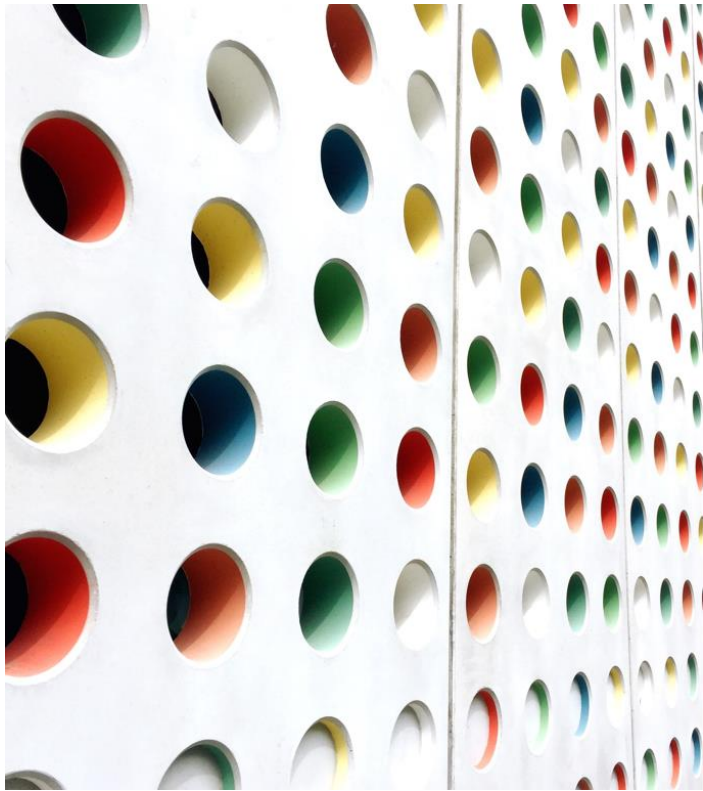


## Dean Reuben's General Synod talk Item



# General Synod 2021

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Dean Reuben

It is good to be back together after lunch. I want to begin by sharing with you some of the outcomes of the General Synod this year on the 10th and 11th of June.

The material I'm using comes from the email which was sent out to the clergy, lay readers, vestry, secretaries, and diocesan secretaries, by John Stewart - the General Secretary.

## Outcomes for us to acknowledge and act on

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DAY TO DAY LIFE  
TOGETHER



MOMENTS TO MARK



WORK TO BE ENGAGED  
IN OVER TIME

The work of General Synod could be categorised into three groups

Our day to day life together

Moments to mark &

Work to be engaged in over time

# General Synods decisions



Day to day life together 1

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## SCOTTISH LITURGY 1982 with Alternative Eucharistic Prayers (Revised 2021)

This new edition of Scottish Liturgy 1982 incorporates changes in language both in reference to humans and to God in order to reflect the changes in English usage that have come about since 1982 and to improve on and make formal the changes to gendered language permitted since 2010.

Liturgy is one of the aspects of our life together that we share day by day and week by week. The 1982 liturgy, with the alternative eucharistic prayers has now been authorised after revision of the changes to gendered language permitted since 2010. Now all charges can move their service booklets/texts over to this revised liturgy.

Please download this from the provincial website and see how you get on with it. There are lots of notes about the liturgical details which will help you to explore the new texts with your congregations.

(note <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/scottish-liturgy-1982-alternative-eucharistic-prayers/> )

# General Synods decisions



Day to day life together 2

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**Complaints, Bullying and Time Off:** the Personnel Committee brought forward proposals in relation to the adoption of a Complaints Procedure, Bullying and Harassment Policy and guidelines for holiday and time off for stipendiary clergy.

- Complaints Procedure:  
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/complaints-procedure/>
- Bullying and Harassment Policy:  
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/bullying-and-harassment-policy/>
- Holiday and Time Off Guidelines:  
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/appointments-and-employment/>

At General Synod, some important policies were presented and adopted, from the Personnel Committee.

We now have a Complaints Procedure for the entire church, addressed to people at all levels of church life.

Secondly, we have a Bullying and Harassment Policy. And all Charges are asked to make this an agenda item for their first vestry meeting after an AGM to ensure that all vestry members know about dealing with claims of Bullying and Harassment.

Thirdly, some holiday and time off guidelines were presented and adopted.

## General Synods decisions



Day to day life together 3

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The new guidance for clergy time off suggests that **two days off per week** should be the norm rather than the present one day off.

