

Item 10 GS 2319 Land and Nature: This item related to the developing net zero work that had already been agreed by Synod and which dioceses are beginning to implement. There were two amendments, and one was carried by Synod. The final motion was carried on a show of hands and was as follows:

‘That this Synod, recognising the need to respond urgently to the ecological crisis, in line with the global scientific consensus that the climate change and biodiversity loss crises are intricately linked

- a) *welcome the work being done by the Church Commissioners, the NCI, and many dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage all or part of their land for climate and nature, in urban and rural communities alike;*
- b) *request Diocesan Secretaries to take a named person/committee in their dioceses to create an action plan to achieve the ‘Land’ section of Eco Diocese at Silver level by 2026 at the latest.*
- c) *request Chairs and Secretaries of all diocesan property/finance committees to incorporate nature-positive objectives into their asset management policies within the next 6 months.*
- d) *call on parishes, cathedrals, TEl, NCI offices with land they manage or influence to:*
 - a. *create a simple land management plan, with reference to the guidance and examples from Caring for Gods Acre,*
 - b. *work towards an increasing level of Eco Church, including the actions in the ‘Land’ section, and*
 - c. *record the biodiversity of their green spaces, through taking part in Churches Count on Nature each year.*
- e) *call on Diocesan Boards of Education to work in accordance with the Department for Education Sustainability Strategy.’*
- f) *request the Church Commissioners to report back to General Synod within three years about their progress with:*
 - a. *enhancing and supporting biodiversity across their agricultural and forestry land;*
 - b. *engagement and collaboration with tenants about sustainable farming, and*
 - c. *their leadership amongst landowners in a way that recognises the importance of shared learning, support and respect in achieving these objectives.*

This motion sets out a number of tasks for dioceses which have been highlighted above in green. Staff will follow up in due course.

Item 12 GS 2320A and GS 2320B Future of Work: This Diocesan Synod Motion from Oxford addressed the issue of fair work. There were 10 amendments to the motion and five were carried by Synod. The final motion was approved on a show of hands and was as follows:

*‘That this Synod:
mindful of the deep economic effects of the pandemic, the impacts of new technology, and the global rise of new forms of working*

- a) *affirm the dignity and value of purposeful work, whether paid or unpaid, as a significant component of human flourishing;*
- b) *endorse the Rome Call for promoting an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI);*
- c) *endorse and commend the five principles used for evaluating fair and dignified platform work in the gig economy by fair work;*
- d) *encourage all parishes, benefices, dioceses, cathedrals, Theological Educational Institutions and other Church of England organisations to implement, at a minimum, the living wage for employees and to have a regard for work/life balance and dignity at work; and*
- e) *call for the Faith and Order Commission (FAOC) together with Mission and Public Affairs Committee to advise on what is essential to purposeful, dignified, and fair work in the context of the fourth industrial revolution now in progress including specific advice on how these changes impact the work of women and to look at Biblical wisdom on work, employment and economy in its widest sense; and to consider a range of practical solutions from recent economic thinking in harmony with the Christian tradition's emphasis on grace, justice and mercy, such as questions around pay ratios within organisations, Basic Citizens' Income, poverty and wealth lines, to strengthen our Christian voice in the public square as a Church.'*

This motion has one item which is directed at dioceses which is highlighted above.

Item 13 GS 2338 Racial Justice: This item summarised the work that has taken place since the publication of 'From Lament to Action' to embed racial justice, noting that the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission ceases its work in November 2024 and proposed further action for dioceses and the Church. It was carried after a vote of the whole Synod, with 364 in favour, none against and two abstentions. The full motion was as follows:

'That this Synod:

- a) commend the practical and positive outcomes in From Lament To Action but recognising the need to further embed racial justice in the life and practice of our Church, request that the national Church ensures crucial resources remain available including appropriate governance arrangement and funding, recommend that Dioceses give priority to the collection, monitoring and measuring of relevant data, and encourage parishes and deaneries to develop local action plans to address issues of racial injustice.
- b) note that the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice shall complete its mandated three-year term in November 2024 and request the Archbishops' Council ensure effective structures exist for monitoring actions and outcomes on racial justice, including a possible review and strengthening of the role of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, and that the Synod Group Sessions in February 2025 review the progress made by Dioceses, the NCIs and other related institutions in implementing the recommendations in From Lament To Action.'

There is a specific action for dioceses which is highlighted above.

Item 19 GS 2345 Estates Evangelism: This was an update on the work done by the Estates Evangelism Task Group and seeks to encourage better resourcing of evangelism in economically marginalised parishes. There were four amendments which were all carried by Synod. The final motion was as follows:

'This Synod:

- a) *dedicate itself afresh to the goal of achieving a loving, serving and worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate to mark the fifth anniversary of Synod Motion GS 2122;*
- b) *commend the work of all who minister on our estates and gives thanks for those Dioceses who have responded positively to the 2019 Motion;*
- c) *call on all Dioceses to include in their strategic mission and ministry plans the goal of planting and renewing churches on and/or doubling the number of young active disciples in social housing estates/other economically marginalised communities;*
- d) *call on the whole church to address as a matter of urgency the structural and financial injustices that prevent flourishing and sustainable worshipping communities on every estate (for example the financial inequalities between dioceses and the distribution of LInC Funding);*
- e) *commit itself to taking the necessary steps to raise up and support a new generation of lay and ordained leaders from estates and working class backgrounds (by for example addressing the recommendations of the Ministry Council's Report 'Let Justice Roll Down') at all levels in the church including a commitment to invest creatively in local and grassroots forms of ministry and leadership training*
- f) *request the Estates Evangelism Task Group to work alongside diocesan vocations advisors, the 30,000 Project and other related bodies to ensure that priority is given to the formation of young people from estates and low-income communities to serve as children's and young people's leaders, as well as in other forms of Christian ministry.'*

This was carried after a vote of the whole Synod with 364 in favour, none against and no recorded abstentions. There is one action which relates to the work of dioceses which is highlighted above.