

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Richard Andrew Lightbown
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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	General Synod needs to be proactive in encouraging dioceses, parishes, and congregations to engage with the recommendations. Funds should be found for an dedicated officer in every dioceses. Regional seminars should be run as part of the continuing development programme, services of lament should be arranged.

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	I am very much a Parish Priest. In my election material I used the term Parish First. I also said that 'we are an ordinary parish, but here's the thing, the ordinary parish is in fact extraordinary.' I am happy with the notion of the mixed economy / ecology but less comfortable with the notion of new mission initiatives being 'outside the usual parochial structure.' I would prefer to see them embedded in the parish structure. I don't have a straightforward answer to the rural question, save to say that the rural church must be considered the equal of any other form of church.

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	A straightforward answer to the first part of the question: an unequivocal 'yes.' To the second part of the question my answer would be more pragmatic. I would like to see change and where change is validated via liturgy – the common language of the church – so I would settle for what I would call 'the Welsh approach.' I would want to see the

	ability for all churches (and I think it would have to be a church rather than individual minister decision) to act in line with their theological understanding.
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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	I absolutely would! I believe that where our wallets, list of holdings in our pension funds etc, are a good indicator of our collective spirituality and mission. I would like to see the Church of England offering grants to churches (and church owned buildings) to help them reduce the carbon footprint. I would also like to see every vicarage equipped with the ability to charge an electric car, and maybe some form of negotiated deal that would allow clergy and church employees to purchase electric cars (and bikes). I would also like to see some central support for managing and promoting green spaces.