

## General Synod, York July 2019

General Synod met at York University, from Friday 5 July to Tuesday 9 July 2019 – after which it was, unlike parliament last month, quite properly prorogued!!

Business done in full can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/Updated%20Business%20Done%20-%20July%202019.pdf>

During a total of four days, starting after lunch on Friday and finishing at 1pm on Tuesday:

### 1 We heard various **addresses** and **presentations**

Mrs Sheran Harper, the first Mothers' Union Worldwide President from outside the UK, was inspiring, speaking of her first-hand experience of the benefits of the church and Mothers' Union working together.

The Archbishop of York gave his presidential address, starting with the question – how can people who read the same bible, and share the same baptism, come to such different conclusions regarding human sexuality? and concluding that we must disagree Christianly. We heard a presentation regarding safeguarding, and one of the presenters was a survivor, giving this invaluable perspective.

There was a presentation from the Triennium Funding Working Group, which, among other things, confirmed that The Church Commissioners have moved from using RPI (Retail Prices Index) as a measure of inflation to using CPI (Consumer Prices Index), and have thus freed up funds to assist the rest of the church. Very good news.

### 2 We did, of course, engage in a good number of **debates**:

Responding to serious youth violence

Clergy Wellbeing

Mission and Ministry in Covenant - the motion in this debate was amended with the effect of slowing down the movement towards closer working with the Methodist Church

Refugee Professionals

The Archbishops' Council Budget and Apportionment\* – always a highlight(!), but this year, due to assistance from the Church Commissioners, the amount of money requested from the dioceses (apportionment) for 2020 has been held at the same level as 2019

Mission-Shaped Church 15 Years on – the debate followed a presentation made by +Steven and Revd Heather Cracknell, and celebrated Fresh Expressions of church and encouraged this work to continue and continually develop

Setting God's People Free

Anna Chaplaincy

**3** The Synod also fulfilled its major function of considering and passing **legislation**:

Draft Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure – final approval

Draft Amending Canon No. 40 – final approval

Draft Diocesan Boards of Education Measure – first consideration

Draft Cathedrals Measure\*– implementing the work of the Cathedrals Working Group – first consideration

Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules\* – for the first-time bringing differences between what can be done to unlisted buildings and listed buildings – approval

Draft Amending Canon No. 41 – final approval

Draft Legislative Reform (Patronage of Benefices) Order\* – this is the first piece of legislation to be dealt with via the accelerated legislative reform process, aimed at removing administrative barriers and simplifying legislation to make things easier in practice

Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution – approval

**4** On Saturday afternoon, we participated in up to three **seminars** and/or **workshops**, covering the development of the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ resources.

**5** **Questions** were dealt with on Friday evening – the procedure now is that questions received and answers are printed on a distributed paper, and only supplementary questions are taken verbally. This way many more questions can be taken. A further twenty questions relating to safeguarding matters were taken separately on Sunday.

Throughout Synod we participate in **prayer** and **worship** together, and we also enjoyed a **bible study** session.

**Julie Dziegiel**

**General Synod Member No. 115**

\*I have personal involvement in these items and would be delighted to talk more about them – I am also very happy to find people with more information about other items. All General Synod papers are available on the Church of England website.

**Julie can be contacted via the link below:**

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/governance/general-synod-2015/general-synod-members/>