

GENERAL SYNOD 2013

Bill No 3

Proposed by the Venerable Robin Bantry-White, Archdeacon of Cork

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

A member of the Synod, unable to attend, rose with me how short the statutory notice time was for members attending. Two of us Secretaries scratched our heads, and thought a preliminary notice was normally sent in our names. However, on further enquiry, we discovered that this was not the case as a rule. Nevertheless preliminary notice has been sent when a new Synod is elected, and when a new venue is used. So such notice has been sent in two years out of three in many triennia.

The modest proposal in this bill will facilitate the secretariat in sending out several such notices. It will also allow us to send Standing Committee News to individual members of the Synod, as well as putting it on the website, and the circulation of such other material as may be of interest to Synod members, even though not statutorily required. I have in mind submissions to government and a variety of things done by Standing Committee in the name of the general Synod. The main summons to ordinary meetings of the Synod or special meetings and all other communications required in the Constitution will of course be sent by post. However, with the vicissitudes of post and especially shamefully, between the two jurisdictions on this island, it is good to have a backup of sending of most papers by email also, as presently happens with Standing Committee and the RCB and its committees. We recognise that some people may not have email facilities. However, we undertake to send items by post to such as need it.

This Bill, if passed, will simply amend Chapter 1 of the Constitution **to require** Diocesan Secretaries, from the next triennial elections to Synod to supply email addresses and

telephone numbers, if available, along with the postal addresses already required. The use of this information of course will be covered by the Church House Data Protection Policy.