

**GENERAL SYNOD  
SUMMARY OF THE JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2017  
HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

Note this is a summary of the main agenda - The full agenda for General Synod can be found using the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3996908/gs-2059-agenda-for-the-july-2017-group-of-sessions.pdf>

**FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017**

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**REPORT BY THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2060)**

*The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford)* (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:

- 3** That the Synod do take note of this Report.

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**APPOINTMENT TO THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2061)**

*The Archbishop of York* to move:

- 4** That the appointment of Mrs Mary Chapman as a member of the Archbishops' Council for a term ending on 31 December 2019 be approved.

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2062)**

*Mrs Mary Chapman (ex officio)* (Chair of the Audit Committee of the Archbishops' Council) to move:

- 5** That the Synod do take note of this Report.

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS**

- 6** Presentation under SO 107.

**Note:** *The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

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**SATURDAY 8 JULY 2017**

**PRESENTATION FROM THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE PASTORAL ADVISORY GROUP ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEACHING DOCUMENT (GS Misc 1158)**

7 Presentation under SO 107.

*Note: The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

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**PRESENCE AND ENGAGEMENT: REPORT FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL'S MISSION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GS 2063)**

*The Bishop of Huddersfield (Northern Suffragans)* (Vice Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council) to move:

- 8 That this Synod, recognising the Church's continued presence and engagement in parishes, chaplaincies and new missional communities in multi-religious contexts:
- (a) commend the national Presence and Engagement (P&E) programme and offer prayerful support for its work over the next five years, requesting that the fruit of this be made available to the whole Church through the P&E Centres and that the programme report back to Synod at the end of this period;
  - (b) recognise the cultivation of relationships with other faith communities as a vital component of the Church's mission in today's society, and encourage dioceses to incorporate this into their mission plans; and
  - (c) re-affirm the Synod report "Sharing the Gospel of Salvation" (GS Misc 956) and call on the P&E Task Group to continue supporting parishes in bearing faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ with sensitivity and confidence among people of other faiths.

*Order for Approval*

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**52nd REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (GS 2068)**

**NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHURCHES: REPORT FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2069)**

*Mr Mark Sheard (ex officio)* (Chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council) to move:

10 That this Synod:

- (a) welcome the range of evangelism and growth resources provided by the national church in support of local churches;
  - (b) note the progress made to support Life Events ministry since it was commissioned by the Archbishops' Council in 2012;
  - (c) agree to encourage dioceses and parishes to engage with these areas of work through prayer and practical action; and
  - (d) call on the Archbishops' Council and the House of Bishops to report back to the Synod on a regular basis on the progress of these areas of support.
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**SPECIAL AGENDA III  
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**CONVERSION THERAPY (GS 2070A AND GS 2070B)**

*Ms Jayne Ozanne (Oxford)* to move:

**11** That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the statement of 16 January 2017 signed by The UK Council for Psychotherapy, The Royal College of General Practitioners and others that the practice of conversion therapy has no place in the modern world, is unethical, harmful and not supported by evidence; and
  - (b) call upon the Archbishops' Council to become a co-signatory to the statement on behalf of the Church of England.
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**SUNDAY 9 JULY 2017**

**SPECIAL AGENDA IV  
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

**WELCOMING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (GS 2071A AND GS 2071B)**

*The Revd Christopher Newlands (Blackburn)* to move on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod:

**12** That this Synod, recognising the need for transgender people to be welcomed and affirmed in their parish church, call on the House of Bishops to consider whether some nationally commended liturgical materials might be prepared to mark a person's gender transition.

**INTERIM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE CROWN NOMINATIONS  
COMMISSION (GS Misc 1159)**

13 Presentation under SO 107.

*Note: The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

**CLERGY WELLBEING: REPORT FROM THE HOUSE OF CLERGY (GS 2072)**

*The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to move:*

14 That this Synod:

- (a) welcome and support the proposal to establish a Covenant for Clergy Wellbeing as laid out in GS 2072; and
- (b) invite the Appointments Committee to appoint a Clergy Wellbeing Working Group to bring proposals for such a Covenant back to this Synod by July 2019.

