

Scottish Episcopal Church

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church
Scottish Charity No SC015962

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To: All Members of General Synod
Alternate Members
Ecumenical and Interfaith Guests
Committee Conveners
Diocesan Secretaries (information only)

email: secgen@scotland.anglican.org

Dear Synod Member

GENERAL SYNOD 9-11 JUNE 2022

As previously advised, this year's meeting of General Synod will be held in hybrid format, taking place from 9-11 June 2022. It will take place at St Paul's & St George's Church, York Place, Edinburgh with most members present in person and some joining online. (A map showing the location of the venue is reproduced in *A Guide to the General Synod 2022* – see below.)

ATTENDANCE

This mailing is being sent to all members of General Synod, alternate members, ecumenical and interfaith guests, and Committee Conveners. (It is not being sent in hard copy to those who have previously indicated that they wish only digital versions.) If you are an ordinary member and are not able to attend Synod, you should inform your Diocesan Office without delay if you have not already done so. Non-attending members are sent the Synod papers for information only. If you are an alternate member, you should only attend Synod if you have been advised by your Diocesan Office that you are to take the place of a member (but the Synod papers are enclosed for your information anyway).

ENCLOSURES

I enclose the following in connection with the meeting:

1. The agenda and papers for General Synod. (In order to reduce the length of the papers, last year's minutes have been produced in small type. If you would like to receive a larger print version by email, please contact Donna Glass on donnag@scotland.anglican.org).
2. The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.
3. A Guide to the General Synod 2022.
4. A paper about the *Thursdays in Black* initiative.

Please note that to avoid the printed papers being over-long, we have not included the text of the three Pastoral Offices for Priests, for Deacons and for Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers each of which is subject to a motion for first reading during Session 3 at Synod.

All three Offices can be viewed online, along with the full Synod papers, at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-general-synod/>

If you wish a hard copy of those Offices, please email Donna Glass at the email address referred to above.

The Worship Booklet for Synod will be available on arrival at the meeting and will also be posted online.

SYNOD EUCHARIST AND OFFERING

Synod will commence with a Eucharist at St Paul's & St George's, at 10.30am on Thursday 9 June. Coffee will be served after the Eucharist before the beginning of formal business.

The offering taken as part of the Synod Eucharist will go to the Ukraine appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee ("DEC"). Information about that appeal can be found at: <https://www.dec.org.uk>. **Please note that the offering will be taken in online form only** and Synod members are asked to donate using the following link:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/GeneralSynodOffering/oneoff>

All Synod members who are taxpayers are invited to give using the Gift Aid option on the website. We encourage members to give in advance of the Eucharist but if that is not possible for any reason please endeavour to do so by the end of the day on 11 June. Once the offering has closed, we will forward the funds to the DEC.

FRESHERS' MEETING

A "Freshers' Meeting" for new members of Synod will take place in the Upper Hall at St Paul's & St George's at 9.00am on Thursday 9 June. The purpose of that meeting is to welcome new members to Synod and explain practical arrangements. (It will not be possible to join that meeting online but none of the members intending to attend Synod online are in fact freshers this year.)

Dioceses have been encouraged to arrange diocesan pre-Synod meetings to assist members in their preparation for Synod and are invited to team up new Synod members with existing members as a means of introduction to Synod.

PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING AND TRAINING SESSIONS

As explained in my email of 6 May 2022, the Synod Hub will be used as the voting platform for all members, whether attending in person or online. An email will be sent to all Synod members on 25 May inviting you to register on the Synod Hub and to create your own password. **Please look out for it in case it ends up in your spam folder.** Information about registering for the online training sessions at 7.30pm on Monday 30 May and 12 noon on Tuesday 31 May will also be included in that email.

Because voting will be undertaken electronically, **please remember to bring your device (laptop, tablet or smartphone) to Synod** to enable you to do that. We are providing tablets only to those who do not have their own device and who have therefore requested a tablet in advance.

SYNOD BUSINESS

As for the last two online meetings of Synod, the agenda deals with the filling of vacancies on provincial bodies by way of formal motions, on which members will be able to cast their votes in the Synod Hub. There are no vacancies for which there is more than a single nomination.

Some of the sessions at Synod will include discussion in table groups. Those attending online will be sent into an online breakout group. Each group will have an appointed facilitator. Session 2 will include an opportunity for Synod members to "debrief" following two years of the pandemic. Questions for that group discussion are included on the agenda and I encourage members to give some thought to those questions in advance of the Synod meeting.

Synod members are invited to submit, in advance of Synod, any written questions which they wish to address to the Conveners of Boards and Committees. This is intended to enable Conveners who are present to prepare for their presentations and ensure that relevant questions are addressed. Only those Committees which have business to bring to Synod have a slot on the agenda. Any questions for Committee Conveners without a slot at this meeting will be passed to them so that we can arrange an answer to be provided. If you wish to submit a question, please send it to me **by Thursday 2 June 2022** in order to allow it to be properly considered.

Speakers cards will also be available at General Synod for members who wish to indicate an intention to speak in debate. Those joining online will be able to indicate a request to speak via the Synod Hub.

To assist in the process of debate, we will again have a "help desk" available during part of Synod where guidance can be offered if Synod members wish to propose amendments to Motions, etc. Whether or not members wish to avail themselves of the help desk, any member who wishes to propose an amendment to a motion is invited to let me know as early as possible, ideally before the commencement of Synod. I would remind members that, under Rule 10 of the Rules of Order (see page 178 of the Synod papers), notice of any Rule 10 Motion should normally be given to me before Synod starts.

UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine and the resulting refugee crisis will feature during the Mission Board slot in Session 5, including a presentation from Sabine Chalmers of the Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees.

The Standing Committee received from the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles a motion for consideration for inclusion on the agenda for General Synod. The text of that motion is set out in the Appendix to this letter. Having carefully considered it, Standing Committee has decided not to include it on the Synod agenda. In the light of the fact that the situation in Ukraine is constantly changing, the Committee considered that the most appropriate way of responding to the crisis by a motion would be to invite Synod to endorse a statement in the name of the Primus. That statement will be prepared closer to the time of Synod, in order to reflect the actual situation pertaining then. It will be provided to Synod members, when available.

COVID PROTOCOL

We have taken advice from the provincial Advisory Group. Subject to any changes in circumstances between now and Synod, the advice is that, in order to reassure those who

remain uneasy about circulating in confined spaces, we encourage members to wear masks while moving around the venue but that masks may be removed when members are seated at tables or taking refreshments. The ventilation system at St Paul's & St George's enables good air circulation and draws fresh air from the outside. Because some members will attend online, we expect there to be no more than seven members maximum at each table within Synod. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the meeting.

SOCIAL MEDIA / LIVE-STREAMING

As in the past, the business of Synod is likely to be commented on through Twitter or other social media. The attention of Synod members is drawn to the Social Media Guidelines for use across all areas of the Church's life, including the General Synod meeting, at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/social-media-guidelines/>

As usual, the proceedings at Synod will be live-streamed on the web and will also be recorded to enable the production of minutes of the meeting.

SYNOD DINNER

As mentioned in the initial letter to Synod members of 11 March, the Synod Dinner will be held on Thursday 9 June at 7.15pm for 7.45pm in The InterContinental Edinburgh The George Hotel, 19-21 George Street, Edinburgh. Dress for the occasion is smart but not formal, ie not black tie. Synod members were asked in the Google questionnaire to indicate whether they wished to attend the dinner. A place has been reserved only for those members who indicated a wish to attend, but **if, for unforeseeable reasons, any such member is now unable to attend the dinner please contact Donna Glass at: DonnaG@scotland.anglican.org by 23 May** as we have to supply final numbers and payment to the hotel and will be charged for any places booked but not taken up.

Cornerstone Bookshop is again hosting a reception at its premises for Synod members. This will take place on the Friday of General Synod (5.30pm-7.30pm) giving Synod members an opportunity to browse Cornerstone books at their leisure and enjoy a glass of wine while doing so. A discount of 10% will be applied to any purchases during Synod, upon presentation of a Cornerstone voucher which will be given to Synod members on arrival at General Synod.

EXPENSES AND LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

An expense form is included in the Synod Papers at page 189. Unless members are travelling from the more distant parts of the Province, the Synod would normally expect to pay accommodation costs for the nights of Thursday and Friday only. Our preferred method of reimbursing expenses is by bank transfer and the form provides for that option. If you wish to take advantage of this and the General Synod Office does not already hold your bank details, please provide that information, as set out on the form.

Synod members are asked to make their own arrangements for lunch each day. Members are welcome to bring their own packed lunches and eat them at St Paul's & St George's and tea/coffee will be available over lunchtime. There are a number of local sandwich bars and restaurants, a list of which will be available at Synod. For any members with limited mobility or who anticipate difficulty in sourcing lunch in this way, a sandwich will be made available at St Paul's & St George's but you are asked to contact the General Synod Office in advance so that we can arrange this.

MISCELLANEOUS

A hearing induction loop operates in St Paul's & St George's and coverage is best in the main area of the Nave between the pillars.

Name badges/lanyards will be provided for Synod members on arrival at Synod along with an envelope containing additional information. For the purposes of security, we ask that lanyards be worn at all times during Synod. Otherwise, it is difficult for staff to distinguish between members and any visitors. As in previous years, for security purposes, bags will be inspected briefly on arrival.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide car parking and Synod members are advised to make their own arrangements. Local parking is shown on the location map in *A Guide to General Synod 2022*. Owing to building works in the area, some of the local disabled car parking spaces may not be available. The location of disabled car parking spaces in the area can be found on the website of the City of Edinburgh Council using the following link:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20085/parking_spaces/507/parking_bay_locations

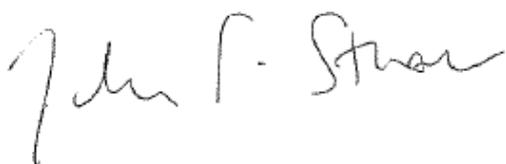
Please note that the tram stop in York Place is no longer operational and the nearest stop is now in St Andrew Square.

The Synod papers and Annual Report will shortly be available electronically from the Provincial website at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-general-synod/> Any further papers will also be posted there.

The Synod papers include a list of names of Synod Members and Alternates, and also a list of those individuals who serve as Scottish Episcopal Church representatives in other organisations. Details of how we use personal data can be found in our Privacy Notice which can be accessed on the provincial website.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the Synod next month.

Yours sincerely



John F Stuart
Secretary General

Encs

Appendix - Motion received from the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles

That this Synod calls on all political parties and movements in the UK to:

- 1. Declare all monies received in donation from Russian sources over the last 10 years;*
- 2. Undertake a transparent investigation into any funds received from undisclosed or opaque sources in that time, to determine whether they have a Russian origin;*
- 3. And donate all such funds to a public disclosed charity benefitting Ukraine or Ukrainians.*