

# The July 2011 Group of Sessions of the General Synod

## Report by the Business Committee

### Introduction

1. The Business Committee's meeting on 25 May 2011 was its first formal meeting at which the members elected for this quinquennium were joined by new representatives of the Archbishops' Council. This was also the first meeting serviced by the new Clerk to the Synod, Dr Colin Podmore. The Committee's membership is set out on page 10 below. There are two vacancies: the House of Bishops has not yet elected its representative, and the appointment of a Chair of the Committee by the Archbishops' Council has not yet been confirmed by the Synod.
2. The Committee elected the Ven. Julian Henderson, Archdeacon of Dorking (Guildford) as Acting Chair.
3. In its work, the Committee was mindful of the three themes for the quinquennium identified by the Archbishop of Canterbury in his Presidential Address in November 2010:
  - (i) *To take forward the spiritual and numerical growth of the Church of England – including the growth of its capacity to serve the whole community of this country;*
  - (ii) *To re-shape or re-imagine the Church's ministry for the century coming, so as to make sure that there is a growing and sustainable Christian witness in every local community; and*
  - (iii) *To focus our resources where there is both greatest need and greatest opportunity.*
4. This report falls into three parts:
  - Part I introduces the Agenda for this Group of Sessions (GS 1823) and highlights distinctive features.
  - Part II comments on individual items of business where necessary.
  - Part III reports on other work and decisions of the Business Committee.

### I: The July 2011 Group of Sessions

5. The Synod will meet at the University of York from 4.30 p.m. on Friday 8 July until 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday 12 July 2011. (There will be a meeting of the House of Clergy at 2.30 p.m. on Friday 8 July.)

#### Anglican and Ecumenical Guests

6. The following Anglican and Ecumenical Guests will be present as observers:
 

His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania  
The Rt Revd Peter Skov-Jakobsen, Bishop of Copenhagen  
The Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway
7. The Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania is the Orthodox President of the World Council of Churches. He will address the Synod on the Friday afternoon.

8. The Bishop of Copenhagen's visit follows the Church of Denmark's signature of the Porvoo Agreement in October 2010. He will preach at the Sung Eucharist in York Minster on Sunday 10 July, at which the Archbishop of York will preside.

### **Shape of the Agenda**

9. The Business Committee is aware of a view that at recent groups of sessions the Agenda has been too tightly packed. At this group of sessions it has been possible to allow a little more time for many of the debates.
10. It is at the July group of sessions each year that the Synod receives reports on the work of the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners, and is invited to approve the Council's planned expenditure for the following year and the apportionment of the necessary sums amongst the dioceses. Both annual reports will be the subject of presentations, with the opportunity to ask questions. The presentation about the work of the Archbishops' Council will be preceded by a debate on the Audit Committee's report, which is customarily debated every third year.

### **Presidential Address and Group Work**

11. At this first residential group of sessions of the new quinquennium, the Saturday morning will provide an opportunity for the members to engage with each other in a different way, outside the usual structure of formal debates and voting.
12. The morning will begin with a Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Members will be invited to spend the rest of the morning in small groups, engaging in listening, with reflection, discussion and fellowship, on the theme of 'sharing good news for the world today'. This relates to one of the themes for the quinquennium: 'taking forward the spiritual and numerical growth of the Church of England'. Each group will be led by a member of the House of Bishops. The morning will conclude with worship and prayer in the groups.

### **Private Members' Motions**

13. The Private Members' Motions (PMMs) are listed in Special Agenda III. Once put down, a motion remains on the agenda at least until members have had an opportunity to sign it at three groups of sessions. Under Standing Order 6(c) the Business Committee is required to exclude from the Agenda a PMM which is not supported by at least 100 signatures within three groups of sessions. Conversely, the Business Committee considers that in order to be listed for debate a PMM ought to have attracted 100 signatures. One motion, tabled by the Revd Mark Ireland, has achieved that level of support and is therefore listed for debate.

### **Diocesan Synod Motions**

14. The Diocesan Synod Motions that have been received are listed in Special Agenda IV. They are normally debated in the order in which they were received. However, the Business Committee has decided that the Southwark DSM on the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod (which is first in the list) and the motion from Rochester on the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate (which is second in the list) should not be debated whilst the current legislative process in relation to women in the episcopate continues. At this group of sessions, motions from the Bradford and London Diocesan Synods (see paras 39 and 44 below) have been scheduled for debate.

