

## General Synod Report Sunday in York

Date : 11 July 2004

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### **Morning Protest**

Most of the members of the Synod attended York Minister on the Sunday morning. During the service a group of men entered the service and protested on behalf of Fathers for Justice. It appears that they forced entry and someone was hurt in the exchange. Apparently the Archbishop permitted them to address the congregation for three minutes after which they left.

### **Justice**

Synod business for the day began with consideration of two reports on the legal system including in particular the nature and purpose of sentencing and the number of people being held in prisons. The report was passed without opposition.

### **Differentials**

Debate began on a Private Members motion to phase out stipend differentials. Certain Diocesan officials, such as Archdeacons, Deans and Bishops are paid a larger stipend than other clergy. The concept of a stipend is that it is a payment to enable the clergyman to live without financial worry rather than a salary. The proposer, Chris Lilley, argued that with this concept of stipend the idea that some clergy need a greater amount simply because of their office is erroneous.

The final vote was taken by houses and was lost in all three houses with the greatest support being in the house of clergy.

### **Funding ordinands**

Alternative Sources of Funding for ordinands. Following on from the 'Hind Report' on theological training there has been a wide range of concern about the impact on the future ministry of the Church of England. This debate addresses some of the issues of how students should be funded for training. There were a string of amendments to the main proposal some of which were accepted and others not. The overall impact is that having previously decided that the Church needed to cut back on expenditure on theological training and set up a body to produce proposals to do this, it has now backed off from cuts and decided to spend more.

## **World Mission**

A report was discussed (there was no real debate) on world mission with particular reference to the work of the Anglican mission agencies who are part of Partners in World Mission (PWM).

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