

Renewal and Reform

The General Synod of the Church of England has committed to a vision for our Church and a related programme of work known as Renewal and Reform. Renewal and Reform first began in 2010. The work programme is extensive and has been taken forward in a number of streams, which together will eventually impact every area of our common life and mission under God.

There is a great deal of accumulated information available about Renewal and Reform, the work so far, and the theology underpinning this. You can access this through the weblink: <https://www.churchofengland.org/renewal-reform.aspx> Synod members are encouraged to explore this information in preparation for our discussion under this agenda item.

Attached are just two of the papers our General Synod has received about Renewal and Reform, which together offer an overview of the intention and work. The first is a paper produced at the time the initial work-stream reports were published, and the second is a briefing on Renewal and Reform provided by the Secretary General for the newly constituted General Synod for the July 2016 session.

Canon Dr John Spence our guest speaker today, as member of the Archbishops' Council and Chair of that Council's Finance Committee, is at the forefront of Renewal and Reform. Information about John's background and experience can be found at this link: <http://johnspencecbe.com>

When John was invited the following brief was offered for his time with us today:

'...we are content to be led by our visitor of course, but it may be seen as particularly helpful to cover such items as: the structure of Renewal and Reform and how this is progressing as a coherent programme; communication of R&R and how best this can gain traction at a local level; Resourcing the Future and the new funding arrangements for Resourcing Ministerial Education (not the detail of these, but perhaps the likely or intended outcomes of this methodology); and lay leadership proposals will be of particular interest as this has featured in recent synods for discussion. And also, as in the afternoon we shall be voting on our budget which contains a 4% uplift in Archbishops' Council contribution from Portsmouth in the context of our own capped whole budget up lift of 1.9%, anything on the necessity for this level of increase.'

Space for discussion and reflection is planned for this agenda item. Questions can be asked on the day, but in preparation for this session Synod members are also invited to offer questions to be shared with John in advance to enable him to consider these in the context of his presentation. Advance questions may be sent to wendy.kennedy@portsmouth.anglican.org

Wendy Kennedy
Diocesan Secretary