b) affirm the importance of further work in relation to ordinand maintenance and the funding of training for lay ministries, and request that synod be updated on this and invited to discuss proposals as appropriate within 12 months; and</i></li> <li><i>c) reaffirm its request that the Ministry Council closely monitor and support the capacity of TEIs through the RMF implementation period.’</i> <p><b>Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was provided to Synod in February 2024 in <a href="#">GS Misc 1365</a></li> </ul> </li></ol>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 10 GS 2287 Cost of Living:</b> This item reflects the impact of the highest level of inflation for over 40 years (in the UK), and the very significant increases in energy prices adversely affecting individuals and organisations. The motion as carried was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, mindful of the impact of the deepening cost of living crisis on ordinary people, including many members of our congregations and communities, and recalling our Lord’s commitment to those who were hungry or lacked the essentials of life:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) continue to pray for those whose efforts help mitigate the human suffering of the crisis: including His Majesty’s Government, public servants and professionals in key sectors, the many volunteers in church and secular projects and everyone who puts their neighbour before themselves;</i></li> <li><i>b) commit ourselves, as individuals as well as members of dioceses, parishes and other worshipping communities, schools and chaplaincies, to do all we can to support the most vulnerable, even as many of our own members are falling into hardship themselves;</i></li> <li><i>c) call upon His Majesty’s Government, notwithstanding the external factors deepening the crisis, to recognise that the resilience of the nation, its communities and its people, is limited, and call for</i></li> </ol> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

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| <p><i>policies that offer generous support to those who are falling into poverty and the organisations dedicated to supporting them;</i></p> <p>d) <i>commend the steps taken to date by dioceses and charities to relieve some of the pressure on clergy, church staff, and their families;</i></p> <p>e) <i>call upon dioceses and NCIs to do all they can further to relieve pressure on parishes, clergy, church staff, and their families, recognising the leadership they offer to their communities.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion (<i>paragraph c</i>)</li> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding this motion</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p><b>Item 511 GS 2288 Draft Parochial Fees Order 2023:</b> This Order proposed that parochial fees should be reduced to 5% above the 2022 level (rounded up to the nearest pound) from the 9.9% (in line with CPI inflation, rounded up to the nearest pound) which will apply from 1 January 2023 for the remainder of 2023.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was laid before Parliament on 28 February 2023 and came into force on 1 March 2023</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 544 GS 2273 Amending Canon No 43:</b> This was the Revision Stage for this Amending Canon which covers a wide range of provisions which would not merit free-standing legislation. Many of the provisions are of a technical nature.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Canon received Final Approval at the July 2023 group of sessions</li> <li>• The final stage for this Canon took place in February 2024 group of sessions</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 11 GS 2289 Living in Love and Faith:</b> This item invited Synod to engage with the proposals being brought forward by the House of Bishops as a result of the Living in Love and Faith process. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod, recognising the commitment to learning and deep listening to God and to each other of the Living in Love and Faith process, and desiring with God's help to journey together while acknowledging the different deeply held convictions within the Church:</i></p>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p>a) <i>lament and repent of the failure of the Church to be welcoming to LGBTQI+ people and the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced and continue to experience in the life of the Church;</i></p> <p>b) <i>recommit to our shared witness to God’s love for and acceptance of every person by continuing to embed the Pastoral Principles in our life together locally and nationally;</i></p> <p>c) <i>commend the continued learning together enabled by the Living in Love and Faith process and resources in relation to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage;</i></p> <p>d) <i>welcome the decision of the House of Bishops to replace Issues in Human Sexuality with new pastoral guidance;</i></p> <p>e) <i>welcome the response from the College of Bishops and look forward to the House of Bishops further refining, commending and issuing the Prayers of Love and Faith described in GS 2289 and its Annexes;</i></p> <p>f) <i>invite the House of Bishops to monitor the Church’s use of and response to the Prayers of Love and Faith, once they have been commended and published, and to report back to Synod in five years’ time;</i></p> <p>g) <i>endorse the decision of the College and House of Bishops not to propose any change to the doctrine of marriage, and their intention that the final version of the Prayers of Love and Faith should not be contrary to or indicative of a departure from the doctrine of the Church of England.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further engagement with this item took place at the subsequent groups of sessions and it is expected that further items will be brought to Synod for debate throughout the quinquennium.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><b>Item 506: <a href="#">GS 2255A Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure</a>:</b> This was the Final Approval Stage for this legislation and was approved following a vote by Houses. It will now be considered by the Legislative Committee.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Diocesan Stipends Fund (Amendment) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in April 2023 and received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and came into force on that day.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 502: <a href="#">GS 2269A Amending Canon No 42</a>:</b> This was the Final Approval Stage for this Amending Canon and was approved following a vote by Houses. This will now be presented to the Crown for Royal Assent.</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final stage for this Canon took place in July 2023 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  |                         |
| <p><b>Item 12 GS 2290 Governance Review:</b> This item provided the General Synod with an update on the work of the National Church Governance Project Board.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further updates were provided to Synod in July 2023 and it is expected that draft legislation will be presented to Synod in July 2024</li> </ul>  | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 15 GS 2265A and GS 2265B Insurance Premium Tax:</b> This Diocesan Synod Motion from Lincoln seeks to address the impact of insurance premium tax on churches and other charities. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, noting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) the various public goods that are delivered by charities, including in the case of churches through their care of nationally valued heritage assets and their provision of community services; and</i></li> <li><i>b) the fact that the money needed by charities to meet their liabilities, including Insurance Premium Tax, has to be raised by them, including in the case of churches through fund raising in their local communities,</i></li> </ul> <p><i>call on Her Majesty’s Government to exempt charities, including churches, from liability for Insurance Premium Tax.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clerk wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give an update on the decision of Synod.</li> </ul> | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

