

FOR DISCUSSION ON PROGRAMME

What do we hope to achieve at this meeting?

- A. Should this meeting investigate what has already been achieved and thus ask:
1. What matters we would expect to find in a future statement on authority?
 2. What shape would such a statement take?
 3. Have we some of the material available already to construct such a schema? (Cf., a personal attempt at such).
 4. Should this meeting attempt such a schema for Oxford?
- B. Should this meeting rather be concentrating on unresolved tensions between, for example:
1. Intrinsic and extrinsic authority with regard to
 - (a) Scripture
 - (b) Councils and Tradition
 - (c) The Mind of the Church
 - (d) The Ordained Ministry.
 2. Anglican 'historic', and Catholic 'communal' theological approaches to authority (cf., the Bishop of Ossory's paper).
 3. Theology as exegesis, with the corollary of a propositional infallibility (Scriptural, Conciliar or Papal), and theology as a discipline with an open methodology. (cf. Dr. Fitzpatrick's paper).
- C. Should we be looking for serious lacunae?
- For example:
- (a) The relationship between personal authority and documented authority (Scriptural or Magisterial).
 - (b) The notion of assent to authority as intellectual or spiritual.