

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	The Revd Jeremy Michael MOODEY
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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	As CEO of Clergy Support Trust, I came across cases where the Church's treatment of people from a UKME/GMH background, particularly clergy, has been totally unacceptable. Whether this amounts to 'institutional racism' as asserted by Archbishop Justin is another matter; the Church is not the Metropolitan Police and has at its heart a Gospel message which is anything but racist. My concern is that <i>From Lament</i> will end up as just another report on racial injustice, soon to be forgotten. The reporting timeline for the Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission (three years) is too leisurely, and its remit too broad. General Synod should above all give a clear voice and platform to its UKME/GMH members, including the ten new co-optees proposed.

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	At the heart of Anglican identity in England is a parish system which provides a ministry of presence in every community. The notion of the parish priest as taking responsibility for the 'cure of souls' is part of our DNA as a church. Therefore, the parish must retain its central place in the life of the Church, and communities must be properly consulted in any parish restructurings. But this is not incompatible with a 'mixed ecology' approach which sees non-parochial church plants and other mission initiatives exist alongside parish structures. We need both if we are to see the Church grow and flourish, and indeed 'mixed ecology' is also part of the Church's DNA: 'every church was planted once' (Cottrell).

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	As stated in my Election Address, I start from an orthodox position on marriage, based on the Church's historic and current teaching. I could not therefore in conscience support a motion which permitted same sex marriage. However, I do recognise the need for the Church to be inclusive and welcoming towards LGBTI+ people, and to respond, in a way consistent with Scripture, to changes in society. I would therefore want to see what is proposed first on LLF, and to hear the considered views of our Bishops, who need to show theological and pastoral leadership on such a sensitive topic. My hope is for a way forward which enables people of different views to remain in fellowship and communion together.

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	At Clergy Support Trust I led in introducing a much more robust approach to ethical issues for the charity's £100m investment portfolio, following EIAG guidelines, and I made sure that the charity became an active member of the Church Investors Group. The argument against disinvesting from fossil fuel companies – that you need to stay invested to influence company behaviour – is wearing very thin as the companies continue to pay lip service to climate concerns. Shareholder activism rarely moves these companies: the first climate change shareholder motion appeared at Exxon almost 30 years ago. The Church needs to focus more on practical action to save the environment, and less on arbitrary and unachievable targets (eg 'net zero GHG by 2030').