## July 2023

General Synod met from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the University of York. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Item 5 GS 2298A and GS 2298B Church of England Youth Synod:</b> This was a Private Members' Motion presented by Sam Wilson (Chester) which sought to engage with young people. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) acknowledge the national strategy to 'grow younger and more diverse'</i></li> <li><i>b) take note of the report 'Rooted in the Church' (2016) which observes that young adults feel a sense of belonging if they i) are included within the whole church family, ii) are treated as equal members of the church, iii) are supported by leaders who act as bridges or mentors, and iv) are given a safe space to ask questions;</i></li> <li><i>c) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;</i></li> <li><i>d) recognise the valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);</i></li> <li><i>e) request the Business Committee to bring a report to Synod with recommendations that increase the voice and representation of young people within Synodical bodies and through Synod elections and detailing how the above has progressed enabling children and young people's opinions and concerns to be heard;</i></li> <li><i>f) recognise the role played by children and young people in the development of the Church of England Vision and Strategy;</i></li> <li><i>g) values the work being undertaken through the Growing Faith Foundation to listen to the voices of children, young people and young adults;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>and therefore call on each diocese to work alongside Children, Youth and Family advisors and practitioners to develop ways of ensuring that children, youth and young adult voices are heard within their decision making processes; and actively involve them in decision making;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>h) request the Business Committee to bring forward proposals, including legislation if necessary that:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. seek to enable greater numbers of young adults be elected to General Synod;</i></li> <li><i>ii. enable the voices of children, youth and young adults be heard within the debates of General Synod</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>i) encourage each General Synod member to work with Children, youth and Family advisors and practitioners to listen to the voice of</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> |
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## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>children, youth and young adults in their preparation for each meeting of General Synod.</i></p> <p><i>j) request the Archbishops' Council to:</i></p> <p><i>i. ensure that all policies seek to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the vision of being a younger and more diverse church;</i></p> <p><i>ii. develop ways whereby the voices of children, youth and young adults are fed into their discussions and decision making processes;</i></p> <p><i>k) call on the Archbishops' Council to establish a regular Church of England National Young Adults Gathering (name to be determined) which will enable young Anglicans between the ages of 18 and 25 to:</i></p> <p><i>i. meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship,</i></p> <p><i>ii. engage with and discuss issues identified as being important by young adults themselves, and</i></p> <p><i>iii. relate to decision-making structures including Dioceses, General Synod and Archbishops Council;</i></p> <p><i>l) request to the Archbishops' Council that funding be found from within the budget for a first such national gathering whilst exploring provision of longer term funding;</i></p> <p><i>m) call on the Archbishops' Council to appoint three young adults to attend General Synod in accordance with Standing Orders'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishops' Council has considered this motion and work is being undertaken to look at the next steps.</li> <li>• Synod debated a motion on hearing the voice of young people in July 2024 and the Business Committee will invite the views of young people in future debates.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p><b>Item 500: <a href="#">GS 2299 Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2023 &amp; GS 2300 Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2023</a>.</b> These are the usual annual fees orders providing for the annual retainers paid to diocesan registrars and for court fees in the ecclesiastical courts.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These were laid before Parliament on 31st July 2023 and came into force on 1st January 2024.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 501: <a href="#">GS 2291 Electronic Register Book of Services Form and Conditions 2023</a>:</b> This allows for a register of services to be kept in an electronic form approved by the General Synod as provided for in Canon F 12, as amended by Amending Canon No. 41.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This came into effect as of 7 July 2023</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Item 6: GS 2301 Appointment of a member of the Archbishops' Council:</b><br/>The Synod formally appointed Carl Hughes as a member of the Archbishops' Council and Chair of the Finance Committee, as required under the provisions of paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Institutions Measure 1998.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carl Hughes will be a member of the Archbishops' Council until <b>11 July 2028.</b></li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Items 502 – 503 GS 2272B Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure:</b> The Measure which covers a wide range of provisions, largely of a technical nature which would not merit free-standing legislation, went through the final legislative stages. It was approved in all three Houses as required.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Items 504 - 505: GS 2273B Amending Canon No 43:</b> This Amending Canon which covers a wide range of provisions in the Canons, largely of a technical nature, which would not merit free-standing legislation, went through the final legislative stages. It was approved in all three Houses as required.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final stage for this Canon took place in February 2024 group of sessions</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 506: GS 2269D Amending Canon No 42:</b> This was a formal item to make, promulge and execute Canon no 42. It was approved by Synod and the Canon will be sent to diocesan synods for proclamation.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was the final stage for this Canon which received First Consideration in July 2022</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p><b>Item 10 GS 2294A and GS 2294B Contribution of Faith to the Rehabilitation of Prisoners:</b> this was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Worcester and discussed the way in which faith can have a positive impact on an offender's behaviour. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod, recognising that faith and belief can have a positive impact on an offender's behaviour:</i></p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p>a) <i>note with pleasure the decision made by the Probation Service to recognise faith and belief as a protective factor in reducing reoffending, and its desire to work in partnership with churches, prison and community chaplains and faith communities to support rehabilitation;</i></p> <p>b) <i>commend the value of partnership working with the Probation Service as an important additional support in churches' welcome of people leaving prison, including training of clergy and authorised lay ministers;</i></p> <p>c) <i>call on dioceses to nominate a contact person or office to link the Probation Service locally to clergy, parishes and chaplaincies.'</i></p> <p>d) <i>call on dioceses to enable a swift welcome of offenders after release into an appropriate church community, subject to agreed and clear safeguarding boundaries; and to make this part of the brief for their Diocesan Safeguarding Team.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion</li> </ul>  |                    |
| <p><b>Item 13: GS 2305 Redress:</b> There was a presentation on developments on a safeguarding redress programme for the whole Church. This was followed by a debate on a motion as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <p>a) <i>acknowledge and deeply regret the safeguarding failures of the Church of England and especially their effect on victims and survivors, noting the vital importance of their voice in the Church's ongoing safeguarding work;</i></p> <p>b) <i>welcome the work undertaken to develop the Redress Scheme as a proper expression of that regret and look forward to its further development.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft legislation was presented at the November 2023 group of sessions for First Consideration.</li> <li>• There were 22 submissions to the Revision Committee and it will meet April and May 2024.</li> <li>• The Revision Stage was taken at the July 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed that the Final Drafting and Final Approval take place at the July 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 511: GS 2295 Safeguarding Practice Reviews Code of Practice:</b> This Code of Practice was presented under Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and focused on processes related to lessons learned reviews.</p>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This came into effect on 31 July 2023.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p><b>Item 14: GS 2306A and GS 2306B Responding to the Climate Emergency:</b><br/>This was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Oxford asking the Church to strengthen its work addressing climate change. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, affirming the fifth mark of mission, concerned by the scientific evidence that climate change is proceeding at a rapid rate and by the impact of climate events, and seeking to build on the decisions taken with respect to GS 2159:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) commend the recent disinvestment announcements by the Church Commissioners for England and Church of England Pensions Board, and urge each of the National Investing Bodies of the Church of England to prioritise and scale up investment in renewable energy and other climate solutions, in line with their fiduciary duties, and ask each to report back on progress to General Synod each quinquennium;</i></li> <li><i>b) urge all parts of the Church of England to review their relevant policies and procedures, in order to ensure that they are up to date and give due priority to creation care;</i></li> <li><i>c) urge all parts of the Church of England to seek to support, through prayer, advocacy and practical action, the poorest in the world who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change, in the awareness that our nation has been among those who have benefited most from the emissions that have caused the crisis;</i></li> <li><i>d) commit earnestly and regularly to pray - and to promote prayer - about the climate and wider environmental crisis.</i></li> <li><i>e) call upon all institutions of the Church of England to make urgent practical preparations for the delivery of substantial reduction of the Church’s carbon footprint, including, but not restricted to, the following immediate actions in respect of Church buildings:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. ensuring that the NCIs are adequately resourced to provide DACs, Buildings Departments, Education Departments and others with authoritative national guidance notes, advice and training on key technical and procedural questions relating to adaptation of buildings for the net zero target; and</i></li> <li><i>ii. ensuring that Parish Buying and other national-level entities have the capacity to engage with manufacturers and suppliers of products and processes recommended for making our buildings more efficient, with a view to using the scale of the national net zero project to achieve both sympathetic design and economies of scale on cost;</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <p><b>FURTHER<br/>WORK<br/>REQUIRED</b></p> |