Clergy do not have contracts with e.g. entitlements or allowances of time off, but there is a need to set an expectation of the recreation and rest that a cleric should take for healthy living and wellbeing. It is up to each cleric to decide for themselves when their time off should be, but it may be helpful to discuss possibilities with others in the church as part of the process of putting this change into practice. The cleric, vestry and also the bishop may be involved.

The new guidance for clergy time off now suggests that clergy have **two days off per week**. And that that should be the norm. Rather than the previous one day off. We need to remember that clergy don't have contracts with e.g entitlements or allowances for time off, but there is a need to set an expectation for the recreation and rest of a cleric so they lead healthy lives and have a good sense of wellbeing.

## General Synods decisions



Day to day life together 4

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**Ethical Investment:** the Synod adopted a framework for ethical investment in relation to pooled funds. That relates specifically to the provincial Unit Trust Pool but its general principles may be of interest to charges who have their own investment portfolios, if not held in the Unit Trust Pool.

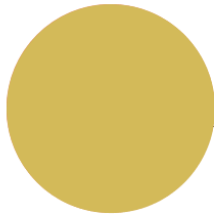
It is available on p153 of the Synod Papers at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Synod-Papers-2021.pdf>

Ethical investment - The synod's adopted a framework for ethical

investment in relation to the pooled funds. That specifically relates to the provincial Unit Trust Pool. Which is where all our diocesan investments will all be held by the end of the year. The general principles may be of interest to Charges who have their own investment portfolios. The documents are available on the provincial website.

## General Synods decisions



### Moments to Mark - 1

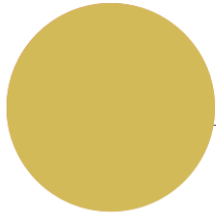
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Worship - **SEC Calendar:** the Synod also agreed the incorporation of Church of Scotland missionary, Jane Haining, into the Scottish Calendar for 17 July. This change will be reflected in an update to the Calendar and will be available on the provincial website.

Information about Ms Haining is available on p81 of the Synod Papers at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Synod-Papers-2021.pdf>

As Moments to Mark – the General Synod agreed the incorporation of the Church of Scotland missionary, Jane Haining into the Scottish calendar on the 17th of July. Many of you who have been following our social media channels will have seen this marked for the first time in the SEC by images and poetry. <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/first-commemoration-of-jane-haining/>

## General Synods decisions



Moments to Mark - 2

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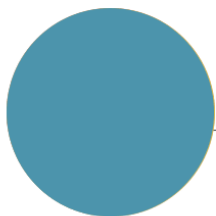
**Ecumenical matters:** the Synod agreed the St Andrew Declaration incorporating a commitment on the part of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Church of Scotland to work together. Much of that will in practice be worked out at local level.

The declaration is available on p82 of the Synod Papers at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Synod-Papers-2021.pdf>

Secondly, the Synod agreed the St Andrew Declaration incorporating a commitment on the part of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Scotland to work together. Much of that will in practise be worked out at a local level

## General Synods decisions



Work to be engaged with over time

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**Climate change:** considerable time was spent at Synod considering the challenge of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 (called for by General Synod 2020).

A report incorporating a programme of actions prepared by the

Church in Society Committee's Technical Group was presented to Synod and approved.

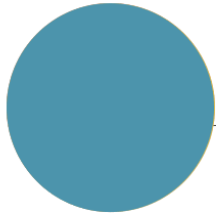
That report is available on p85 of the Synod Papers at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Synod-Papers-2021.pdf>

And so we move on to work to be engaged with overtime - over the rest of this decade. Climate Change. Considerable time was spent at Synod

considering the challenge of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Which was called for by General Synod in 2020.

## General Synods decisions



The Standing Committee is in the course of establishing a new provincial *Environment Group* and **dioceses have been asked by the Synod to put in place structures to enable action at diocesan level and support action at congregational level.**

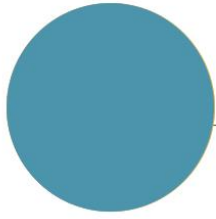
The Church in Society's Technical Group is in the course of developing **a toolkit** which will be publicised once available.

The Standing Committee is in the process of establishing a new provincial ***Environmental Group***, and dioceses have been asked by the Synod to put in place structures to enable action at diocesan level, and support action at congregational level.

The Church in Society Technical Group is in the course of developing a **toolkit**. Which will be publicised once it's available. This is projected to be in the autumn.



