

People with Down's Syndrome should be welcomed, celebrated and treated with dignity and respect, members of the Church of England's General Synod will hear next month.

A motion affirming the dignity and humanity of people born with Down's Syndrome is to be discussed by the General Synod at its February sessions in London. It comes as a new form of prenatal screening, Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT), is set to be rolled out in the NHS to women deemed to be at 'high-risk' of having a child with Down's syndrome.

The motion welcomes medical advances and calls for the Government and health professionals to ensure that women who have been told that their unborn child has Down's Syndrome are given comprehensive, unbiased information on the condition.

A background paper, *Valuing People with Down's Syndrome*, produced by the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council is among documents released today.

With the UK throwing away £13bn of food every year food waste is another social issue to be debated by the General Synod.

Other subjects on the agenda include a presentation on safeguarding, the development of new monastic communities, and proposals for bringing the Church of England and the Methodist Church into communion with one another and enabling interchangeability of ministries.

For the first time, the General Synod will welcome a group of representatives from other Anglican Communion provinces.

Archbishop Moon Hing of South East Asia, Archbishop Humphrey of Pakistan, Archbishop Thabo, from South Africa and Archbishop Winston Halapua, Bishop of Polynesia and Primate (Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia) will attend the February sessions.

The General Synod will meet at Church House Westminster from Thursday February 8 to Saturday February 10.

A full set of papers from the first circulation is available on the [Church of England website](#).

A second circulation will follow will be available on Friday January 26.

Notes to editors

For accreditation, please contact [Ekene Oboko](#) at the Church of England Communications Office.