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- iii. *commit expenditure, reflective of the £10 million committed by Oxford Diocese, on environmental works to improve the carbon footprint of vicarages.*
- f) *request that Bishops and the Liturgical Commission to encourage confirmation services to include an additional question ‘Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth?’*
- g) *ask that HM Government review the weight given to the environmental public benefit in planning regulations to facilitate the installation of renewable technologies, including for buildings that are listed or in conservation areas.’*

**Update:**

- An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion
- The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- The first Net Zero Programme Impact Report will be published autumn 2024 which will address point e).
- About half of dioceses have provided a monitoring report for 2023 on progress against the Routemap to Net Zero.
- The Church Commissioners included a section on Net Zero as part of its report to Synod in July 2024.
- The General Election in July 2024 has shifted the policy landscape and the King’s speech in Parliament as well as announcements by the Chancellor are being reviewed regarding changes in planning legislation.

**Item 16: GS 2307 National Church Governance:** there was a presentation on the proposals for the implementation of Governance reform following the February 2023 group of sessions, followed by a debate on a motion. The final motion was as follows:

*‘That this Synod:*

- a) *welcome the recommendations of the National Church Governance Project Board set out in GS 2307 as the basis for the reform of the National Church Institutions and Governance Structures of the Church of England except in respect of recommendation 13, where specific provision should be made so that a majority of the members of the CENS board are either elected or appointed from the members of Synod and except in respect of recommendation 14, where specific provision should be made so that two members of the Audit and Risk Committee are members of either the House of Laity or the House of Clergy of the General Synod and are jointly elected by the members of those Houses;*
- b) *request the introduction of draft legislation to give effect to the necessary statutory changes for the implementation of these proposals no later than the February 2024 Group of Sessions.’*

**IN PROGRESS**

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The First Consideration stage was taken at the July 2024 group of sessions</li> <li>• It is expected that the Revision Stage will be taken at the February 2025 group of sessions</li> </ul>   |                                      |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| <p><b>Items 18 to 24 GS 2309 Archbishops' Council Budget 2024 and Proposals for Apportionment:</b> This is a regular item for the July groups of sessions, as under its Standing Orders, General Synod must be invited to approve the Archbishops' Council's annual budget and its proposals for the diocesan apportionment. The proposals for the budget and apportionment as agreed were as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="395 667 1090 857"> <tr> <td>£14,998,000</td> <td>Training for Ministry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£34,180,628</td> <td>National Church Responsibilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1,518,779</td> <td>Grants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£426,510</td> <td>Mission agency pension contributions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£6,137,441</td> <td>Clergy retirement housing grant</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishops' Council is operating to the budget as approved by Synod.</li> </ul> | £14,998,000                          | Training for Ministry | £34,180,628 | National Church Responsibilities | £1,518,779 | Grants | £426,510 | Mission agency pension contributions | £6,137,441 | Clergy retirement housing grant | COMPLETED |
| £14,998,000   | Training for Ministry                |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| £34,180,628   | National Church Responsibilities     |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| £1,518,779  | Grants                               |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| £426,510  | Mission agency pension contributions |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| £6,137,441  | Clergy retirement housing grant      |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| <p><b>Item 507 GS 2310 Faculty Jurisdiction Rules:</b> The scope of the proposed amendments to these Rules are limited and impact on Chancellors determining petitions for faculty that involve contested heritage. This was approved on a show of hands and the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023 will now be laid before both Houses of Parliament.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These were laid before Parliament on 31st July 2023 and came into force (in part) on 1st January 2024.</li> </ul>  | COMPLETED                            |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |
| <p><b>Item 508: GS 2311 Clergy Conduct Measure:</b> This was the First Consideration of the legislation which will set out the statutory framework and establish the jurisdiction for dealing with cases relating to clergy conduct, replacing the Clergy Discipline Measure.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 27 submissions to the Revision Committee by the deadline of 8 September 2023</li> <li>• The Revision Committee met several times over the autumn 2023</li> <li>• The Revision Stage was taken at the July 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed that the Final Drafting and Final Approval take place at the February 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  | IN PROGRESS                          |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |           |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Item 509: GS 2313 Church Representation Rules:</b> This legislation gives effect to three of the recommendations of the Elections Review Group and sets out changes to the Church Representation Rules concerning the conduct of elections at APCMs and declarations to be made by PCC members following election.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was laid before Parliament on 31st July 2023 and came into force on 1st August 2023.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 27: GS 2314 Revitalising the Parish for Mission:</b> This item reaffirms Synod's support for the parish as a central component of the mixed ecology. It aimed to embed learning about growth and missional vitality in the life of each parish and diocese, while supporting the Vision and Strategy priorities of mixed ecology and younger and more diverse. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome the emphasis in the Church of England's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s on the revitalisation of the parish for mission as one of the six 'bold outcomes';</i></li> <li><i>b) affirm the parish system as the central component of the mixed ecology as we seek to offer a living and contextually-appropriate expression of church for every person in England, and a vital means of fulfilling our calling to become younger and more diverse;</i></li> <li><i>c) note the research presented in 'From Anecdote to Evidence' as well as other recent research which contributes to our understanding of the factors supporting church growth and vitality;</i></li> <li><i>d) request the Archbishops' Council bring a report collating the research that has already been in place to a future group of sessions so that the Synod might have greater confidence that church growth and revitalisation alongside other mixed ecologies of church are taking place in line with our six bold outcomes, enabling local churches to develop and implement local mission plans;</i></li> <li><i>e) welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers in many dioceses;</i></li> <li><i>f) encourage dioceses to work in new and creative ways to increase lay and ordained vocations;</i></li> <li><i>g) encourage each parish and diocese to support a process of local missional discernment (Mission Action Planning) to enable greater effectiveness in parochial mission and put a plan in place to meet the discerned missional outcomes to be reviewed annually.'</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A regional consultation on vocations took place over the summer of 2024, and the findings from that consultation will be presented to the Archbishops Council in the autumn.</li> <li>• A summary report of research on church growth and vitality, including an assessment of the impact of national funding to dioceses in support of that growth and vitality, will be brought to the July 2025 group of sessions</li> </ul>   |                              |
| <p><b>Item 28: GS 2315 Review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure:</b> The review of the Mission and Pastoral Measure began in 2020 and this gave an update on proposals for new legislation. This motion was as follows.</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome the Report GS 2315 on the review of the Mission &amp; Pastoral Measure and the recommendations it contains;</i></li> <li><i>b) request the Archbishops’ Council to bring forward a draft Measure for the First Consideration at a group of sessions in 2024 to give effect to the recommendations that involve legislative change;</i></li> <li><i>c) call on all concerned, including bishops, dioceses, parishes and the National Church Institutions, to welcome and embrace the call expressed in the Report for good conversations and a pastoral approach to be at the heart of any processes considering possible changes to ministry structures’</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff are working on proposals to bring draft legislation to a future group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b>           |
| <p><b>Item 510: GS 2264 Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure:</b> This Measure further extends the period during which the Church Commissioners are permitted to resort to capital to meet their obligations under the pre-1998 clergy pension scheme. This completed its final legislative stages and was approved in all three Houses as required.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It went through Final Drafting and Final Approval at the July 2023 group of sessions and was then presented to the Legislative Committee.</li> <li>• The Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure was considered by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament in November 2023 and received Royal Assent on Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and came into force on that date.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>             |
| <p><b>Item 29: GS 2282A and GS 2282B Reduce Parochial Fees for Marriages:</b> This was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Blackburn which sought to set the fees relating to marriages at nil or a minimal amount. The final motion was as follows:</p>  | <b>FURTHER WORK REQUIRED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>That this Synod</i></p> <p>a) <i>request the Archbishops' Council to design, fund and implement a time-limited, regional trial of providing weddings free of all statutory fees; and</i></p> <p>b) <i>report back to Synod on the impact it made on the number of weddings conducted, pastoral and missional contacts made, on charitable giving in connection with provision of wedding services, and on projected parochial and diocesan finances.</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has reluctantly been concluded that such a regional experiment cannot be designed in a way which could realistically provide the data intended and that attempting to do so would incur disproportionate effort, especially by the parish clergy, and cost.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is being undertaken to revisit the question of the future of wedding (and other parochial) fees in principle without relying on the kind of empirical data that Synod had hoped could be furnished.</li> </ul> |                  |
| <p>Items 33 and 35 to 50 GS 2292 Revised 61st Report of the Standing Orders Committee: This sets out a number of proposals to amend the Standing Orders.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These came into effect as of 12 July 2023</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p>GS 2317 Scheme of variation of membership of Deanery Synods: This set out the scheme of variation from the Diocese of Lincoln and was approved.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It came into effect as of 12 July 2023.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| <p>GS 2318 Draft Scheme Amending the Diocese in Europe Constitution: These amendments relate to the date by which a chaplaincy annual meeting must be held, the admission to office of churchwardens, and holding meetings by electronic means and were approved.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It came into effect as of 12 July 2023.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

