

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Jonathan Chaffey
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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	This report was long overdue but now gives an opportunity for the Church of England to become more diverse in its identity and participation. Appropriate acknowledgement of its own role in black history through education on racial justice should be promoted alongside changes in representation for senior positions in church leadership. I am particularly keen that church liturgy should offer greater resonance and accessibility for people of a UKME/GMH background. The ambitious timeline may need to be handled pragmatically but without loss of emphasis.

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	The strapline, 'A Christian presence in every community', reaches to the heart of the Church of England. Every effort should be made to promote the depth and reach of our missional engagement, which will mean careful resourcing of sustainable parish structures whilst also promoting new congregations that are relevant to new patterns of social life. So this is definitely a 'both and' requirement. However, too much concentration on financial support on structures that may have past their relevance should not be at the expense of the highly pressing need to become 'simpler, humbler and bolder'. Just as tradition stagnates unless it evolves, so the C of E will need to be much lighter on its feet in coming years.

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>LLF is a significant opportunity to listen to each other and the stirrings of the Spirit on issues of marriage and sexuality. Building on Shared Conversations' it has helped to put relationships before debate and shown ways in which we can 'agree to differ' as Christians. I hope that the General Synod and College of Bishops will hold to a traditional understanding of marriage whilst giving permission for others to hold a broader view with Christian integrity. I am concerned that we move from this largely internal discussion to focus on sharing our faith in relevant ways for coming generations, which will include greater emphasis on deeper social justice and climate issues.</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>A recent sermon in the Cathedral highlighted the pressing need for Christians to take action regarding climate change in answer to the call to 'uphold the integrity of creation': <i>'If not now, when?'</i> Care for the environment is more than a side product of faith; it has become an existential global concern in our generation. It is important that all dioceses urgently review their investments and follow the example of CCLA in disinvesting from fossil fuel. This urgency is already high on the agenda of young people; it's the institutions and older generations that need the education. One way of fostering awareness would be through the Queen's Green Canopy in 2022.</p>