## General Synods decisions



**....dioceses have been asked by the Synod to put in place structures to enable action at diocesan level and support action at congregational level.**

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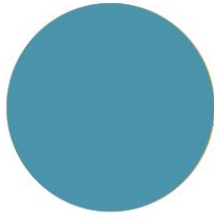
Some reflections from the Dean.....



As we move on, I want to focus on the green coloured text in the slide.

**Dioceses have been asked by the Synod to put in place structures to enable action at diocesan level and support action at congregational level.**

# General Synods decisions



## 10 points of guidance

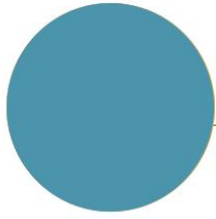


1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible
2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property
3. Using less polluting forms of transport, moving to electric or hybrid cars, car sharing, wherever possible walking or cycling
4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our land
5. Using Fair Trade, environment- and animal-friendly products wherever possible

We are being asked to address the “10 Points of Guidance” on the climate crisis. These 10 points are.

1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible
2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property
3. Using less polluting forms of transport, moving to electric or hybrid cars, car sharing, wherever possible walking or cycling
4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our land
5. Using Fair Trade, environment- and animal-friendly products wherever possible


# General Synods decisions



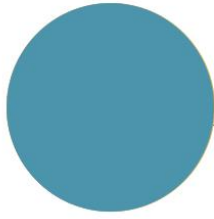
## 10 points of guidance



6. Reducing waste by composting and recycling as much of it as possible
7. Reducing paper usage (and then only using recycled paper)
8. Using online meetings often, but balanced with our need for human contact and Christian fellowship
9. Disseminating information on good practice, and seeking expert advice, practical help, and funding possibilities
10. Promoting sustainability through our preaching, liturgy and teaching, and setting a good example

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# General Synods decisions



## 10 points of guidance – **H E L P**

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Dean's thoughts.... How can we do this together, and help each other in this task?



I don't know about you, but I need and want some help in doing this.

How can we do this together and help each other in this task.

When we are asked to engage with issues that are huge, will cost us money, involve changing the way we do things, and challenge the way we are living, it is natural to argue against any ideas which might bring the change that is really needed.

Some of us live in eco-disastrous houses and work in eco-unfriendly buildings. None of that matters for us to **begin** - we are starting a journey towards the goals of 2030.

We don't know the way and we don't know how our entire political and cultural horizons may shift over the coming decade. The Province has asked us as a Diocese to engage with this matter at all levels. In the Diocesan Office we shall be considering what can be done in response to the *10 Points of Guidance*, in our work the Bishop and Dean and other

Diocesan staff will be responding too and making a plan for our engagement with the issues.

At the Regional and Charge levels we are asking for responses too, and in individual Charges you may like to ask members to work on their own, individual, household or family responses as members of the wider community and as faithful pilgrims in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

### United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway



[Bishops Core Group](#) - [Renfrewshire](#) - [Ayrshire](#) - [Galloway](#) - [Lanarkshire](#) ..... - [Diocesan Centre](#) - [Diocesan Synod](#) - [Vacancies](#) - [Visitations](#) .....

### Renfrewshire Region - Vestry, Charge and Council Responses

[Renfrew](#), [Paisley](#), [Johnstone](#), [Port Glasgow](#), [Kilmacolm](#), [Bridge of Weir](#), [Greenock](#), [Gourock](#), [Regional Council](#)

#### Regional Council responses - 10 Points of Guidance

1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible	Charge response: Response text in here
2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property	Charge response: Response text in here

I am working on an idea (for our greater discussion at a later date) that on our Diocesan website we have pages dedicated to our entire diocesan engagement with the issues being raised for us. Over the coming years these will doubtless develop further, but as a starting point we are asking each Charge, Regional Council, and Diocesan Office holder and member of staff to contribute from their position and setting – where you are now.