**MONDAY 10 JULY 2017**

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**SPECIAL AGENDA IV  
DIOCESAN SYNOD MOTIONS**

**COST OF APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP (GS 2074A AND GS 2074B)**

*Mr Ben Franks (Birmingham) to move on behalf of the Birmingham Diocesan Synod:*

15 That this Synod:

- (a) request the Archbishops' Council's Mission and Public Affairs Council to investigate the issues around the cost of applying for citizenship and to make recommendations to HM Government;
- (b) encourage the Lords Spiritual actively to seek opportunities to address the level of citizenship fees in debate;
- (c) urge parishes to raise the issue with their MP; and
- (d) encourage parishes to continue to support those known to them who are struggling with the cost of citizenship fees without incurring debt and to signpost responsible lenders or local credit unions for advice.

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**THE WORK OF THE ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP: REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2075)**

*The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford) (Chair of the Business Committee) to move:*

16 That the Synod do take note of this Report.

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## PRESENTATION BY THE ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL (GS 2058)

20 Presentation under SO 107.

*Note: The Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.*

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### THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PROPOSALS FOR APPORTIONMENT FOR 2018 (GS 2076)

*Canon John Spence (ex officio) (Chair of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee) to move:*

21 That the Synod do take note of this Report.

*Canon John Spence to move in relation to the Archbishops' Council's expected expenditure in respect of each area of activity specified below:*

*That this Synod approve the Archbishops' Council's expenditure for the year 2018, as shown in its budget, of £[X] in respect of [Y]:*

#### EXPECTED EXPENDITURE [X] AREA OF ACTIVITY [Y]

22 £15,246,952 Training for Ministry

23 £17,562,244 National Church Responsibilities

24 £1,244,024 Grants and provisions

25 £806,167 Mission agency clergy pension contributions

26 £4,805,985 CHARM Scheme

*Canon John Spence to move:*

27 That this Synod approve the Archbishops' Council's proposals (set out in the Table of Apportionment contained in GS 2076) for the apportionment amongst the dioceses of the net sum to be provided by them to enable the Council to meet the expected expenditure shown in its budget for the year 2018.

### LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2017 (GS 2066)

### ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS (FEES) ORDER 2017 (GS 2067)

### **Orders made under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 Notes:**

1. *The Fees Advisory Commission has laid the above Orders (GS 2066 and GS 2067) before the General Synod for approval under sections 5 and 6 respectively of the 1986 Measure.*
2. *The Business Committee has determined (as provided by the 1986 Measure) that the Orders do not need to be debated.*
3. *Under SO 71(2), any member who wishes to debate an Order must give notice in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Friday 7 July 2017.***
4. *Amendments to the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order are permissible. Any member who wishes to give notice of an amendment must do so in accordance with SO 13 **not later than 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 6 July 2017.***

*Note: This is the current order which includes signatures received by 10 May 2017.*

### **CONVERSION THERAPY**

*Ms Jayne Ozanne (Oxford) to move:*

That this Synod:

- (a) endorse the statement of 16 January 2017 signed by The UK Council for Psychotherapy, The Royal College of General Practitioners and others that the practice of conversion therapy has no place in the modern world, is unethical, harmful and not supported by evidence; and
- (b) call upon the Archbishops' Council to become a co-signatory to the statement on behalf of the Church of England.

140 signatures

February 2017

### **SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS CODE**

*The Revd Tiffer Robinson (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to move:*

That this Synod:

- (a) call upon the secretary of State to include provision in the Schools Admission Code requiring admission authorities to allocate places to children of clergy and other workers who are required to live in tied

accommodation, and are moving into the authority's area, in advance of the family arriving in the area; and

- (b) call on all admissions authorities to accept letters of appointment as proof of residence ahead of the children of clergy and other workers who are required to live in tied accommodation moving to the area.