## November 2023

General Synod met on 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Church House, Westminster. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Presentation of Petitions:</b> two petitions were presented by Mr Sam Margrave (Coventry). They were referred to the Business Committee and it was concluded that there was no further action required.</p>   | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Item 5: GS 2324 Appointment of Chair of the Pensions Board:</b> Synod agreed to the reappointment of Mr Clive Mather as Chair of the Pensions Board.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clive Mather will be Chair of the Pensions Board until <b>30 April 2029</b>.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Item 500: GS 2325 Abuse (Redress) Measure:</b> This Measure will introduce a consistent approach to redress following abuse and was presented for First Consideration. It was approved for consideration in Revision Committee.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 22 submissions to the Revision Committee and it will meet April and May 2024.</li> <li>The Revision Stage took place at the July 2024 group of sessions</li> <li>It is expected that the Final Drafting and Final Approval will take place at the July 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 501: GS 2326 Payment to the Churches Conservation Trust Order 2023:</b> This set the level of Church funding for the Churches Conservation Trust for the period 2024 to 2027 and was approved on a show of hands.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Order came into effect as of 1 April 2024</li> </ul>   | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Items 9 to 27: GS 2327 62nd Report of the Standing Orders Committee:</b> This put forward a number of proposals to amend the Standing Orders related to petitions, questions, liturgical business and other miscellaneous points of procedure</p>   | <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These amendments took effect as of 16 November 2023</li> </ul>  |                    |
| <p><b>Item 7: GS 2328 Living in Love and Faith:</b> This gave a further update on the work related to Living in Love and Faith. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, conscious that the Church is not of one mind on the issues raised by Living in Love and Faith, that we are in a period of uncertainty, and that many in the Church on all sides are being deeply hurt at this time, recognise the progress made by the House of Bishops towards implementing the motion on Living in Love and Faith passed by this Synod in February 2023, as reported in GS 2328, encourage the House to continue its work of implementation, and ask the House to consider whether some standalone services for same-sex couples could be made available for use, possibly on a trial basis, on the timescale envisaged by the motion passed by the Synod in February 2023.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further work has been undertaken by the House of Bishops and a subsequent motion was presented to the February 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 502: GS 2329 Vacancy in See Committee (Amendment) Regulation:</b> This updates the Vacancy in See Committee membership for the Diocese of Salisbury so that the Deans of Jersey and Guernsey are included as ex officio members of Salisbury’s ViSC. It was approved on a show of hands.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This came into effect as of 16 November 2023</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

## February 2024

General Synod met from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Church House, Westminster. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Item 504 and 505: GS 2334 Vacancy in See Committees Regulations Consolidation:</b> This consolidation instrument which brings together the changes in the Vacancy in See Committees Regulations into one document was passed by Synod and was then proclaimed as an Act of Synod.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations took effect as of 23 April 2024</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 502: GS 2273C Amending Canon No 43:</b> This Amending Canon received Final Approval at the July 2023 group of sessions and was finally enacted.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was the final stage for this Canon which received First Consideration at July 2022 group of sessions.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 4 GS 2331A and GS 2331B Parochial Fees:</b> This was a Diocesan Synod Motion from London and focused on fees payable at crematoria and cemeteries. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘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.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parochial Fees Order 2024 (item 503) was amended to reflect this decision by Synod.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 6: GS 2335A and GS 2335B Code of Conduct for PCCs:</b> This was a Diocesan Synod Motion from Chelmsford which requested the Archbishops’ Council undertake a review to consider whether there should be a Code of Conduct for PCC members. There were two amendments which were rejected by Synod, so the final motion as voted on was as follows:</p>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>'That this Synod request that the Archbishops' Council carry out a review to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) the possibility of drawing up a Code of Conduct for PCC members and lay volunteers,</i></li> <li><i>b) the issues required to put in place a disciplinary process for their removal from the PCC in cases where this is not followed,</i></li> <li><i>c) the resources required at national, diocesan and parish level to bring this about.'</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elections Review Group will be undertaking a consultation process with PCCs and others on behalf of the Archbishops' Council.</li> <li>• It is expected that a further update will be presented to Synod following the consultation process.</li> </ul>   |                    |
| <p><b>Item 9 GS 2336 Safeguarding:</b> There was a video presentation by Professor Alexis Jay introducing her report which had been published just before Synod met. Synod was then invited to debate a motion. There were seven amendments, two of which were carried by Synod. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'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;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>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.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An apology was sent to all members of the former Independent Safeguarding Board in February 2024</li> <li>• A response group has been set up to consider the recommendations of the Jay and Wilkinson Reports</li> <li>• A consultation process is taking place to receive feedback from the Church</li> <li>• A further debate was held at the July 2024 group of sessions</li> <li>• There will be a debate on the future of Church Safeguarding at the February 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

**Item 10 GS 2319 Land and Nature:** This item related to the developing net zero work that had already been agreed by Synod and which dioceses are beginning to implement. There were two amendments, and one was carried by Synod. The final motion was carried on a show of hands and was as follows:

IN PROGRESS

*'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 their leadership amongst landowners in a way that recognises the importance of shared learning, support and respect in achieving these objectives.*

**Update:**

- An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion and work is ongoing to support dioceses in creating tenant surveys and emissions baselining, as well as supporting dioceses with their land management strategies.
- An update on engaging and collaborating with farming tenants was presented to the CCE AGM In June 2024
- The creation of new woodland creation sites is progressing in Scotland and Wales with over 450 acres.