Charge : St Margarets Renfrew - 10 Points of Guidance	
1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings and moving from oil/gas to electricity where possible	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 we are going to be considering this point during the next 5 years as your boiler reaches the end of current life span
2. Implementing renewable energy solutions such as heat pumps and solar power on our property	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 We would love to be able to engage with these systems as and when funding and permission become more feasible for us. We look forward to the outcomes of the COP26 conference and any changes in political directions which would help us to engage with this point.
3. Using less polluting forms of transport, moving to electric or hybrid cars, car sharing, wherever possible walking or cycling	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 currently this seems a point for discussion and consideration in the next 5 to 10 years. We cannot make an immediate response to this point.
4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our land	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 During the next 2 years we plan to engage in projects to utilise the use of the little land that we have to appropriate wildlife conservation projects. We are seeking advice, help and guidance on what would be appropriate for our site.
5. Using Fair Trade, environment-and animal-friendly products wherever possible	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 The Vestry has committed to move to environment-and animal-friendly products by the end of 2022 and we are going to engage our congregations in the changes we make in looking after our building. We also aim to promote this to our hall user groups and ask them to join in the work as well.
6. Reducing waste by composting and recycling as much of it as possible	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 We currently recycle our paper and plastic waste. We aim to reduce the amount by encouraging the use of reading online our newsletters and leaflets etc. We want to install a compost bin on the site and will seek guidance in doing this.
7. Reducing paper usage (and then only using recycled paper)	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 As a result of the General Synod call to action we are immediately committing to use only recycled paper on site. We aim to irradicate the use of single use service sheets after the pandemic restrictions.
8. Using online meetings often, but balanced with our need for human contact and Christian fellowship	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 We are aware of the need to meet physically as people to discuss and make decisions and we are aware of the resources used to host such meetings. We commit to have 50% of Vestry meetings online for the next 2 years as an experimental period to see how we get on.
9. Disseminating information on good	<b>Charge response:</b> July 2021 We are aware of the amount of work that has been done in bringing this subject to the General Synod and we want to play our part in helping to disseminate the information to as many people as we can.

You see before you an example which I have invented (*my Charges still have to begin the discussions at Vestry levels in an organized way*). What would be the responses of your vestry?

Your entries to each of the 10 points would be sent in, to be added to our Diocesan website so that we can share the ideas that we are having around the challenges we have been asked to engage with.

We may find great suggestions from other Charges that we want to find out more about, or we may find that there is another Charge having the same problems as us and decide to meet up and share a way forward. Who knows what this may bring?

But what it does bring is the common and shared journey which the entire Province is asking and calling us to join in with as we look to the goal of the Action plan on Climate Change to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030

## United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway



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### Renfrewshire Region - Vestry, Charge and Council Responses

[Renfrew, Paisley, Johnstone](#), [Port Glasgow](#), [Kilmacollm](#), [Bridge of Weir](#), [Greenock](#), [Gourock](#), [Regional Council](#)

A tool to help us engage with 10 Points of Guidance, and the other issues the toolkit will raise for us as it is sent to us.

And so, if we develop this idea further, all regions, all charges, all office-holders across the diocese, all groups around or diocese, the diocesan centre, our cathedral, the Bishop, the Dean.....

### 10 points of guidance



## United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway



[Bishops Core Group](#) - [Renfrewshire](#) - [Ayrshire](#) - [Galloway](#) - [Lanarkshire](#) ..... - [Diocesan Centre](#) - [Diocesan Synod](#) - [Vacancies](#) - [Visitations](#) .....

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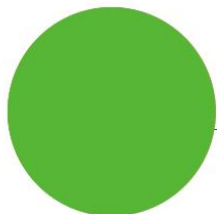
For all Regions, all Charges, all Office holders, all groups around the diocese, the Diocesan Centre, the Cathedral, the Bishop, the Dean, ... ..

With periodic Open Online meetings addressing the Points of Guidance to help us engage with ideas....practically

We'll all be able to share how we are engaging with the 10 Points of Guidance.

Along with this, we can develop periodic, open online meetings addressing and discussing each of the 10 Points of Guidance - to help us engage more deeply with the ideas. Very practically.

## General Synods decisions



**dioceses have been asked by the Synod to put in place structures to enable action at diocesan level and support action at congregational level.**

We are in this together with our Saviour

“Secular environmentalists can get very gloomy. But we have a Saviour. We are people of the resurrection who have begun to know the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. We urge you to join in this task of caring for Christ’s creation, as people who share Paul’s ‘hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God’. Brothers and sisters in that redeemed family will you join in and play your part in that liberation today and in the coming months?”

I shall end with some words from the presentation given by Donald Bruce at General Synod as he introduced the topic .....

“Secular environmentalists can get very gloomy. But we have a Saviour. We are people of the resurrection who have begun to know the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. We urge you to join in this task of caring for Christ’s creation, as people who share Paul’s ‘hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God’. Brothers and sisters in that redeemed family will you join in and play your part in that liberation today and in the coming months?”

Thank you.