

## General Synod Report Thursday at Church House, Westminster

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Synod began its final day of this Group of Sessions with consideration of the Windsor Report. The difficulty with the debate was that the Synod was asked to consider a motion, which commended a report by the House of Bishops, that gave consideration to the Windsor Report. The House of Bishops' report drew attention to some of the shortcomings of the Windsor Report but actually endorsed its methodology. To complicate matters further some of the gay lobby were against the motion before Synod, and attempted to have it amended, because they felt the House of Bishops had been too one-sided. In the end this appeared to be another of those debates where the balance of people called to speak appeared to be in favour of a homosexual practice.

Shortly before lunch Synod gave final approval to a new weekday lectionary and also considered a report on the constitutions of bodies answerable to the Archbishops' Council. Immediately after lunch farewells were said to Lady Gill Brentford (Third Estates Commissioner), The Bishop of Derby and the Archbishop of York.

Then began consideration of a Private Member's Motion from Mr Anthony Archer. The motion requires a review of the roles of suffragan Bishops, deans, archdeacons and residentiary canons and the way in which they are appointed. There was always going to be strong opposition to this and as one speaker pointed out that Church House Staff (or as he called them The Synod Rebuttal's Unit) appeared to have briefed against Mr Archer. With a couple of minor amendments the motion was approved by Synod it now remains to be seen whether the review can achieve anything in the face of resistance from those who control the present opaque appointments processes. As was pointed out more than once in debate the Church has had a string of such reviews and reports over the last two decades and most of them have achieved little.

The final debate of this Group of Sessions was on a report on environmental issues. The report was intended primarily to prompt Christians to think about some of the issues of sustainability and the consequences of our actions on the environment. There were several amendments passed including one which endorsed the principle of near zero-carbon emitting energy supplies, which includes nuclear power (the vote on this was quite close).

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