

## **Report from GS July 2007**

### **Marriage Changes**

After years of deliberation and revision, the Marriage Measure finally received approval at the meeting of General Synod in York last week. Subject to ratification by Parliament it will soon be possible for couples to marry in Churches where they have a qualifying connection i.e where they were baptised, or their confirmation is recorded in the registers, or they have at any time lived or attended worship there for 6 months, or the person's parents have at any time during the person's life lived or worshipped there for at least 6 months, or that the person's parents or grandparents were married in the parish. There was a plea during the debate for high quality marriage preparation – it was stressed that this need not be in the parish where the couple were getting married but could be in their “home” parish – this later would help the couple to get to know the Christian community in which they would living.

One of the fringe meetings I attended was about the recent report on an exploration of the modern day wedding market among couples - reasons why and why not people choose to get married and why and why not they choose a church wedding .

### **Transforming Worship**

On Saturday evening we had a presentation from the Liturgical Commission on the report “Transforming Worship” which considers ways in which the Church can use all its resources to worship God and to engage in God's mission in the world. There were some 29 recommendations in the conclusion of the report but while Synod felt that the report was a useful tool for study, reflection and action, it was felt to be unrealistic to vote that these should be implemented in full in the dioceses.

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