

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Revd William Pearson-Gee
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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	There is much progress being made in terms of encouraging vocations and appointments from the UKME population. This all takes time and it will take years before newly ordained UKME will have gained enough experience to be considered for high office and other key posts. This is a process that if rushed will only damage the cause as less-qualified candidates are 'parachuted' into senior positions in order to satisfy some sort of quota system. One way GS can promote engagement is with regular updates on the progress that has been achieved against the recommendations and holding dioceses (and itself) to account.

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	The parish is the bedrock of the CofE and it must be protected. With finances under stress it is clear that changes will be necessary but cutting front-line clergy is not the option. New mission initiatives must be encouraged in addition to parishes and not instead of them. Where benefices contain multiple churches this has already been happening and greater support for incumbents as 'missionary leaders' should be provided in the place of some of the more esoteric posts that dioceses have been creating.

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	I very much hope that from the LLF process will come a deeper and a better understanding of both sides of the argument that threatens to tear the CofE apart. I pray that truth and grace will abound. I hold to

limit applies	the orthodox teaching on marriage as being a lifelong monogamous relationship between one man and one woman. I am fully supportive of civil unions for same-sex attract persons but that it cannot be called marriage or blessed. I am committed to listening with respect and with humility.
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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	If we are to speak prophetically and to speak truth to power then we have no choice other than to ensure we put of house in order. We should therefore disinvest from fossil-fuel industries having tried to get them to change. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth is a non-negotiable and all efforts should be made to make the Church carbon neutral. Huge challenges are presented to massive 'impossible to insulate' Grade 1 listed buildings but we have to do our best.