15. The Chichester Diocesan Synod motion is listed as Contingency Business. It seeks the removal from Canon C 22 of the requirement that an archdeacon must be in priest's orders at the time of appointment, thus enabling deacons who have been ordained for six years to be appointed to the office of archdeacon.

### **Order of Business**

16. Members are reminded that if at any time within the group of sessions an unexpected gap opens in the Synod's agenda, business earlier in the agenda which has not been reached or completed within the period allotted can be called by the Chair, unless other provision has already been made for it. If there is no such business, the Contingency Business will be taken.

## **II: Individual Items of Business**

17. This section of the Report offers comments, where necessary, on individual items of business. They are discussed in chronological order.

### **Friday 8 July**

18. After the usual introduction of new members and other participants in the Synod's debates, the recently elected Pro-Prolocutors of the Convocation of Canterbury and Deputy Prolocutors of the Convocation of York will be presented to the Presidents, as required by the Standing Orders of the Convocations.

### ***Dates for Groups of Sessions in 2013***

19. The Synod agreed the dates for groups of sessions in 2011 and 2012 in February 2009. The dates for **2012** are:
  - 6-10 February
  - 6-10 July
  - 19-21 November (contingency).
20. The Synod is now invited to agree the following dates for groups of sessions in **2013**:
  - 4-8 February
  - 5-9 July
  - 18-20 November (contingency)
21. These dates represent the maximum possible length of the group of sessions concerned. A decision as to how long each group of sessions needs to be will be taken much nearer the time, in the light of business that is proposed.
22. The traditional pattern of meetings involves one meeting during the week in London in February, a residential meeting over a weekend in York in July, and (if necessary) a short third meeting during the week in London in November. The Committee will consider at its next meeting, on 28 September, whether to propose that this pattern continue in 2014 and 2015. Members are invited to send comments about this to the Clerk to the Synod.

### ***Appointments to the Archbishops' Council***

23. The term of office of Professor John Craven comes to an end on 30 June 2011 and Mr Philip Fletcher's term of office will come to an end on 31 December 2011. The Archbishops have decided to re-appoint them until 31 July 2013 and 31 December 2014 respectively; the Synod will be invited to approve the re-appointments.

### ***Constitution of the Legal Advisory Commission***

24. At the July 2010 group of sessions the Synod amended its Standing Orders to make specific provision for the Faith and Order Commission, the Liturgical Commission and the Legal Advisory Commission and to require their constitutions to be approved by the Synod. The constitutions of the other Commissions already having been approved, the Synod will be invited to approve that of the Legal Advisory Commission.

### ***Questions***

25. Any member wishing to ask a question of any of the bodies or persons specified in Standing Order 105 must deliver notice of it to the Clerk to the Synod by **5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 28 June**. Questions sent by email should be addressed to [questions@churchofengland.org](mailto:questions@churchofengland.org)
26. Members are reminded that **all questions will be presumed to be for written answer** unless an oral answer is specifically requested.

### **Saturday 9 July**

#### ***Legislative Business***

27. The Legislative Business for this group of sessions is set out in Special Agenda I.
28. Having been revised in committee, the draft Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure returns for Revision in Full Synod. Depending on the outcome of that process, the Final Drafting and Final Approval stages for the draft Measure may be taken on Monday morning.
29. The remaining items of legislative business are all pieces of secondary legislation – i.e. legislation made under powers conferred by enabling Measures.
30. The Payments to the Churches Conservation Trust Funding Order makes provision for the funding of the Churches Conservation Trust for the triennium 2013-15.
31. Up to now, the Synod has been asked, each July, to approve a series of fees orders, which make provision for different types of ecclesiastical fees for the following calendar year. These orders are normally taken under the 'deemed procedure', meaning that they are not debated unless a member requests a debate or (where amendments are in order) gives notice of an amendment. That procedure will be followed in relation to the Legal Officers (Annual Fees) Order and the Ecclesiastical Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order, which specify the fees payable (respectively) to diocesan registrars and ecclesiastical judges and other legal officers.
32. Provision has been made for a debate on the Parochial Fees Order, however, since it will be the first order made by the Archbishops' Council since the Ecclesiastical Fees

(Amendment) Measure 2011 amended the framework within which fees for weddings, funerals and other matters are prescribed and will be an order lasting for three years.

33. With a view to facilitating the making of diocesan reorganisation schemes under the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, the Synod will be asked to approve the Reorganisation Schemes (Compensation) Rules. These set out general principles and procedures for determining compensation where provision is made by a reorganisation scheme for compensation to be paid to the holder of an office which is abolished or reduced in status by the scheme.
34. The Synod will also be asked to approve two instruments making changes to the clergy pension schemes consequential upon the making of new arrangements for the Deanery of St Germans Cathedral (Peel).
35. Further legislative business will be taken on Monday 11 July (see para 41 below).

