

APPENDIX A

RESOLUTION TO BE PROPOSED TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

1. CHARITIES LEGISLATION

That the General Synod approves the following guidance documents for use by Church of Ireland Select Vestries or equivalent bodies registering as charities under the new charities legislation:

- Church of Ireland Statement of Charitable Purpose (Schedule I)
- Church of Ireland Statement on Public Benefit (Schedule II)

SCHEDULE I

Statement of Charitable Purpose

The principal function of the Select Vestry of the parish of _____ in the Diocese of _____ is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity.

As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

SCHEDULE II

Statement of Public Benefit

The Select Vestry of the Parish of _____ in the Diocese of _____, supports the advancement of the Christian religion and through the work of the parish and by the application of its resources, provides:

- Sacred spaces, churches and public worship in the Christian tradition
- Public religious ceremonies
- Pastoral care, evangelism and ministry
- Facilities and services which help to support and benefit the social networks of the community
- Religious education, and active involvement in the provision of general education with a Christian ethos
- Support for a better society through active promotion of community harmony and responsible citizenship
- Other activities which are carried out as a practical expression of religious beliefs, which may also be charitable and which include
- Support for the poor, the ill and the suffering
- Support for the disadvantaged and for alienated members of society
- Support for development and the relief of poverty and disease in disadvantaged areas of the world
- Promotion and maintenance of the arts through music and other media contributing to the experience of worship
- Stewardship of buildings of general architectural and historical interest
- Maintenance and upkeep of church records, materials and artefacts for the public benefit

The Church of Ireland is open to all. The mission of the Church and its support networks and activities reach out to all in a spirit of growth, unity and service.