

GENERAL SYNOD 2015

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Seconded by Hazel Corrigan, Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

Embargoed until Delivery

Picking up from what the proposer has said on thankfulness, challenges and encouragements of the last year we look to the discussions with the Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland (**page 180, Appendix L page 239**). After last year's historic decision on inter-changeability of ministry with the Methodist Church, which was accepted with overwhelming support, work is ongoing with the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland. We share with the Moravian Church a very similar essential understanding of the ministry of Bishops. This is complicated to some degree by the fact that the Church of Ireland's jurisdiction is limited to Ireland but the Moravian Church extends across these Islands. Therefore we must be cognisant of the progress of similar talks between the Moravian Church and the Church of England. There is a motion to be considered later on this point (Motion No 9)

Church and Society Commission (**page 174 and Appendix G page 221**). One of the projects completed in 2015 was the support of the Flesh and Blood Campaign and an emergency ISPC Childline Appeal. I understand the intention is that a proposed environmental Charter will be discussed later today.

The **Priorities Committee** is a fund set up separate from the trust funds of the church that allow Standing Committee to allocate money as seed capital to projects which meet certain criteria which advance the mission of the church. This year there were 82 applications and quite a few applications for new church plants - Funding was allocated to the Icon Community in Dublin & Glendalough Dioceses, Moneyreagh Community Church, Down Diocese and Seagoe Parish to assist with church plant and outreach. Down & Dromore Dioceses are also launching a new outreach in Killough and Ardglass.

St Coman's Parish, Roscommon, Elphin Diocese are also doing an amazing job of developing outreach programmes for the church and wider community. Finally Tralee and Dingle Unions of Parishes, Ardfert Diocese

are doing brilliant work in the Tralee Soup Kitchen and the Saturday Food Bank, working with the local Roman Catholic church.

Please take time to visit Sylvia on the Priorities Stand and view some more of the work that is taking place around the country.

Census (**page 173 and separate leaflet**). The census figures may not have supplied all of the answers a lot of members would have liked answered however it is expected that as patterns build up over the successive triennia a lot more information will come to hand. You will see from the gender profile that 57% of worshippers are female and the balance of 43% are male. While the age profile has 43% within the age bracket 0-45 years 58% are aged 46 and over. We would like to acknowledge the work of Dr Bev Botting, the clergy, laity and diocesan secretaries and staff.

Hymnal Supplement (**page 177**). This morning at the opening Eucharist we were delighted to hear some of the hymns included in the new Hymnal Supplement. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and his committee for all the work involved in its publication. A sampler of the Hymnal supplement is available.....

And finally *General Synod 2016* - Following discussions at Standing Committee the Honorary Secretaries considered various venues and taking all aspects into consideration it was agreed to host next year's synod in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire from 12th - 14th May.

We would like to thank again all the staff of Church House and especially the Honorary Secretaries who give of their time tirelessly towards the development and mission of the church.

Your Grace, I am pleased to second the report of the Standing Committee