

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Rev Timothy Norwood
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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	<p><i>From Lament to Action</i> (FLTA) notes that there have been 25 reports on racial justice since the 80s with over 160 recommendations, but “the flourishing of UKME/GMH Anglicans is hard to discern.” We need to move forward more intentionally, viewing diversity as a strength rather than a problem.</p> <p>There are a number of recommendations in FLTA, but the key issue will be implementation, monitoring and accountability. We should look again at central funding for Racial Justice Officers because this will ensure that there are people who focus on the issues. We also need to ensure that the question of racial justice is given high priority in our meetings and activities - much as we currently do with safeguarding.</p>

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	<p>The parish is central to my understanding of the CofE. It is our commitment to ensure that every person and place in the country is prayed for and loved by a faithful Christian community. It is the structure which exists to support our mission.</p> <p>I have sympathy with the “Save the Parish” campaign, because it does seem that we are focussing national investment on a certain range of initiatives.</p> <p>We need new congregations which reach people in contemporary culture, but this needs to be done in a sustainable way. We also need to think more creatively about how we use our resources to support local ministry - for example, by making it easier to fund admin support.</p>

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	<p>I hope that the <i>LLF</i> conversations will enable us to have an open and honest conversation about the different beliefs and perspectives that we have about sexuality.</p> <p>I am in favour of a change in the law which would permit same sex marriage in the Church of England. I believe that this is the right thing to do from a theological and Biblical perspective. I realise that others disagree, but it is a matter of conscience for me and many others.</p> <p>I recognise that there are a range of beliefs in the CofE, so I would want us to respect the personal choice of clergy. Nobody should be required to do things that they disagree with.</p>

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	<p>General Synod has "recognised" the climate emergency and set an ambitious target for the Church of England to become carbon neutral by 2030. In order to achieve this, we will need to invest resources in a systematic transition process. I would certainly support further disinvestment, but also feel we should address the issues in a strategic way.</p> <p>In MK we were able to persuade all three political parties to support the concept of Carbon Fee and Dividend. This approach could shift our economy away from carbon in a way that is socially just.</p> <p>We need to pursue the 2030 target in a determined way, and use our national position to encourage radical change in the nation as a whole.</p>