



## **History of progress towards women as bishops in the Church of England**

- 1920 Subject of women's ordination put on the agenda of the Lambeth Conference – vote to proceed lost
- 1930 Subject of women's ordination again put on agenda of Lambeth Conference – vote to proceed lost
- 1935 Archbishops' Commission discusses women's ordination – and reports negatively
- 1944 Bishop Ronald Hall of war-torn Hong Kong ordains a Chinese Deacon, Florence Li Tim-Oi, as a priest
- 1968 Lambeth Conference finds arguments for and against ordination of women “inconclusive”
- 1971 Anglican Consultative Council, the most senior advisory body in the Anglican Communion, chaired by Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Ramsey, passes ‘resolution 28’ which advises bishops that, with the approval of their province, they can ordain women to the priesthood
- 1974 Eleven women in America ‘irregularly’ ordained by three US bishops
- 1975 General Synod votes that there is ‘no fundamental objection to the ordination of women to the priesthood’
- 1976 US General Convention votes to ordain women and accept ‘irregular’ ordinations
- 1978 General Synod debates motion to ‘bring forward legislation to remove the barriers to the ordination of women to the priesthood and their consecration to the episcopate’. After six and a half hours of debate, the motion falls.
- 1979 Movement for the Ordination of Women started – Stanley Booth-Clibborn, Bishop of Manchester, invited to be first Moderator
- 1985 General Synod votes to allow women to become deacons
- 1987 First women deacons ordained in the Church of England
- 1988 141 bishops from different parts of the Anglican Communion, led by Bishops of Bristol, Manchester and Southwark, declare their belief in the ordination of women to all three orders. First woman bishops elected in US and New Zealand.
- 1992 11th November – General Synod votes to permit women to be ordained to the priesthood
- 1994 1,500 women deacons ordained as priests
- 2000 Archdeacon Judith Rose puts down motion in General Synod asking for House of Bishops to set up Working Party to look at issues of women in the episcopate. The motion passes.

- 2004 Report is published of House of Bishops Working Party, chaired by Bishop of Rochester
- 2005 February: General Synod debates Rochester Report. Group chaired by Bishop of Guildford asked to bring options for ways of going ahead with women as bishops to Synod.
- 2005 July: General Synod debates motion to begin process to remove 'legal obstacles' to women in the episcopate. Motion passes.
- 2006 February: General Synod debates option put forward by House of Bishops Working Party – the TEA (Transferred Episcopal Arrangements) proposals. Motion passes to proceed 'along the lines of TEA'
- 2006 July: General Synod passes motion agreeing with majority of bishops that having women as bishops is 'consonant' with the faith of the Church. Insufficient support for TEA, or SEA (a later refinement) in the House of Bishops means that a Legislative Drafting Group is commissioned to prepare draft legislation with a variety of possible provision for those who will not accept women as bishops.
- 2008 April: Manchester Report published with a spectrum of possibilities, from a 'single clause measure' – ie 'women can be bishops' – to creating new dioceses for those opposed
- 2008 July: General Synod asks the Legislative Drafting Group to draw up legislation with provisions for those opposed contained in a national statutory Code of Practice: it rejects other options for provisions
- 2009 February: Draft legislation is accepted by General Synod and sent to a Revision Committee
- 2010 May: Revision Committee Report is published, containing draft legislation that has been considerably revised from that originally drafted: provisions are now in a local Diocesan 'Scheme', subject to a statutory Code of Practice.
- 2010 June: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York propose an amendment to the revised draft legislation that would introduce Coordinate Jurisdiction.
- 2010 July: General Synod accepts the revisions offered in the Revision Committee report, rejects the Archbishops' amendment, again rejects other options for provisions, and commends the revised draft legislation to Dioceses for debate.

