

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Toby Christopher Wright
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Questions and Replies

Question 1:	How do you think General Synod can promote engagement with the recommendations of the <i>From Lament to Action</i> report published in April this year?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	Having served in a black majority church in South London, I see this as vital. I think Synod can encourage us to make more of such resources as celebrating Black History Month, hearing more Black Theology, celebrating diverse saints and using liturgy from other part of the Anglican Communion and seeing how Synod is able to develop these. I'd encourage the Liturgical Commission to promote more diverse resources. TEI's have a key part to play in ensuring that training is diverse. I also have a particular interest around young people such as reviewing racial justice resources and mentoring within dioceses and how Synod monitors this.

Question 2:	What are your views on the place of the parish in the Church of England, bearing in mind concerns raised by the 'Save the Parish' campaign, concerns about availability of resources for the rural church and opportunities for new mission initiatives outside the usual parochial structure?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	I love the parish system. I also recognise it is under great pressure, and as Newman said, 'To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often'. I agree that we need to review the distribution of money and that SDF should be more aligned with the parish system. However I also believe we have to find new ways to evangelise and that we can't simply do same old, over again. For me it is not binary but complementary. I am passionate about the rural church – the rural population is the same as that of London; 40% of CofE people attend a rural church and only 25% of churches have 37 or more people attending.

Question 3:	If a motion was presented for a change in the law to permit same sex marriage in the Church of England, would you support it and, in any event, what outcomes would you like to see from the <i>Living in Love and Faith</i> conversations?
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<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I would rejoice in being able to conduct same sex marriages in the CofE. Just this week I have had two people independently ask whether I would conduct a marriage for them. When I said that I couldn't they were mystified. As a member of Inclusive Church this is important and I think we are losing credibility and causing pain by excluding people in faithful relationships. In terms of outcomes, I hope that we will hear the voices of pain and hurt of the LGBTIQ+ community and become a more inclusive church.</p>
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<p>Question 4:</p>	<p>Would you support any further proposals for 'Church of England' financial resources to disinvest from fossil fuel industries and what other actions do you think could be taken in the Church of England in order to promote the Fifth Mark of Mission?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>The Transition Pathway Initiative is a possible way of the CofE managing investments in a wise way and we need to be cautious and recognise that companies such as Shell and BP are also some of the largest investors in Green Energy. However, if we cannot get these companies to make bigger strides then I would support disinvestment.</p> <p>Other action would include: increasing resources for young people to engage with safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth; developing further liturgical resources in this area and sharing ideas from across the communion.</p>