

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Reverend Canon Valerie Isabelle Dawn Frances Plumb
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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 a critical report that has been born out of the need to address long overdue issues, what I struggle with is when certain recommendations are put forward, the promised action doesn't happen, because of cost! So, I believe it is the job of the General Synod to ensure that in order for the necessary cultural change to happen those holding final decisions must be held to account, by ensuring we are moving forward, sticking to agreed deadlines and making sure decisions that are made are done so in the correct spirit of a truly Christian community. Over the years we have had much talk, now as the title says let's have some real action.

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 parish church has been part of our cultural identity for hundreds of years, it's distinctive in that it is a state church, we belong to the nation and have served God's people in every corner of the land. Save the Parish manifesto: I find myself favourable to its suggestions. I am supportive in new mission incentives in whatever forms they arise, but it should not be to the detriment of what's already in place. I work across rural north Bucks, due to poor resourcing and low finances I see the pressure that local parishes are under thus compromising their extraordinary work. It's important to remember that this is a church for the people first, so let's keep it local.

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?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	<p>The conflicting views of the church of England on sex, sexuality and identity has caused unnecessary pain for all involved, so it was right that the House of Bishops addressed this issue with the importance it deserved.</p> <p>The LLF project has been an opportunity to explore difference, find common ground, acknowledge that all views matter and plan the next steps together.</p> <p>As new generations evolve and society changes, the church needs a fresh story, we do not have the mind of God, but we are responsible for revolutionising this world through his love.</p> <p>I would support a change in the law that is based on a belief that we follow an incarnational Christ who is for and in all people.</p>

Question 4:	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?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	<p>We now have a code red for the safety of all humanity, the time for talking is over, it’s time to take action.</p> <p>We have a committed moral responsibility to fulfil the 5th Mark of Mission, safeguarding creation and sustaining life is critical for our survival.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Immediate actions to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church must take a stand nationally and globally, holding governments to account, mindful of COP26. • Divest immediately from all fossil fuel companies and stop supporting any other companies who are still investing. • Take responsibility for our own carbon footprint, by creating zero carbon churches and supporting biodiversity. <p>Climate change is already killing and causing other social disparities. I believe our spiritual commission is to take action now!</p>