135 signatures

February 2017

## **SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE SHARED CONVERSATIONS**

*Mr Anthony Archer (St Albans) to move:*

That this Synod:

- (i) having participated in the concluding stages of the Shared Conversations on scripture, mission and human sexuality; and
- (ii) noting the reaction to the report Marriage and Same Sex Relationships after the Shared Conversations (GS 2055)

request the House of Bishops to bring for debate by July 2018 a set of forward looking proposals on same-sex relationships (such as proposals to be developed by a broadly-based group representing the diversity of views on Synod and in the wider Church) that will command confidence by:

- (a) affirming the positive contribution that LGBTI Christians make in the life of the Church; and
- (b) reflecting the differing interpretations of scripture.

120 signatures

February 2017

## **BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS**

*Mr Edward Shaw (Bristol) to move:*

That this Synod:

convinced that all people without exception are loved by God and made in His image and are invited to fullness of life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, affirm:

- (a) its rejection of the fear or dislike of anyone on the basis of their sexual orientation;
- (b) the radically inclusive nature of Jesus's ministry and message to all people: "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!";
- (c) that marriage, as defined by Jesus, is the lifelong sexual union of a man and a woman;

- (d) that both those who marry and those who are single, as Jesus Himself was, can enjoy Christ-like relationships and the fullness of life which He offers all;
- (e) that all Christians should repent of any sexual activity outside marriage, in the assurance of God's loving forgiveness in Christ; and
- (f) that all God's holy people are called to live out this calling, for their own good and for the life of the world they are called to serve.

78 signatures

March 2017

## **OPEN PROCESS AND JUSTICE IN INVESTIGATIONS**

*Mr Martin Sewell (Rochester) to move:*

That this Synod:

regret that it can have no confidence in the investigation conducted on behalf of the Church of England into the allegations against the late Bishop Bell by reason of its lack of transparency and accountability, and affirm that:

- (a) openness of process is the cornerstone of confidence in all such investigations;
- (b) a Church of Justice must hold rigorously to the principle of equal fairness to accuser and accused alike; and (c) there is no dissonance in logic or in law between:
  - (i) the preservation of individual accuser anonymity; and
  - (ii) the public interest in ensuring fair procedures and a transparent system of justice which clearly explains its processes, discloses the substance of the evidence and the reasons for its conclusions.

48 signatures

July 2016

## **REVIEW OF THE 'FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES'**

*Mr David Lamming (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) That*

this Synod:

- (a) share the sadness and regret of the Rt Revd Philip North in his decision, announced on 9 March 2017, to withdraw acceptance of his nomination to the See of Sheffield;
- (b) note the substantial support for Bishop North's nomination from many women and men, lay and ordained, in the dioceses of both Sheffield and Blackburn, and in the wider Church of England;



- (c) express its full support for Bishop North in his future ministry, whether in the Blackburn diocese or elsewhere;
- (d) note, with concern, the implications of Bishop North's decision, and the public debate that preceded it, for the 'mutual flourishing' of the Church of England; and
- (e) request the House of Bishops urgently to review the 'Five Guiding Principles' and to consider whether they need to be amended or amplified in order to ensure that there is an equal place at all levels in the Church for men and women of different theological convictions on the issue of women's ordination, and to report to the Synod by February 2018.

48 signatures

March 2017

## **ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT**

***NB: Bath & Wells, Chelmsford, Lincoln, Oxford and St Albans Diocesan Synods have now withdrawn their DSM on the Anglican Communion***

... to move on behalf of the London Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and (c) call on the House of Bishops:
  - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
  - (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
  - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.

March 2012

[The Manchester, Newcastle, and Worcester Diocesan Synods passed a motion in identical terms.]

## **ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT**

... to move on behalf of the Southwark Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (b) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason, all as set out in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the draft Anglican Communion Covenant;
- (c) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and (c) call on the House of Bishops:
  - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
  - (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
  - (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.

March 2012

## **ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT**

... to move on behalf of the Guildford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and (c) call on the House of Bishops:
  - (i) to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks;

- (ii) to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
- (iii) to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.