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the 2023 sustainability report will be published in autumn 2024</li> <li>• Progress is being tracked across the Church and an update will be provided to the Environment Working Group for autumn 2024.</li> <li>• This item will be added to the forward look for consideration at a group of sessions in 2027.</li> </ul>   |             |
| <p><b>Item 11 GS 2337 Synod Code of Conduct:</b> This item requested that the Business Committee revise the current Code of Conduct for Synod members and present proposals to a future group of sessions. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, acknowledging the feedback from members outlined in GS 2337, request 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’.</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Business Committee will be considering what the next steps for this work should be at their meeting in the spring.</li> </ul>  | IN PROGRESS |
| <p><b>Item 12 GS 2320A and GS 2320B Future of Work:</b> This Diocesan Synod Motion from Oxford addressed the issue of fair work. There were 10 amendments to the motion and five were carried by Synod. The final motion was approved on a show of hands and was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod:</i></p> <p><i>mindful of the deep economic effects of the pandemic, the impacts of new technology, and the global rise of new forms of working</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) affirm the dignity and value of purposeful work, whether paid or unpaid, as a significant component of human flourishing;</i></li> <li><i>b) endorse the Rome Call for promoting an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI);</i></li> <li><i>c) endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by fair work;</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> </ol> | IN PROGRESS |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>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.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion</li> <li>• The Archbishop of Canterbury signed the Rome Call promoting an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence</li> <li>• Since the motion was passed, FAOC has had very limited capacity for new work because of the demands of LLF. However, Faith and Public Life has taken up the issue, building on work on the theology of work undertaken for Synod some years ago. FPL is working with the Editorial Board of the journal "Crucible" to produce an issue during 2025 with a series of theological and analytical articles on the impact of new technologies on work. This will be made available electronically to all Synod members. However, as noted in the financial memorandum, covering every aspect of this much-expanded motion would require resources not yet available.</li> </ul>   |                    |
| <p><b>Item 13 GS 2338 Racial Justice:</b> This item summarised the work that has taken place since the publication of 'From Lament to Action' to embed racial justice, noting that the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission ceases its work in November 2024 and proposed further action for dioceses and the Church. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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.</i></li> <li><i>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.'</i></li> </ol> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In May 2024, the Archbishops’ Council agreed to establish a task group of key stakeholders to produce proposals for future governance arrangements for racial justice necessary to achieve “significant cultural and structural change”. This group will be made up of representatives of the Archbishops’ Council, CMEAC, ACRJ, and AMEN.</li> <li>• The NCIs have established a project to include various stakeholders &amp; champions to encourage the collection of data using existing systems where possible, particularly the People System and the Church Development Tool (CDT).</li> <li>• Funding for the next 2026-29 triennium will be considered by the Triennium Funding Working Group.</li> <li>• Resources are being developed for the engagement of parishes in the work on racial justice.</li> </ul>   |                    |
| <p><b>Item 14 GS 2339A and GS 2339B Bullying by Lay Officers:</b> This item was a Private Members Motion from the Ven Mark Ireland (Blackburn) seeking to bring forward legislative proposals to disqualify lay members from office if their behaviour merits this. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, recognising:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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</i></li> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>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.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishops’ Council considered proposals relating to this motion at its meeting in December 2024. Further work is required on how to address this, as outlined in the report from the Legislative Reform Committee (GS Misc 1405)</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Items 26 and 48 to 57 GS 2340 63rd Report of the Standing Orders Committee:</b> There was one proposal from the Standing Orders Committee to amend the Standing Orders which was carried by Synod. This provides that there should be at least one speech against a motion before the debate can be closed. There were two amendments put forward by Clive Billenness (Europe) which were also carried by Synod. This provides for</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p>the bell to be rung before a counted vote where a special majority is required.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These amendments took effect as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024</li> </ul>  |                    |
| <p><b>Item 15 GS 2321 Commission on Families and Households:</b> This item invited Synod to engage with the ‘Love Matters’ Report from the Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) welcome the Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households’ Report, “Love Matters”;</i></li> <li><i>b) commend the Report and the Recommendations for consideration in dioceses, deaneries and parishes;</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> <li><i>d) urge HM Government to implement the recommendations made to Government, and look forward to receiving a full Government response to all the recommendations.’</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of State for Work &amp; Pensions, Secretary of State for Education, and the Children’s Commissioner inviting their response to the recommendations.</li> <li>• The priority of “a younger, more diverse, mixed ecology and missionary discipleship church”, and of sustaining family life in general, is being resourced and pursued across the whole remit of the Archbishops’ Council. As noted in the Financial Memorandum, developing bespoke resources related specifically to “Love Matters” would require additional financial resources.</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 503 GS 2342 Parochial Fees Order:</b> This sets the parochial fees payable to diocesan boards of finance and PCCs to be prescribed by a Parochial Fees Order for up to two years from 1 January 2025. Following the debate on Friday, the Order was amended so that for “Funeral service in crematorium or funeral service (including burial of body or burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains) in cemetery”, the base figure for the Diocesan Board of Finance will be 194 and the figure for Parochial Church Councils will be 34.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Order took effect as of 1 January 2025.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><b>Item 500 GS 2343 Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners' Liability)</b><br/> <b>Measure:</b> This was the First Consideration Stage for this Measure which is a small discrete piece of work and will detach the Church Commissioners' land-based chancel repair liability from the relevant land and turn it into a free-standing statutory liability.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was one submission to the Revision Committee by the deadline of 8 April 2024</li> <li>• The Revision Committee will meet in April 2024 and the Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at the July 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Items 17 and 18 GS 2344 Reappointment of two AC members:</b> This was to formally approve the reappointment of the Revd Charlotte Cook and Mr Joseph Diwakar as members of the Archbishops' Council. Under the provisions of paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Institutions Measure 1998, the approval of the General Synod is required for appointments to the Archbishops' Council. These were carried on a show of hands.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revd Charlotte Cook will be a member of the Archbishops' Council until <b>22 February 2029</b>.</li> <li>• Joseph Diwakar will be a member of the Archbishops' Council until <b>22 February 2029</b>.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 19 GS 2345 Estates Evangelism:</b> This was an update on the work done by the Estates Evangelism Task Group and seeks to encourage better resourcing of evangelism in economically marginalised parishes. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'This Synod:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> </ol> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>the financial inequalities between dioceses and the distribution of LInC Funding);</i></p> <p>e) <i>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</i></p> <p>f) <i>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.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was sent to Diocesan offices regarding this motion.</li> <li>• The Ministry Development Team is working towards increasing lay and ordained leaders from working-class backgrounds, following through on the recommendations in the 'Let Justice Roll Down' report, and monitoring results.</li> <li>• The V&amp;S states that resources should be biased towards low-income communities and estates. The V&amp;S team in conjunction with the SMMI Board, have been working to increase the impact of LInC funding that is awarded by formula to dioceses specifically for these communities, as well as working with dioceses to ensure resources are available to invest in mission and ministry in low-income communities and estates through the Diocesan Investment Programme, to support both contextually appropriate mission and (lay and ordained) leadership.</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p><b>Item 20 GS 2330A and GS 2330B Clergy Pensions:</b> This was a Private Members' Motion from the Revd Dr Ian Paul (Southwell &amp; Nottingham) which was seeking to restore the Clergy Pension to its pre-2011 benefit level. The final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod</i></p> <p>a) <i>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;</i></p> <p>b) <i>in doing this work to have regard to the findings of the Clergy Remuneration Review (GS 2247 and GS Misc 1298) and in</i></p>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p><i>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</i></p> <p>c) <i>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.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">GS Misc 1391</a> was presented at the July 2024 to give an update on progress to date. Of the eleven recommendations made in 2022, five have been implemented in full, while for the other six, progress has been made towards the goal.</li> <li>• Recommendations relating to this issue have been made as part of the Diocesan Finance Review report in GS 2380</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p><b>Item 21 GS 2346 Living in Love and Faith:</b> This was an update from Bishop Martyn Snow as the lead bishop and invited members to continue their engagement with this work. There were four amendments considered by Synod, two of which were carried. However, there was a move to next business which was carried by Synod so the motion lapsed. This means that the specific motion presented at the February group of sessions cannot be considered again by Synod during this quinquennium except with the permission of the Business Committee and general consent of Synod.</p>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 501 GS 2347 Church Funds Investment Measure:</b> This was the First Consideration for this Measure. It enables the trustee of the Central Board of Finance (CBF) investment funds (Church Charity and Local Authority Investment Management Limited or CCLA) to make a scheme of arrangement under which the existing funds that are covered by the Church Funds Investment Measure 1958 can be transferred to a Charity Authorised Investment Fund. The result would be that the funds in question became regulated by the Charity Commission and the Financial Conduct Authority, providing greater assurance to investors.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no submissions to the Revision Committee by the deadline of 8 April 2024</li> <li>• The Revision Committee will meet in April 2024 and the Revision Stage, Final Drafting and Final Approval took place at the July 2024 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 22 GS 2348 War in Ukraine:</b> This item considered the war in Ukraine, particularly in light of the second anniversary of the start of the war. It set</p>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

