

## General Synod Report – July Sessions 2022

This report is designed as feedback to Deaneries. Your representatives are happy to hear how you feel about the issues being debated and decided upon. For full details of debates and decisions made, go to: [www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/work-general-synod](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/work-general-synod). The Sessions were held over five days in July 2022. The sessions were 'hybrid' (people who were only able to join on Zoom were able to speak and vote as well as watch and listen to the debates). Topics included:

**Presidential Address** – this and other debates can be seen at:

[www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/watch-general-synod-live](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/watch-general-synod-live)

**Routemap to Net Zero Carbon GS (GS2258)** – approved the routemap to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030

**War in Ukraine (GS2259)** - Russia's invasion of Ukraine was lamented after a debate that focused on the importance of justice, negotiation, and peace-making.

**Questions** More time was given to Questions (and Answers) in these Sessions. There were 181 Questions and, in about 2 hours, we addressed 136 (with the opportunity for supplementary, follow-on, questions).

**See of Canterbury Membership of the Crown Nominations Commission (GS2260)** - voted to increase from one to five the Anglican Communion's representation on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for Canterbury.

**Independent Review of Lowest Income Communities Funding and Strategic Development Funding (GS2261)** - a presentation on the Lowest Income Communities Funding (£33.9m distributed in 2021) distributed through an allocation to 27 dioceses dependent on their total overall income and population, with an adjustment for pockets of deprivation. Dioceses use the funds to support parish ministry in the most deprived areas, typically by reducing parish share or funding additional clergy and on Strategic Development Funding (£15.3m awarded in 2021) funds programmes which aim to make a significant difference to a diocese's mission and financial strength. Since 2014, 39 dioceses have received funds for an SDF programme.

**Spending plans of the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council (GS2262)** – approving the 2023-25 plans  
**Safeguarding and Independence (GS2263 and GSMisc1320)** – a presentation and a vote to: acknowledge and deeply regret the safeguarding failures of the CofE; recognise the challenges in changing culture and practice of safeguarding across the CofE; urge the Archbishops' Council to ensure that IICSA's recommendations for the CofE are fully met as soon as possible; and, request regular updates on progress.

**Diocesan Stipend Fund (Amendment) Measure (GS2255)** - vote to consider means of sharing between dioceses

**Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure (GS2264)** - agree to maintain clergy pensions

**Living in Love and Faith and Vision & Strategy – Group Work** – discussion on 'Next Steps' and LLF Resources

**Assisted Suicide (GS2266A&B)** - called on the Government to maintain the current law against assisted dying and provide better funding for palliative care services.

**Presentation on Archbishops' Council Annual Report (GS2267)** – approve Annual Report and Accounts

**Archbishops' Council 2023 Annual Budget (GS2268)** -approve budget for 2023

**Amending Canon 42 (GS2269)** – changes to the Safeguarding legislation

**Affirming and Including Disabled People in the Whole Life of the Church (GS2270)** – vote to remove barriers to full participation (focus on rubrics in liturgy; research to quantify disabled participation; Dioceses to each have an accessibility adviser on the DACs and look to recruit a full time Disability Adviser – shared between Diocese

**Resourcing Ministerial Formation (GS2271)** – agree principles of reform for changes to the framework for ministerial formation/training of the whole people of God (lay and to-be-ordained)

**Miscellaneous Provisions Measure and Amending Canon No 43 (GS2273)** – agreed lots of minor changes to Canon Law (mainly updates to references and bodies referred to)

**Review of qualifications for PCC membership and entry on the church electoral roll (GS2254)** – the Archbishops' Council to review who is on electoral rolls – need to include 'Fresh Expressions' and 'Bishops' Mission Orders'

**Age verification on pornography websites (GS2274)** – Voted to say that the Government must legislate to compel age verification on pornography websites to protect children

**Report by Clergy Conduct Measure Implementation Group (GS2277)** - Voted for a new Clergy Conduct Measure (CCM).and requested that the Archbishops' Council swiftly introduce legislation to create the CCM.