### ***Private Member's Motion: Mission Action Planning in the Church of England***

36. Since putting down his Private Member's Motion, the Revd Mark Ireland has been elected to the Archbishops' Council. As the Council is mentioned in the motion, he has indicated that he does not intend to move it. Under SO 22(b) the motion will be moved by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham.

## **Sunday 10 July**

### ***Higher Education Funding Changes***

37. A working party chaired by the Bishop of Sheffield has looked at the forthcoming changes in the funding of higher education and their implications for the cost of training clergy in the Church of England. The working party's recommendations are far-reaching: if implemented, they will affect theological colleges, regional training courses, their partner universities, dioceses, ordinands and the national Church. The implications of these changes for the Vote 1 budget will also form part of the background to the Synod's debate on the 2012 budget. The Synod will be invited to endorse the recommendations made in the working party's report (GS 1836), as part of the process leading to decisions by the Archbishops' Council.

### ***Anglican-Methodist Covenant***

38. Under the Anglican-Methodist Covenant of 2003 a Joint Implementation Commission was established. In 2008 the Synod approved a second phase of the JIC's work and mandated it to make a quinquennial report in 2013. Its interim report *Moving Forward in Covenant*, circulated with a covering report by the Council for Christian Unity (GS 1837), summarises recent developments in the implementation of the Covenant, in particular the JIC's proposal for a Methodist President-Bishop, convergences on the diaconate, and current work on enhancing local unity in mission. The report makes proposals for Covenanted Partnerships in Extended Areas under Canon B 44, which would enable new initiatives in shared mission and ministry where bishops, clergy and parishes agree to take part. These proposals will be discussed by the Faith and Order Commission. Meanwhile, the Synod is invited to take note of the report.

***Bradford Diocesan Synod Motion:  
Admission of Baptised Adults to Communion***

39. The Bradford Diocesan Synod Motion calls for the admission of baptised adults who have not yet been confirmed and who are not yet ready and desirous to be confirmed. Background papers from the Diocese of Bradford (GS 1840 A) and the Faith and Order Commission (GS 1840 B) are being circulated. The Faith and Order Commission's collection of essays *The Journey of Christian Initiation* is also relevant. Members of the Synod can obtain this at a special discount using the flyer which is also being circulated.

**Monday 11 July**

***Appointment of the Chair of the Business Committee***

40. Standing Order 115 requires that the Chairman of the Business Committee be appointed from among the six members of the Archbishops' Council directly elected by the Synod. In the light of the adjourned debate in February and a subsequent request from the Standing Committee of the House of Laity, the Archbishops' Council has decided that the Standing Order should be reviewed. It has therefore not proposed that the debate on the motion adjourned in February be resumed. It has instead appointed the Rt Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover, to chair the Business Committee until 31 July 2013, thereby allowing time for the review to be undertaken and any consequential amendments to the Standing Order to be made before his term of office ends. The Chair of the House of Laity will move the motion on behalf of the Council inviting the Synod to confirm the appointment.

***Legislative Business***

41. Any legislative business not completed on the Saturday afternoon will be taken on the Monday morning. Depending on the outcome of the Revision Stage for the draft Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure (see paras 27-35 above), it may be possible for Final Drafting and Final Approval of that Measure to be taken.

***Liturgical Business***

***Additional Eucharistic Prayers: First Consideration***

42. In February 2008 the Synod passed a resolution asking the House of Bishops to commission the preparation of 'Eucharistic Prayers suitable for use on occasions when a significant number of children are present or when it is otherwise pastorally appropriate to meet the needs of children present'. Two such prayers have been drafted by the Liturgical Commission and amended in the light of experimental use and comments from the Bishops. The Additional Eucharistic Prayers (GS 1822) are now introduced into the Synod on the instructions of the House of Bishops for First Consideration. If the motion is passed, this item of liturgical business will stand committed to a Revision Committee.
43. The Liturgical Commission has also prepared Guidance Notes for the planning of a Eucharist at which a significant number of children are present. These do not require synodical authorization but a draft is being circulated for information (GS Misc 983).

***London Diocesan Synod Motion: House of Laity Elections***

44. The London Diocesan Synod Motion seeks a review of the electorate for the houses of laity of the General Synod and diocesan synods. The debate on it will inform the work of the

Elections Review Group which the Business Committee has established (see para 56 below).

