



**General Synod February 2022**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To inform Diocesan Synod of General Synod in February 2022
<b>Action:</b>	To note
<b>Lead:</b>	General Synod representatives

General Synod met from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This was a hybrid meeting - in person and on zoom.

The provision to continue this hybrid form of meeting is in place until 7th August 2022.

Below is a link to the detail of business done, votes and papers of the sitting. This is a summary for prayer and implementation in our parishes. In each instance we have included only those items for action in our diocese. Each item for prayer

From synod the main points:

**For prayer:**

- For all involved in governance in the Church of England, for the Archbishops and for the General Synod.
- For all involved in the work of the racial justice commission.
- For the Church of England's safeguarding team updated us and asked for prayer for the implementation of their systems.
- For those implementing the faculty jurisdiction amendments.
- For victims and survivors of modern slavery and for those organisations working to help and support them both in the UK and overseas, that we may come closer to fulfilling Jesus' injunction to 'proclaim release to the captives'
- For those affected by clergy remuneration.
- For all to live into their God given vocations.
- For the governance review group as they consider the structure of governance of the Church of England and its ongoing impact.
- For Venerable Pete Speirs in his appointment as chair of the business committee.
- For Dame Caroline Spelman in her appointment as chair of the diocese commission.
- For the persecuted church.
- For those engaging in the crown nominations commission consultation.
- For the retiring Bishops of Winchester and Liverpool.
- For all within the Church of England that we would make the love of Christ visible.



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### **For implementation:**

#### **- FACULTY JURISDICTION (AMENDMENT) RULES 2022 (GS 2245)**

This was approved with amendments. The following Church Times article outlines the debate: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2022/18-february/news/uk/general-synod-digest-faculty-rules-changed-with-net-zero-target-in-mind>

The motivation for these changes taken from the same Church Times article states: “The rules were underlined by four principles: to move churches towards net zero; to make the permissions route more straightforward for carbon-reducing proposals; to help parishes move away from proposals that would produce additional carbon well after 2030 (for example, the installation of a new oil boiler); and to exclude matters of guidance from the rules. Matters that did not require a faculty would be included.”

#### **- CHALLENGING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING (GS 2246A AND GS 2246B)** From this item the synod agreed to:

(c) encourage all dioceses, deaneries, and parishes in the Church of England to raise awareness of modern slavery in our communities in the UK and internationally, working with the resources from partners such as the Church of England’s Clewer Initiative and others, helping individuals and congregations to address this evil by:

i. seeking to identify potential victims of modern slavery in the community,

ii. offering services to victims and survivors, and

iii. supporting organisations which already provide services to help people leaving exploitation and/or with preventative work;

(d) encourages dioceses, safeguarding leads, and training institutions and organisations in using resources like these within existing training, especially where individuals hold roles in authorised ministry, embedding understanding of modern slavery and equipping them with ways to respond;

(f) call on all individuals to pray regularly for victims and survivors of modern slavery and for those organisations working to help and support them both in the UK and overseas, that we may come closer to fulfilling Jesus’ injunction to ‘proclaim release to the captives’.

#### **- GOD’S PEOPLE SET FREE: LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE WHOLE OF LIFE TO BRING TRANSFORMATION TO THE CHURCH AND WORLD (GS 2248)**

There are a brilliant set of resources that we should encourage all within our diocese to engage with. The link is: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/everyday-faith>

#### **- Persecuted church in the world (GS 2252A AND GS 2252B)** From this item the synod requested that:

a) the Church of England not only pray for the persecuted church, but that its dioceses offer support to link dioceses where the church is facing persecution,

(b) organisations and dioceses consider joining the UK Freedom of Religion or Belief Forum to work with Christian and other groups in addressing the persecution of Christians and the global violation of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB),



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- (c) churches consider using resources such as the practical Everyday Faith – Hidden Church during the Thy Kingdom Come novena between Ascension and Pentecost, 26 May – 6 June,
- (d) in the run up to the International Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief (The Ministerial FoRB) Conference 5-6 July 2022 individuals and groups consider hosting information events, prayer groups and fringe events using the Toolkits for Places of Worship and Schools and Communities on the End The Persecution website,
- (e) churches and individuals contact their MPs in advance of The Ministerial FoRB, asking them to raise awareness of the persecuted church, and other FoRB violations, suggesting some of the actions in the FoRB Toolkit,

### **For more information:**

- In addition to these items there were a wide variety of topics answered in question time. This is the link to the answer booklet: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/QUESTIONS%20Notice%20Paper%20February%202022.pdf>
- This is a link to the detail of the business done if you would like to read in more detail: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Business%20Done%20Feb%202022.pdf>
- For more information, papers and a record of proceedings and votes go to: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/agendas-papers/general-synod-february-2022#na>

A few weeks before the next sitting of synod (8th-12th July 2022) the link to the papers will be circulated via the diocesan Enews. If there is anything from these papers that would like to raise then please do speak to one of our synod representatives.

Andrew Dotchin  
Leslie Siu  
Virginia Williams  
Tony Allwood  
Jeanette Appleton  
Andrew Gray

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/about-us/diocesan-goverance/general-synod/>