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)	Peter Timothy Greenman

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	The report's focus on survivors is great to see and should, I believe, be central to our safeguarding processes and structures going forward. The report's rigour and desire to address the inequality across dioceses is something I also appreciate. The establishment of the two independent

	bodies seems a wise and fair way to bring uniformity across the whole church. I wholeheartedly agree with the report's call for greater clarity and support for volunteers as they implement safeguarding policy day-to-day, particularly having seen how hard our PSO works. The need for the Church to rebuild trust in this area is undoubted and it seems like this report sets out helpful steps towards this end.

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	The Church is called to radically reflect Jesus' welcome to all, regardless of sexuality, that is undoubted; whoever we are we are invited to come to Jesus. Sadly the Church has often failed in this area. With regards the LLF process, I believe that the official doctrine of the Church ought to be upheld for the sake of clarity and integrity. Clearly a resolution to LLF must be sought soon so as not to absorb all of Synod's time and a pathway to the future be reached swiftly that upholds biblical principles in a compassionate manner.

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	At the moment, it seems clear that LLF has not yet reached a point of consensus on the way ahead and I believe that substantive change is necessary if the church is able to move forward together. The arrangements from the Five Guiding Principles, although helpful, would not, in my opinion, go far enough to maintain church unity over a matter as significant as the doctrine of marriage. It seems like only a more thorough restructuring of the church will enable there to be meaningful progress on this topic without there being further division. Such a move would be to the advantage of churches on all sides of the debate and enable a flourishing of ministry across the Church.

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:	As a full-time lay worker with children, youth and families, this is an area of ministry I am passionate about and feel well placed to offer

120 word limit applies	boots-on-the-ground experience and insight into. In debates and discussions I would be able to voice the thoughts and opinions of real young people with whom I have regular contact, allowing me to speak knowledgeably about the realities of life as a young person today. Additionally, I have undertaken theological study specifically with ministry to children, youth and families in mind. This would enable me to think theologically about ideas to connect with young people rather than simply generating well-meaning but short-sighted programmes or initiatives that attempt to remedy the current lack of engagement.