April 2012

## **FOSSIL FUELS DISINVESTMENT**

...to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) urge the national investing bodies to disinvest from all coal companies (except those investing in carbon capture) and tar sand companies at the earliest opportunity;
- (b) urge the national investing bodies to examine the possibility of disinvestment from oil companies but not before three years from now;
- (c) urge the national investing bodies to examine the possibility of disinvestment from natural gas companies but not before five years from now; and
- (d) call on parishes and individual Christians to take steps to encourage Her Majesty's Government and political parties to act quickly on climate change.

December 2014

## **WELCOMING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

...to move on behalf of the Blackburn Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

recognising the need for transgender people to be welcomed and affirmed in their parish church, call on the House of Bishops to consider whether some nationally commended liturgical materials might be prepared to mark a person's gender transition.

April 2015

## **REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION**

...to move on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

invite the Archbishops to initiate a review into the role of the Crown Nominations Commission, including consideration of alternative methods of appointment for diocesan bishops.

April 2016

### **COST OF APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP**

... to move on behalf of the Birmingham Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) request the Archbishops' Council's Mission and Public Affairs Council to investigate the issues around the cost of applying for citizenship and to make recommendations to HM Government;
- (b) encourage the Lords Spiritual actively to seek opportunities to address the level of citizenship fees in debate;
- (c) urge parishes to raise the issue with their MP; and
- (d) encourage parishes to continue to support those known to them who are struggling with the cost of citizenship fees without incurring debt and to signpost responsible lenders or local credit unions for advice.

May 2016

### **THE ENVIRONMENT**

...to move on behalf of the London Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) recognise the escalating threat to God's creation from global warming and climate change, and the suffering caused, particularly that caused to the poor;
- (b) recall the previous resolution of Synod, including 'to develop Shrinking the Footprint to enable the whole Church to address the issue of climate change';
- (c) call on the Environmental Working Group, supported by the national Shrinking the Footprint team and the Mission & Public Affairs Division:
  - (i) to compile and submit a progress report to Synod upon action so far at national level;
  - (ii) to prepare and submit a framework plan to the Archbishops' Council for the promotion, co-ordination and rapid acceleration of nationwide action by the Church to reduce its energy use and CO2 emissions;
  - (iii) to establish and sustain a national system, operational by 2018, for annual reporting by parishes and dioceses of the energy consumption of cathedrals, churches and church halls as a minimum; for calculation from

data thus reported of the annual total of CO2 emissions; and for monitoring progress towards the Shrinking the Footprint targets for savings of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050; and

- (d) call on the Archbishops' Council, urgently to assess and furnish such human and financial resources as may be proper and necessary to enable the aforesaid work by the Shrinking the Footprint team and Mission & Public Affairs Division.

August 2016

## **DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME**

... to move on behalf of the Truro Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

- (a) call on every diocese to have an environmental programme with a designated member of the bishop's staff team to lead and advocate for the programme; and
- (b) ask the Environment Working Group to establish a peer review scheme between individual dioceses as a means of sharing good practice in the areas of:
  - (i) environmental policy, with special reference to investments, property and land use; and
  - (ii) activities supporting the Shrinking the Footprint and Eco Church initiatives.

August 2016

## **FOOD WASTAGE**

.... to move on behalf of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Synod:

That this Synod:

mindful of the problems of food poverty in Britain today and the excessive tonnage of edible food wasted by retail outlets

- (a) affirm the Biblical principle of ensuring that the poor and vulnerable are not excluded from the harvest;
- (b) commend those retailers who are working creatively with food banks to distribute food that might otherwise be wasted;
- (c) urge all dioceses and parishes to work with other voluntary initiatives to lobby for all local food retailers to review their policy on waste food so that the amount made available to combat food poverty is maximized;
- (d) request Her Majesty's Government to consider bringing forward legislation that would effectively minimize food waste by food retailers; and

(e) call upon all church members to use food resources responsibly and minimize waste in their own homes.

November 2016