**General Synod 2017**

Representatives from dioceses across Scotland will gather in Edinburgh for the annual meeting of the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, which takes place on 8-10 June at St Paul’s and St George’s Church, York Place, Edinburgh.

The first key item of business on this year’s agenda is the second – and final - reading of a proposed alteration to the Church’s Canon on Marriage.  This proposal would remove the doctrinal clause which states that marriage is between a man and a woman. The voting process on this proposed canonical change will require a two thirds majority in each ‘house’ of Bishops, Clergy and Laity. This session will be presented by the Church’s Faith and Order Board and will commence at approximately 2.30pm on Thursday 8 June, with the result of the voting ballot announced at approximately 4.20pm.

The following two days of General Synod will see a range of topics and issues debated, including a report on Climate Change Action and Fossil Fuel Investments by the Church in Society committee; and a look at how the Church can move forward in its Mission.

Preparing for General Synod the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says “At this General Synod we reach the final stage of our discussion of marriage and of same sex marriage in particular.   The Scottish Episcopal Church, in common with all other churches, expresses a diversity of views on this question.  Those views are held with integrity.  Our church will seek to reach a decision on the canonical question while sustaining its unity in Christ.  To do so will require both humility and generosity on all sides.”

Anyone who is not a member of General Synod is welcome to sit in the public gallery of St Paul’s and St George’s Church during the meeting of General Synod, and live video coverage of the meeting will be available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website, <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/the-general-synod/general-synod-live-video-stream/> together with online updates of the proceedings and decisions of General Synod 2017. General Synod can also be followed on Twitter and Facebook

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Note to editors:

* Requests for filming, photography and interviews should be made to Lorna Finley, Director of Communications on 07872 000887 or press@scotland.anglican.org
* The Primus will be available for interview following the announcement of the vote on the Canon on Marriage.
* The full proceedings of General Synod, including the debate on the Canon on Marriage, will be video live-streamed. <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/the-general-synod/general-synod-live-video-stream/>