

Dear Reader

The July 2011 Group of Sessions of General Synod will soon be with us from the 8 to 12 July. The agenda will allow us time to reflect together on sharing Good News for the world today. The main agenda items will cover the Church's role in education, its work in multi-faith areas and relations with other churches. Other subjects include the impact of the higher education changes on training for ministry and the involvement of minority ethnic Anglicans in the Church's ministry and structures.

*Sharing Good News for the World today*

The Saturday morning has been structured to foster a culture of listening and reflection by "Sharing the Good News for the World Today". We will begin the morning with a Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, followed by the rest of the morning in groups of 12, led by a bishop, listening to each other as we reflect on the theme.

*The Church and Education; the Church in multi-faith areas*

The National Society which celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary promotes and resources 4,700 Church of England schools and the debate is to affirm the continued importance of the Church of England schools being distinctively Christian institutions, rooted in the life of the parishes while being open to the diverse communities they serve.

We will also consider the Church's work in multi-faith areas. We will be invited to reaffirm our commitment, in partnership with Christians of other traditions, to resource ministry, witness and mission in multi-faith areas.

*Relations with other Churches*

Time has been allowed to consider the report of the Church of England's conversations with the United Reform Church and to consider the second interim report on the second phase of the joint Implementation Commission for the Anglican-Methodist Covenant.

*Higher Education Funding Changes*

The changes in the funding of higher education will have a significant implication for the cost of training clergy. Synod will be invited to endorse far reaching recommendations on how the increased cost can be contained, as part of the process leading to decisions by the Archbishops' Council

*Minority Ethnic Anglicans*

Here we will consider a report on the inclusion of minority ethnic Anglicans within the ministry and structures of the Church

*Diocesan Synod Motions*

There are two motions. The first from Bradford Diocesan Synod, asks for the admission to Communion of adults who have been baptised but have not been confirmed and are not ready to be confirmed. The second from the London Diocesan Synod asks for a review on the election of Lay members to General Synod and Diocesan Synods and who should be the electorate.

*Private Member's Motion* by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham  
This will call for a “national mission action plan” for the Church of England

*Other business*

This will include First Consideration of the draft Additional Eucharistic Prayers for when children are present.

The revision stage of the Marriage (Amendment) Measure, followed by a debate on the Parochial Fees Order, which prescribes fees for weddings and funerals

In addition there will be presentations on the Annual Report of the Archbishops’ Council and the Church Commissioners. We will be given time to debate the Audit committee Report and approve next years budget.

The forecast of business for 2012 may include the following

- Women in the Episcopate Legislation (subject to outcome of consultation) –
- Final Drafting/Final Approval
- Final Approval of the Anglican Covenant Act of Synod
- Clergy Discipline (Amendment) Measure
- Miscellaneous Provisions Measure
- Additional Eucharistic Prayers

Reports to be tabled include

- Fresh Directions in Local Unity in Mission
- The Ecclesiology of Fresh Expressions
- Health Reforms
- Spending Cuts
- The Big Society

Please contact me on 01432 340050 or email [rk.lording@virgin.net](mailto:rk.lording@virgin.net) if you have any questions or would like to know more. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Rosemary Lording