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| <p>out the challenge to freedom of religion or belief, and to the rules-based liberal international order and considered the response from the Church and opportunities for further engagement. There was one amendment which was carried and the final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) affirm with gratitude the church’s work with others to support conflict parties and mediators and call for continued efforts to develop pathways to peace, justice and reconciliation in Ukraine;</i></li> <li><i>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;</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> <li><i>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.’</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk wrote to the key political parties to outline the decisions made by Synod and received responses from the Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party.</li> <li>• The Faith and Public Life team continues to support the Archbishop of Canterbury in his engagement with the churches of Ukraine.</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p><b>Item 23 GS 2349A and GS 2349B Ordination after Divorce:</b> This was a Private Members’ Motion from the Revd Mark Bennet (Oxford) which seeks to introduce legislation to remove the impediment to ordination for those who have been divorced. There were two amendments, one of which was carried and the final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘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.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See the Report from the Legislative Reform Committee (GS Misc 1405).</li> </ul>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

## GENERAL SYNOD

**GS 2350 Clergy Discipline Rules:** These Rules were deemed to be approved and sets out some minor updates to the Rules relating to who can access the Archbishops' Lists.

**Update:**

- These Rules came into effect as of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

**COMPLETED**

## GENERAL SYNOD

## July 2024

General Synod met from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the University of York. The agenda for the group of sessions can be found [here](#) and the Business Done can be found [here](#).

The key decisions made at this group of sessions were as follows:

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| <p><b>Items 5 and 6: GS 2354 A Wisdom of Trust: Building and Sustaining Trust in the Church of England:</b> This was a presentation with questions and take note debate based on the interim report of the Trust Working Group.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A debate on the final report will be presented at the July 2025 group of sessions</li> </ul>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Items 503, 504, 511 and 512 GS 2347 Church Funds Investment Measure:</b> This was the Revision and Final Drafting/Final Approval Stage for this Measure. It enables the trustee of the Central Board of Finance (CBF) investment funds (Church Charity and Local Authority Investment Management Limited or CCLA) to make a scheme of arrangement under which the existing funds that are covered by the Church Funds Investment Measure 1958 can be transferred to a Charity Authorised Investment Fund. The result would be that the funds in question became regulated by the Charity Commission and the Financial Conduct Authority, providing greater assurance to investors.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is now committed to the Legislative Committee and will be presented to the Ecclesiastical Committee in due course.</li> </ul> | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |
| <p><b>Item 500, 501, 502, 513 and 514 GS 2343 Chancel Repair (Church Commissioners' Liability) Measure:</b> This was the Revision and Final Drafting/ Final Approval Stage for this Measure which is a small discrete piece of work and will detach the Church Commissioners' land-based chancel repair liability from the relevant land and turn it into a free-standing statutory liability.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is now committed to the Legislative Committee and will be presented to the Ecclesiastical Committee in due course.</li> </ul>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