**Legal Fees** – new fees for Judges and Registrars were approved

**Farewells** – Farewells to the Bps of Birmingham and Blackburn.

There were other (fringe) meetings held too.

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# THE CHURCH TIMES GUIDE TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

## QUINQUENNIAL 2021-26 - UPDATED JULY 2022



# 493

## MEMBERS IN THE CURRENT SYNOD

### THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS



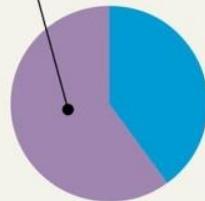
- ALL DIOCESAN BISHOPS
- NINE ELECTED SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS
- THE BISHOP OF DOVER
- THE BISHOP TO THE ARMED FORCES

### SESSIONS

2  
HELD OR SOMETIMES  
3  
TIMES A YEAR



60% OF ELECTED MEMBERS ARE NEW TO THE SYNOD\*



\*CLERGY: 37% RE-ELECTED; LAITY: 40% RE-ELECTED

# 10

FROM JULY 2022: 5 CLERGY AND 5 LAY UKME/GMH CO-OPTED MEMBERS SERVE ON SYNOD WITH FULL PARTICIPATION AND VOTING RIGHTS

### THE HOUSE OF CLERGY



CLERGY FROM EACH DIOCESE (ELECTED FOR 5 YEARS, APPOINTED OR CHOSEN)

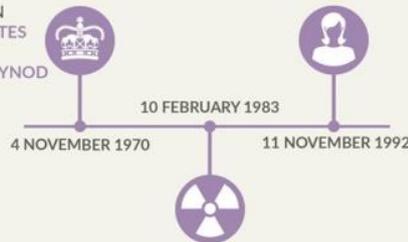
### THE HOUSE OF LAITY



LAY MEMBERS FROM EACH DIOCESE (ELECTED FOR 5 YEARS OR CHOSEN FROM RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, PLUS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS)

THE SYNOD VOTES IN FAVOUR OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD

THE QUEEN INAUGURATES THE FIRST GENERAL SYNOD



TELEVISION CAMERAS ROLL AS A FOUR-HOUR DEBATE ON BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR DETERRENT GETS UNDER WAY

SOME VOTES REQUIRE ONLY AN OVERALL MAJORITY, OTHERS A MAJORITY IN EACH HOUSE



INVITED REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER CHURCHES, THE C OF E YOUTH COUNCIL AND DEAF ANGLICANS TOGETHER MAY SPEAK AT SYNOD BUT NOT VOTE



CHURCH TIMES REPORTERS COVER EVERY DEBATE

WHAT DO WE TEACH ABOUT SEXUALITY?

HOW DO WE GET TO NET ZERO?

WHAT DOES A "MIXED ECOLOGY" CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE WEALTH GAP?

FOLLOW @CHURCHTIMES ON TWITTER FOR BREAKING NEWS FROM THE DEBATES. READ OUR ANALYSIS AT [WWW.CHURCHTIMES.CO.UK/TOPICS/THE-GENERAL-SYNOD](http://WWW.CHURCHTIMES.CO.UK/TOPICS/THE-GENERAL-SYNOD)

SOURCES  
[HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHOFENGLAND.ORG/ABOUT/LEADERSHIP-AND-GOVERNANCE/ABOUT-GENERAL-SYNOD](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/about-general-synod)  
[HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHTIMES.CO.UK/ARTICLES/2021/5-NOVEMBER/NEWS/UK/NEW-SYNOD-WILL-CUT-ITS-TEETH-ON-WEALTH-GAP-AND-SHARING-DIOCESAN-RESOURCES](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/5-november/news/uk/new-synod-will-cut-its-teeth-on-wealth-gap-and-sharing-diocesan-resources)  
[HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHTIMES.CO.UK/ARTICLES/2021/22-OCTOBER/NEWS/UK/HIGH-TURNOVER-BY-GENERAL-SYNOD-ELECTIONS](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/22-october/news/uk/high-turnover-by-general-synod-elections)