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)	Anthony Graham Buckley

Questions and Replies

Question 1:	What are you views on the 'Future of Church Safeguarding Report' by Professor Alexis Jay released in February 2024?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	In principle I agree with the proposals, it is always a strength to seek wider counsel when needed. It is right for the church to accept that survivors, and sometimes those accused of safeguarding breaches, have not always been treated well. Synod will need to ensure that the

	reference points for the proposed two charities and their trustees are carefully and robustly clarified and in line with upholding the faith, practice and values of the Church of England.

Question 2:	What is your position on 'Living in Love and Faith' and on the inclusivity of LGBTQ+ people in the Church?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	In the church where I serve all are welcome, people of diverse sexual and gender-identities play an active part in church life. I was honoured to be an Advocate for the *Living in Love and Faith* process in the diocese. I found much to commend in these discussions, and I read and listened closely. I feel there are still questions around how recent changes of practice fit with the Anglican heritage of scripture, tradition, and reason, and thus I would want more thinking to be done. Parts of the process last year seemed hasty, and I think we are yet to achieve a sustainable position with regard to governance.

Question 3:	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'?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	It is sad that we have reached the point where this is now a serious possibility. I still believe that more can be done to avoid this coming to fruition, but, if such a move were necessary to ensure many people of good conscience would feel able to stay in the Church of England, then I would support these arrangements.

Question 4:	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?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	As stated in my election address, much of my ministry has revolved around discipling and evangelising young people, and I have written and spoken extensively on this topic. I welcome Synod's commitment and would work to ensure the money is spent well. This includes: Equipping Ministers and Priests to see the potential of the local church in being a blessing to young people and their families. Investing in the long-term, encouraging and resourcing faithful ministers who aspire to build relationships over years. Noting and affirming what is already working effectively in the school and

	university chaplaincy worlds, as well as in churches, and being prepared to learn from one another.