### ***Report by the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC)***

45. In July 2007, when the Synod last debated a report from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC), it asked that CMEAC report back to the Synod in three years. Pressure of business precluded a debate in July 2010 and CMEAC is therefore reporting now to the new Synod. Its report *Unfinished Business: A Pastoral and Missional Approach for the Next Decade* (GS 1844) reviews previous reports and debates, actions that have been taken and progress made, reflects on how much has changed and highlights the importance of positive intentionality in order to see significant changes within the structures of the Church of England.

### ***Financial Business***

46. The 2012 budget (GS 1842) is the second budget drawn up under the Archbishops' Council's five-year spending plan endorsed by the Synod in July 2009 (GS 1731). The Council adopted it after consultation with the Inter-Diocesan Finance Forum. The overall proposed apportionment increase is 1.8%, with the largest recommended increases being in respect of Clergy Retirement Housing (Vote 5, 5.0%) and Training for Ministry (Vote 1, 3.0%). The Synod will be invited to approve the Archbishops' Council's expenditure for 2012 and the Council's proposals for apportionment amongst the dioceses, and the usual pooling adjustment in respect of additional maintenance grants to ordinands.

### ***Report from the Presence and Engagement Task Group***

47. The Presence and Engagement programme, which supports and encourages parishes in their mission and ministry in multi-religious contexts, was initiated by a resolution passed by the General Synod in July 2005. The task group's report, *Generous Love for All: Presence and Engagement for the New Quinquennium* (GS 1838), draws together the achievements of the last quinquennium and makes recommendations for a programme of work for the present quinquennium. The Synod will be invited to re-affirm its commitment to the programme, note with pleasure that the Near Neighbours project has secured £5m from H. M. Government to further the work of the Church of England in multi-faith areas, and accept the recommendations for future work.

### ***Conversations with the United Reformed Church***

48. The Synod will be invited to debate the report of a joint study group between the Church of England and the United Reformed Church, *Healing the Past – Building the Future*, contained in GS 1838. This is the fruit of three sets of informal conversations held from time to time during the past two decades. It also builds on *God's Reign and Our Unity* (1984), the report of the only international dialogue to be held between the Anglican Communion and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. It looks back to the bitterness of division caused by the events of the mid-seventeenth century, summarizes the theological convergence that has been discerned and outlines remaining areas of difference. It recommends that there should be a joint act of worship in 2012 (the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Act of Uniformity and the 'Great Ejection') with the theme of reconciliation, the healing of memories and commitment for the future, and that there should be further joint study of matters concerning ministry and authority in the Church. The Synod will be invited to approve these two recommendations.

49. The Business Committee has agreed that, if the recommendation of a joint act of worship is approved, the service should take place during the February group of sessions. By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, it will be held in Westminster Abbey (where the United Reformed Church was inaugurated in 1972 in the presence of Archbishop Michael Ramsey) on Tuesday 7 February 2012.

## **Tuesday 12 July**

### ***Christians in the Holy Land: Presidential Statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury***

50. In July the Archbishop of Canterbury, in collaboration with the Archbishop of Westminster, will host an international conference at Lambeth Palace to draw attention to the plight of those Christian communities in the Holy Land whose long-term stability is threatened by diminishing numbers and the stresses of continuing conflict. Bishop Suheil, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, for example, is currently living in a legal limbo following the removal of his Jerusalem residency rights. The conference will be the start of a major effort, in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, to raise funds for work and projects to help sustain the life of the Christian communities in the Holy Land, and to raise awareness of the issues at grass roots of the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury will launch the appeal in a Presidential Statement.

### ***Annual Report of the Church Commissioners***

51. The Church Commissioners will make a presentation, after which there will be the opportunity to ask questions. The presentation will reflect on the Commissioners' investment performance in 2010 relative to industry benchmarks and their own long-term targets, as well as considering the threats and opportunities presented by economic conditions. The Commissioners did not wish the presentation to focus entirely on investment matters and so, to make space here for discussion on wider issues including spending strategy, see house costs and the sale of the Zurbaran paintings, they have organized a separate fringe meeting, at which the First Estates Commissioner and the Director of Investments will focus on investment strategy in more detail.

### ***The Church and Education: Into the Next 200 Years***

52. 2011 is the bicentenary year of the National Society – a suitable occasion on which to celebrate and affirm the role of Church of England schools. This year also sees the tenth anniversary of the Dearing Report. The Board of Education's report (GS 1845) records the progress towards implementing its recommendations. It also reports on the intended outcomes and progress of the Church Schools of the Future programme. The current developments in education, especially the growing number of academies and the declining function of local authorities, present the Church of England with major challenges. The debate will offer the Synod an opportunity to engage with the challenges facing the National Society, the Board of Education and dioceses as they seek to re-shape the structures of support for church schools and meet the challenges of the new education landscape.

