

# **General Synod Report – July Sessions 2025**

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/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2025](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2025)  
All debates can be seen at: [www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/watch-general-synod-live](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/watch-general-synod-live) Topics included:

**Welcome of New Members** – quite a number of new members (retirements and changes in Dioceses).

After the formal opening and welcome, the Archbishop of York gave the **Presidential Address**, calling for a return to the “deep waters” of faith — rooted in Jesus Christ, rich in tradition, and bold in hope.

**Address by a Member of the Armed Forces** Brigadier Jaish Mahan, Deputy Commander of the Army’s 1st UK Division spoke about the global situation, recounting his own experiences as a Christian in the military. He urged the Church both to continue to pray for the Armed Forces and to consider how it might support the nation including in the event of a large scale conflict.

**Address by the Archbishop in Jerusalem** The Most Rev Hosam Naoum, said hospitals continue to be bombed in Gaza, with medical supplies in short supply and a ‘horrificing’ system of food distribution, comparable to the dystopian series The Hunger Games - with three sites open one hour a day for two million people.

## **Spending Plans (GS 2402)**

There was a detailed presentation and questions on the Church of England’s recently announced £1.6 billion three-year national spending plans (2026-2028). Members approved the financial package, which includes proposals to improve clergy pensions and support diocesan finances.

## **Redistribution of Funds (GS 2396A and GS 2396B)**

A motion from the Diocese of Hereford calling for a redistribution of Church funds. An amendment from the Bishop of Sheffield was agreed, broadening the motion to focus on long-term funding strategy, clergy support, and giving Synod a greater role in shaping future financial decisions.

**National Church Governance Measure (GS 2360B)** Synod approved the final stages of the measure - a significant step in reforming how the Church is governed nationally.

**Armed Forces Chaplains (Licensing) Measure (GS 2403) And Amending Canon No 44 (Ministers’ Exercise Of Ministry) (GS 2404)** Synod approved legislation simplifying the licensing of Armed Forces chaplains, making it easier for them to serve with their units as they move around the country.

**Clergy Pensions (GS 2406A and GS 2406B)** A private member’s motion seeking to restore clergy pensions to previous levels and provide compensation for those affected by past changes was passed by the Synod. This included an amendment also calling for further restitution for retired clergy and a wide-ranging independent review into what a fair and dignified retirement should look like. Passed unanimously (328 votes for, 0 against)

**Liturgical Business - Festival of God the Creator and Commemoration of The Twenty-One Martyrs Of Libya (GS 2408)** Approved for further consideration and inclusion in the Calendar.

**Church Growth and Revitalisation (GS 2409)** A presentation, questions and encouraging stories.

**Archbishops’ Council’s Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report (GS Misc 1411)** Accepted after fractious debate.

**Thy Kingdom Come – Renewing the Call To Prayer & Evangelism (GS 2393)** An encouraging presentation after 10 years of ‘Thy Kingdom Come.

**Abuse (Redress) Measure (GS 2325B)** Following a session that started and ended in silent reflection and prayer, members voted overwhelmingly to give final approval to a comprehensive Redress scheme for survivors of Church-related abuse.

**Archbishops’ Council Annual Report (GS 2416)** Report noted.

**Pattern of Future Dates 2027- 2029 (GS 2398)** Dates agreed for General Synod for 2027-2029.

**Poverty and The Church: 40 Years After Faith In The City (GS 2417)** A presentation was given to recognise and celebrate the enduring impact of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission on Urban Priority Areas’ ‘Faith in the City’ report on Christian social action forty years after its publication, including through the work of Church Urban Fund.

**Archbishops' Council Budget 2026 and Proposals for Apportionment (GS 2411)** Spending plans agreed, covering stipends, pensions, and ordinands.

**Church Representation Rules (Amendment) (No 1) Resolution 2025 (GS 2388), House of Bishops Election Rules 2025 (GS 2389), House of Clergy Election Rules 2025 (GS 2390), House of Laity Election Rules 2025 (GS 2391), Single Transferable Vote Rules 2025, Legislative Business Church Representation Rules (Amendment) (No 2) Resolution 2025 (GS 2412)** A raft of election changes were debated and, mostly, approved.

**Vocations Process and Issues in Human Sexuality (GS 2413A and GS 2413B)**

Issues in Human Sexuality (1991) removed from the Vocations (Shared Discernment) Process and replaced with requirement of living consistently with the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy (GPCC) during the period of discernment and training. Bishops urged to complete work on the package of the Pastoral Guidelines, Code of Practice, and Bishops' Statement, as agreed at General Synod in July 2024.

**Response to Terminaly Ill Adults (End Of Life) Bill** ' Resolved that this Synod, in light of recent debates on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, reaffirm that every person is of immeasurable and irreducible value, and request His Majesty's Government work to improve funding and access to desperately needed palliative care services instead of enacting a law that puts the most vulnerable at risk.

There were other (fringe) meetings held and Questions were answered

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