## GENERAL SYNOD

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| <p>Items 30 – 53 GS 2355 64th Report of the Standing Orders Committee &amp; Amendments to the Standing Orders for the Crown Nominations Commission</p> <p>This introduced changes to the Standing Orders related to GMH members of the Crown Nominations Commission, and some minor tidying up to SOs 21, 29, 69I, 73, 77, 87, 90 and 30</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These changes took effect from 10 July 2024.</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>                     |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| <p>Items 8 to 14 : GS 2356 Archbishops’ Council Budget 2025 and Proposals for Apportionment 2025: This is a regular item for the July group of sessions, as under its Standing Orders, General Synod must be invited to approve the Archbishops’ Council’s annual budget and its proposals for the diocesan apportionment. These were all approved by Synod and were as follows.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£17,391,847</td> <td>Training for Ministry</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£38,242,532</td> <td>National Church Responsibilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,560,642</td> <td>Grants</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£504,924</td> <td>Mission agency pension contributions</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£6,444,313</td> <td>Clergy retirement housing grant</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishops’ Council is operating to the budget as approved by Synod.</li> </ul> | £17,391,847                          | Training for Ministry | £38,242,532 | National Church Responsibilities | £1,560,642 | Grants | £504,924 | Mission agency pension contributions | £6,444,313 | Clergy retirement housing grant | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
| £17,391,847  | Training for Ministry                |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| £38,242,532  | National Church Responsibilities     |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| £1,560,642   | Grants                               |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| £504,924   | Mission agency pension contributions |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| £6,444,313   | Clergy retirement housing grant      |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| <p>Item 505: GS 2311A Clergy Conduct Measure: This was the Revision Stage of the legislation which will set out the statutory framework and establish the jurisdiction for dealing with cases relating to clergy conduct, replacing the Clergy Discipline Measure.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Measure will be considered for Final Drafting and Final Approval in February 2025</li> </ul>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b>                   |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| <p>Item 510: GS 2370 Safeguarding Code of Practice: Learning and Development Framework: This code of practice sets out the safeguarding Learning and Development Framework and is presented under Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Code of Practice took effect as of 31 July 2024</li> </ul>  | <b>COMPLETED</b>                     |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |
| <p>Item 16: GS 2357A and GS 2357B Rest Periods for Office Holders: This was a DSM from Winchester looking to introduce 36 hours of rest within any</p>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b>                   |                       |             |                                  |            |        |          |                                      |            |                                 |                  |

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period of seven days, including an uninterrupted rest period of not less than 24 hours. There were four amendments, two of which was carried and the final motion was as follows:

*‘That this Synod, recognising that*

- a) Sabbath, as a time to cease and delight, is part of God’s plan for humankind and for all creation and is modelled by God in Genesis 2.1-3,*
- b) a weekly Sabbath rest is a life-giving gift of God and important for the wellbeing of all people,*
- c) a day off spent catching up on necessary tasks is not a Sabbath day,*

*request that the Archbishops’ Council lay before it for approval draft Regulations amending the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009 so that an office holder is entitled to not less than 36 hours (a day and a half) of rest in any period of seven days, to include an uninterrupted Sabbath rest period of not less than 24 hours, but so that the statement of particulars of office may continue to specify that any rest period may not be taken on or include a Sunday or any or all of the principal Feasts of the Church of England or Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.’*

**Update:**

- The Legislative Reform Committee considered this at its meeting in October 2024 and agreed that it would be extremely challenging to legislate for this, not least as there is no consistent pattern of work for clergy. In addition, there is currently provision for flexibility for clergy to take more rest than 24 hours and many dioceses already encourage this within the statements of particulars which can enable rest periods. It was suggested that further clarification could be provided through guidance that did not require legislation.

**Item 18: GS 2359A and GS 2359B Human Dignity of Disabled Children:** This was a DSM from Liverpool encouraging better support for disabled children. The motion was as follows:

**IN PROGRESS**

*‘That this Synod, reaffirming its belief that every person is unique and precious and made in the image of God, and endorsing section 6 of the Equality Act (2010):*

- a) challenge the common assumption that bringing a disabled child into the world is a tragedy to be avoided;*
- b) call upon healthcare providers and other public authorities to improve the support they give to the parents and families of children born with disabilities;*
- c) call upon His Majesty’s Government and healthcare providers to ensure that mothers whose unborn child may be disabled in any*

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| <p><i>way are given comprehensive and unbiased information about the condition and support available to them;</i></p> <p>d) <i>call upon dioceses, parishes and chaplaincies to consider how they might better witness to the human dignity of disabled children, including the better pastoral advice and support they might offer to their parents and families.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk will write to HM Government regarding this motion.</li> <li>• The FPL Disability Project aims to make a measurable difference to the inclusion of disabled people, including children, within the whole life of the church.</li> <li>• The terms of the motion will be communicated to healthcare chaplains through the Bishops' Healthcare Chaplaincy Advisers' network.</li> </ul>  |                    |
| <p><b>Item 507: GS 2360 National Church Governance Measure:</b> This was the First Consideration Stage of the Measure that will give effect to the proposals from the Governance Review Group which have been debated by the Synod at recent groups of sessions.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revision Stage is planned for the February 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 19: GS 2361A and GS 2361B Inquiry into Allegations of Abuse within the Soul Survivor Network:</b> This was a Private Members' Motion from the Revd Robert Thompson, London seeking an independent inquiry by King's Counsel into the allegations relating to Soul Survivor. There was one amendment which was carried and the final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod, conscious of the ongoing safeguarding work around independence underway following the publication of the reports by Dr Sarah Wilkinson and Professor Alexis Jay.</i></p> <p>a) <i>express deep sorrow for all instances of abuse within God's church, regardless of who committed them, and condemn in the strongest possible terms any and all attempts to cover up abuse;</i></p> <p>b) <i>reaffirm its commitment to listen to survivors and seek justice on their behalf;</i></p> <p>c) <i>call upon the Archbishops' Council to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <i>ensure that learning from the review into allegations of abuse within the Soul Survivor network currently being undertaken by independent King's Counsel Fiona Scolding, is considered in any recommendations relating to the Future of Church Safeguarding;</i></li> <li>ii. <i>engage with relevant survivors to understand their perspective on the review's conclusions;</i></li> </ol> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

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| <p>iii. <i>continue to embed the National Safeguarding Standards into every Church of England ministry setting, and commend the points raised in GS 2361A;</i></p> <p>iv. <i>highlight the importance of healthy cultures and urge further theological reflection in guarding against potential abused of power and promoting safe and wise leadership, and around the ethics of social media; and</i></p> <p>v. <i>commend the steps being taken by the National Safeguarding Team to ensure that victims and survivors have proper support including explanation of any legal processes – including the Clergy Discipline Measure – they find themselves involved with.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Archbishops' Council will consider the findings of the review by Fiona Scolding when it is published.</li> </ul>   |                    |
| <p><b>Item 61: GS 2362 and GS 2363 Archbishops' Council Annual Report and Annual Report of the Church Commissioners:</b> This was a presentation with questions on the Annual reports of the AC and Church Commissioners. It was followed by a further motion which was carried by Synod. The motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Regret that the Annual Report of the Archbishops' Council does not refer to the relaunch of the National Burial Grounds Survey (NBGS) despite this being a significant piece of work in 2023;</i></li> <li><i>2. Welcome changes made to the NBGS since its previous launch, in particular that:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Atlantic Geomatics are no longer formally partnering with FamilySearch, an agency of the Mormons (Latter Day Saints);</i></li> <li><i>b. The financial offer to parishes has improved, saving parishes and estimated £1.5m a year in subscription fees;</i></li> <li><i>c. The management of data under GDPR is much clearer, with the recognition is that the consent of each PCC is required;</i></li> </ol> </li> <li><i>3. Express its deep concern about other outstanding issues, in particular:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Commercial use of the data - giving AG;</i></li> <li><i>b. International Ltd copyright ownership of the images collected and the right to sell this database to third parties for profit, which could well include the Mormon Church;</i></li> <li><i>c. Data creep – the NBGS seeks to film all parish registers, not just burial records, including current Baptism registers;</i></li> <li><i>d. Safeguarding – baptism registers hold information about children, including material that is highly sensitive in the case of looked after children, vulnerable children whose address may not be known to a parent who is abusive;</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