### **III: Other Work of the Business Committee**

53. At its May meeting the Committee reviewed the correspondence received since the February group of sessions.
54. It noted criticisms of the material circulated in connection with the reference to the dioceses of the Women Bishops legislation and the Anglican Communion Covenant. It concluded that it would not be right to send out further official material part-way through a reference to the dioceses. A range of further material about both matters is available for study – in print and on the internet.
55. There was some correspondence about the experiment whereby certain papers have been made available to members electronically, with only a short paper being circulated in print. This method is being used in respect of the reports on Higher Education Funding Changes (GS 1836), the Presence and Engagement Programme (GS 1838), the work of CMEAC (GS 1844) and the Church and Education (GS 1845). The Committee will review the experiment at its meeting on 28 September. Members are invited to send comments about it to the Clerk to the Synod.
56. As is customary after the election of a new General Synod, the Committee has established an Elections Review Group to review the elections process. It will consist of the Revd Canon Sue Booy, Mr Gerald O'Brien, Mrs Christina Rees and two members appointed by the Appointments Committee. The Group will also consider issues relating to the special constituencies, the balance of membership between the two provinces and the electorate of the House of Laity. Members are invited to send comments for consideration by the Elections Review Group to the Clerk to the Synod.
57. The Committee welcomed changes that have been made to the presentation of General Synod papers on the Church of England web site. These are explained at <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/agendas-and-papers.aspx> The index to the GS and GS Misc Papers for each quinquennium from 1970 to 2010 is now available online. Those papers that are available online can now be accessed from lists of the papers in numerical order as well as from the pages that relate to the groups of sessions at which they were debated.
58. The Committee approved revised instructions under Standing Order 37(g) on the publication of the names of those voting, or recording an abstention, in divisions that are conducted electronically. In future lists will be published for all such divisions; divisions on procedural motions will no longer be excluded from publication. The revised text is being circulated as GS Misc 980.

#### **Forecast of Future Business**

59. The forecast of future business annexed to this report provides a forward look to the February and July 2012 groups of sessions. This should not be read as more than a broad indication of the business expected to come to the Synod next year.

On behalf of the Business Committee

Julian Henderson  
Acting Chair

June 2011

## **Membership of the Business Committee**

*Chair*

Vacancy

*Elected by the House of Bishops*

Vacancy

*Elected by the House of Clergy*

The Revd Canon Sue Booy (Oxford)

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark)

The Ven Julian Henderson, Archdeacon of Dorking (Guildford) – *Acting Chair*

*Elected by the House of Laity*

Mrs Anne Foreman (Exeter)

Mrs Sue Johns (Norwich)

Mr Gerry O'Brien (Rochester)

*Appointed by the Archbishops' Council*

The Revd Mark Ireland (Lichfield)

Mrs Christina Rees (St Albans)

The Secretary to the Committee is the Clerk to the Synod (Dr Colin Podmore)  
and the Assistant Secretary is David Pertaub.

## Forecast of future General Synod business

One or more Private Members' Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions are customarily included in each group of sessions.

The forecast of business provides a forward look to the groups of sessions in 2012. (There are always considerable uncertainties when looking ahead in this way, so this should not be read as more than a broad indication of business that may come to the Synod in the future.)

### *Legislative business*

- (Subject to the outcome of the Article 8 and 7 references) Women in the Episcopate legislation – Final Drafting / Final Approval
- (Subject to the outcome of the Article 8 and 7 references) Anglican Covenant Act of Synod – Final Approval
- Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Measure – Revision Stage and Final Drafting / Final Approval
- Miscellaneous Provisions Measure – First Consideration

### *Liturgical business*

- Additional Eucharistic Prayers: Revision Stage and Final Approval

### *Reports*

- Fresh Directions in Local Unity in Mission: Report from the Council for Christian Unity
- The Ecclesiology of Fresh Expressions: Report commissioned by the Faith and Order Commission
- ?Health Reforms: Report from the Mission and Public Affairs Council
- ?Spending Cuts: Report from the Mission and Public Affairs Council
- ?The Big Society: Report from the Mission and Public Affairs Council

The Committee hopes to keep the 'challenges for this quinquennium' in mind as the Synod proceeds through the five years.