



House of Lords
House of Commons
Ecclesiastical Committee

Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure

245th Report

*Ordered by the House of Lords to be
printed on 19 December 2023*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed on 19 December 2023*

**HL Paper 35
HC 340**

Published on 19 December 2023
by authority of the House of Lords and
the House of Commons

Ecclesiastical Committee

The Ecclesiastical Committee is a statutory Committee appointed under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919.

It comprises thirty members, fifteen of whom are Members of the House of Commons, appointed by the Speaker, and fifteen of whom are members of the House of Lords, appointed by the Lord Speaker. The quorum is twelve.

Appointments to the Committee are generally made early in a Parliament. Unless the Speaker or the Lord Speaker decide otherwise, members appointed by them remain on the Committee for the life of the Parliament.

While its powers are those laid down by the Act, the procedures it has adopted are those of a Joint Select Committee.

Current membership

HOUSE OF LORDS

[Baroness Butler-Sloss](#)
[The Earl of Cork and Orrery](#)
[Lord Cormack](#)
[Lord Dannatt](#)
[Baroness Eaton](#)
[Lord Faulkner of Worcester](#)
[Lord Field of Birkenhead](#)
[Lord Glenarthur](#)
[Baroness Harris of Richmond](#)
[Lord Jones](#)
[Lord Lisvane](#)
[Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall](#)
[Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede](#)
[Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean](#)
[Lord Taylor of Holbeach](#)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

[Fleur Anderson MP](#)
[Sir Peter Bottomley MP](#)
[Mr Ben Bradshaw MP](#)
[Fiona Bruce MP](#)
[Dr Lisa Cameron MP](#)
[Miriam Cates MP](#)
[Sir Roger Gale MP](#)
[Mr David Lammy MP](#)
[Rachael Maskell MP](#)
[Gary Sambrook MP](#)
[Andrew Selous MP](#)
[Jim Shannon MP](#)
[Sir Desmond Swayne MP](#)
[Stephen Timms MP](#)
[Martin Vickers MP](#)

Remit

The Ecclesiastical Committee examines draft Measures presented to it by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England. It reports to Parliament on whether or not it considers the measures to be expedient.

It generally asks members of the General Synod to assist it in its deliberations. In some circumstances a conference of the Ecclesiastical Committee and the Legislative Committee may be convened.

The Church of England Measure on which the Committee has reported is presented to both Houses in its final form at the same time as the Committee makes its report.

Before the Measure becomes law, both Houses must approve motions that the Measure should be presented to the Sovereign for Royal Assent in the form that it was laid before Parliament.

Once both Houses have passed the necessary approval motions, the Measure is presented for Royal Assent and becomes law.

Publications

The reports and proceedings of the Committee are published by Order of both Houses. All publications of the Committee are on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/ecclesiastical-committee>

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Committee, Legislation Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3103, and the email address is eccttee@parliament.uk

Contents

245th Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee	3
Minutes of Proceedings	5

245th Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee has met and considered the Measures set out below. The Measures were submitted to the Ecclesiastical Committee by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod, each with a Comments and Explanations document. The text of the Measures, and their accompanying Comments and Explanations documents, are published online on the Committee's web pages.¹

Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

2. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations document, the Legislative Committee explains that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure makes provision for a range of matters concerning the Church of England that do not merit freestanding legislation. The Measure includes provisions relating to the General Synod, ecclesiastical offices, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, church property, elections under the Church Representation Rules, the functions of the Church Commissioners, appointments to the Pensions Board, and the conduct of meetings.

3. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee's proceedings in relation to this Measure is published online on the Committee's web pages.²

View of the Committee

4. **The Committee is of the opinion that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure is expedient.**

Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure

5. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations document, the Legislative Committee explains that the Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure extends the period during which the Church Commissioners may resort to capital to meet their obligations in respect of certain pensions for a further seven years, to 31 December 2032.

6. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee's proceedings in relation to this Measure is published online on the Committee's web pages.³

1 Ecclesiastical Committee, 'Publications': <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/174/ecclesiastical-committee-joint-committee/publications/>

2 Ecclesiastical Committee, Oral Evidence Transcript, 21 November 2023: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13867/default/>

3 Ecclesiastical Committee, Oral Evidence Transcript, 21 November 2023: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13868/default/>

View of the Committee

7. **The Committee is of the opinion that the Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure is expedient.**

Minutes of Proceedings

Tuesday 21 November 2023

Minutes of the (hybrid) meeting of the Ecclesiastical Committee held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 10:30 am.

Present:

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Chair)	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Ben Bradshaw MP
Lord Cormack	Fiona Bruce MP
Lord Dannatt	Andrew Selous MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Sir Desmond Swayne MP
Lord Jones	Stephen Timms MP
Lord Lisvane	Martin Vickers MP
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede	

Declaration of Interests

Members of the Committee declared the following interests:

Sir Peter Bottomley

Parliamentary warden of St Margaret's Church, Parliament Square

Fiona Bruce

Lay canon of Chester Cathedral

The Earl of Cork and Orrery

Governor of the Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust

Trustee of the steeple fund at St Laurence, Lurgashall

Lord Cormack

Deputy high steward of Lincoln Cathedral

Lord Dannatt

Trustee of the Norwich Cathedral Trust

Churchwarden of the parish of Intwood-cum-Keswick in the Diocese of Norwich

Baroness Harris of Richmond

High steward of Ripon Cathedral

Nephew is a priest on the Isle of Man

Lord Lisvane

Married to a Church of England priest and rural dean, who is also Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

Chairman to the Fabric Advisory Committee of Hereford Cathedral

Churchwarden

Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Lord Bishop of Chichester

Morag Ellis KC (Dean of the Arches)

Mr William Nye (Secretary General of the General Synod)

The Reverend Alexander McGregor (Chief Legal Adviser to the General Synod)

Mr David White (Deputy Director of Finance, National Church Institutions)

Church of England Pensions (Application of Capital Funds) Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Lord Bishop of Chichester

Morag Ellis KC (Dean of the Arches)

Mr William Nye (Secretary General of the General Synod)

The Reverend Alexander McGregor (Chief Legal Adviser to the General Synod)

Mr David White (Deputy Director of Finance, National Church Institutions)

Decision

The Committee deliberated.

It was moved that the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to

It was moved that the Church of England Pensions (Applications of Capital Funds) Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee adjourned.