

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Casual Vacancy Elections 2024**

Questions to Candidates

Voters were given the opportunity to pose questions which might be put to the candidates, relating to any matters on which they believed a representative of the diocese on General Synod might wish to express a view.

Several suggestions and suggested themes were received, and I have selected Four, as set out below.

I am now inviting all candidates (clergy and lay) to consider the questions and, if they wish, to submit written responses. No candidate is obliged to provide answers to any or all of these, but any written responses any candidate wishes to make will then be posted on the diocesan website.

Please note that if a candidate does not provide any answers, the relevant part of the website will be marked “none provided” and if a candidate chooses not to answer every question, the words “no answer provided” will be inserted for that particular question.

The website will also make clear that this is entirely optional. It is an additional opportunity for you to engage with voters if you wish to do so. I reserve the right to remove any response which might reasonably be considered offensive or prejudicial (though I do not expect that I shall need to do so).

A word limit has been set for your replies of **120 words per question**. Additional words will be cut from the final submission but you could, of course, give a shorter answer.

Please return your completed form to doliver@wslaw.co.uk and copied to sleader@wslaw.co.uk, by **5pm on Tuesday 14 May 2024**. Your submissions will be posted on the Diocesan website, with your Election Address and Video Presentation, on Thursday 16 May 2024 at 5.00 pm.

Darren Oliver
Presiding Officer for General Synod Election
9 May 2024

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	MARTIN EDWARD DAVY
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Questions and Replies

Question 1:	What are your views on the ‘Future of Church Safeguarding Report’ by Professor Alexis Jay released in February 2024?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	I very much welcome the report; its clarity, honesty and challenge. It is very clear that too many victims of abuse have found the timelines of safeguarding investigations, the support during the investigation process and the outcome unsatisfactory and discouraging. I believe that rather than patching up, reassessing or, as Professor Jay puts it,

	<p>“tinkering with existing structures,” it is time for a fully independent body that will allow for: a) a centralised and unified interpretation of guidance; b) a Safeguarding body that is accountable to another independent organisation for scrutiny; c) parity of funding across dioceses; d) a singular focus on the protection of people over a loyalty to the reputation of the diocese or Church of England.</p>
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<p>Question 2:</p>	<p>What is your position on ‘Living in Love and Faith’ and on the inclusivity of LGBTQ+ people in the Church?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>All people are equally loved by God, worthy of equal respect and equal unto salvation through faith in Jesus. Yet I am not persuaded that the proposals from the LLF process do not indicate a departure from the doctrine of the Church – something that General Synod has agreed they should not do. I am committed to ensuring the Church is one where LGBTQ+ people are allowed to flourish, welcomed into the life of the Church and, just like anyone else, encouraged to live lives that honour the Church’s teaching on marriage, sex and relationships.</p> <p>I am also concerned, as someone from a GMH background, at the way the proposed changes are seriously affecting our relationships with the wider Anglican Communion.</p>

<p>Question 3:</p>	<p>Noting the Five Guiding Principles in the House of Bishop’s 2014 Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (under which the diocesan bishop can make arrangements for pastoral and sacramental provision for churches who cannot accept the ministry of bishops and priest who are women), would you support similar arrangements being made for clergy and churches on matters arising from ‘Living in Love and Faith’?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I believe that it is possible to build on our experiences with offering mutual flourishing to those who do not recognise the ministry of women, and a helpful guide to allow the flourishing of those who will not make use of the Prayers.</p>

<p>Question 4:</p>	<p>Bearing in mind the Diocesan Synod’s March 2024 resolution endorsing the need to significantly increase our engagement with young people, families and schools, how would your membership of General Synod help with this?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I have a heart for children and youth ministries and have nearly 20 years of experience ranging from CPAS youth camps, mid-week Youth groups, to primary-age Church after-school clubs and weekly school assemblies. I have experience of managing the implementation of All-age services, Church summer clubs and Messy Church. As a parent at</p>

	the school gate, I can also speak into the reality of engaging with parents on the ground. I am also overseeing the implementation of a Special Needs Resource ministry, that runs alongside our Sunday Club work.
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