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| <p>4. <i>Request Archbishops' Council to consult with the College of Archdeacons to address these issues, and request that parishes are not asked to sign up until this consultation has taken place.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretaries have been sent an update on the National Burial Grounds Survey from the Cathedrals and Church Buildings team. Cathedral and Church Buildings department colleagues are liaising with the College of Archdeacons to set up a consultation, and dioceses have been asked to not sign-up new parishes to the scheme, pending the consultation</li> </ul>   |                    |
| <p><b>Items 21 and 22: GS 2364 Safeguarding Independence Update:</b> This is an opportunity for Synod to engage with the work of the Response Group which was set up following the February 2024 group of sessions and to hear about future structures and priorities for Church safeguarding before considering further at the February 2025 group of sessions. The motion carried by Synod was as follows:</p> <p><i>'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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) Professor Jay's recommendations on spiritual abuse and the definition of safeguarding; and</i></li> <li><i>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.'</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A debate on the final report will be requested for the February 2025 group of sessions</li> </ul> | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 23: GS 2351A and GS 2351B Foodbanks and Inadequacies in Social Security:</b> This is a Diocesan Synod Motion from Sheffield which addresses the issue of increased use of food banks and the inadequacy of social security provision. There were four amendments, three of which were carried and the final motion was as follows:</p> <p><i>'That this Synod, mindful that the fourth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is to "transform unjust structures of society",</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) note the major contribution to social welfare being made by the churches and others in the provision of food banks;</i></li> <li><i>b) note with concern that levels of dependence on food banks have been increasing and that inflation is making the situation even worse;</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> </ol>   | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |

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| <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>d) believe that this dependence reflects serious inadequacies in the social security system;</i></p> <p><i>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';</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>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.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MPA Council, supported by the FPL team, has worked for some years with a coalition of charities concerned with child poverty, focussing especially on the deleterious impact of the two-child limit. In July 2024, the coalition issued a report to the new government emphasising how abolition of the two child limit could radically reduce child poverty. Pressure on this will continue, as will the work of the Lords Spiritual in ensuring that poverty remains a core issue in Parliament. The Lords Spiritual, supported by staff, are building relationships with the members of the new government with these issues very much on the agenda.</li> </ul> |                           |
| <p><b>Item 24: GS 2358 Living in Love and Faith:</b> This was the latest update on Living in Love and Faith updated Synod on progress, highlighting areas of agreement and bringing forward suggested next steps. There were two amendments, one of which was carried and the final motion was as follows:</p>   | <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> |

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| <p><i>'That this Synod:</i></p> <p><i>a) support the overall proposal and timetable set out in GS 2358;</i></p> <p><i>b) request that the House of Bishops, with the advice of the LLF working groups:</i></p> <p><i>i. revise the Pastoral Guidance to remove restrictions on the use of PLF in 'standalone' services alongside the introduction of an arrangement to register for Pastoral Reassurance;</i></p> <p><i>ii. establish the basis for the provision of Pastoral Reassurance through a House of Bishops' Statement and Code of Practice which provides for the delegation of some specific and defined episcopal ministry, and which is overseen by an Independent Review Panel;</i></p> <p><i>iii. report to this Synod at its February 2025 group of sessions on the further theological work carried out under the auspices of the Faith and Order Commission around the nature of doctrine, particularly as it relates to the doctrine of marriage and the question of clergy in same-sex civil marriages; this work to be appropriately budgeted and resourced by the Archbishops' Council in terms of theological advice, travel and meeting costs in order to increase the likelihood of meeting the timescales as set out in GS 2358.</i></p> <p><i>c) agree that taken together the Pastoral Guidance, the Bishop's Statement and Code of Practice for pastoral provision will replace Issues in Human Sexuality.</i></p> <p><i>d) agree for the arrangements for Pastoral Reassurance to be regularly monitored over a period of at least three years before being formally reviewed by General Synod.'</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further engagement will be scheduled for the February 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p><b>Item 508: GS 2367 Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order 2024:</b> This was the usual fees order for registrars. A motion for next business was carried and the Order lapsed.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A revised Order will be presented to the February 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul>  | <b>IN PROGRESS</b> |
| <p><b>Item 509: GS 2368 Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2024:</b> These are the usual annual fees orders providing for court fees in the ecclesiastical courts. This was carried by Synod.</p>   | <b>COMPLETED</b>   |

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| <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Order was laid before Parliament and came into force on 1 January 2025</li> </ul>   |             |
| <p><b>Item 506: GS 2325A Abuse (Redress) Measure:</b> This Measure will introduce a consistent approach to redress following abuse and was presented for Revision Stage. It will be presented for Final Drafting/Final Approval at the July 2025 group of sessions.</p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that the Final Drafting and Final Approval take place at the July 2025 group of sessions.</li> </ul>   | IN PROGRESS |
| <p><b>Item 25: GS 2365A and GS 2365B Day of Prayer and Action for the Persecuted Church:</b> This is a Diocesan Synod Motion from London which builds on the decision taken at the February 2022 encouraging the creation of a national day of prayer for the persecuted Church around the world. The final motion as carried by Synod was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod, in the light of the motion passed at the February 2022 Group of Sessions relating to the persecuted Church (i.e. item 18 on the Agenda, as amended), request the Archbishops’ Council to work ecumenically with other churches to establish a national day of prayer and action for the persecuted Church around the world.’</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A set of new resources has been launched to support churches and individuals in responding to the global challenge of religious persecution. The resources include prayers, reflection guides, and suggestions for practical actions such as participating in Red Wednesday (20 November), an initiative instigated by Aid to the Church in Need, which involves lighting up church buildings and signing an open letter to the UK government.</li> </ul> | IN PROGRESS |
| <p><b>Items 26 and 27: GS 2366 Hearing and Responding to the Voice of Young People:</b> This was an opportunity for Synod to engage with young people and to consider how to engage with children and young people in a systematic way, ensuring that the voice of young people feeds into the work of Synod. It builds on the Private Members’ Motion from July 2023. The final motion carried by Synod was as follows:</p> <p><i>‘That this Synod:</i></p> <p><i>a) welcome the voice of children and young people as part of the church of today and commit to intentionally hearing and responding to their voice on at least one substantive item of business in future groups of sessions, employing a range of</i></p>  | IN PROGRESS |

## GENERAL SYNOD

*presentational activities, including surveys, reports, live presentations and videos;*

- b) welcome the work being done across the whole church to become 'younger and more diverse' ensuring every child in every parish has access to a flourishing youth, children and families' ministry.'*

**Update:**

- The Business Committee will engage with the National Society to ensure that the voice of young people can be heard at future groups of sessions.
- A debate on engaging with young adults (18-25) will be presented at the February 2025 group of sessions.