

**Diocese of Oxford  
General Synod Elections 2021**

**Questions to Candidates**

<b>Name of Candidate</b> (please enter name in full)	<b>Peter George Barrett</b>
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**Questions and Replies**

<b>Question 1:</b>	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?
<b>Reply:</b> 120 word limit applies	<p>The church is institutionally racist – I didn’t say that, Justin Welby did!</p> <p>There have been too many church reports on race over the years and too little action. We need to provide safe spaces so that more BAME people will stand for leadership positions (a quota system is not the answer).</p> <p>One specific request: find the money to pay for a Racial Justice Officer in each Diocese.</p>

<b>Question 2:</b>	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?
<b>Reply:</b> 120 word limit applies	<p>There are too many roles within Dioceses that are not parish-related. There needs to be an amalgamation of Dioceses and more resources put back into the parish.</p> <p>Church numbers are in serious decline and we need to encourage new ways of communicating our faith that are rooted in a local understanding of the communities in which we find ourselves.</p>

<b>Question 3:</b>	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?
<b>Reply:</b> 120 word limit applies	<p>I would support it.</p> <p>I want LLF to create safe spaces for my LGBT sisters and brothers where they can use their God-given gifts and be true to who they are. This is an issue of identity and discrimination – not a theoretical discussion.</p> <p>I would encourage all voters to check whether candidates who are using</p>

	'inclusivity' language would support same-sex marriage (I suspect not).
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<b>Question 4:</b>	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?
<b>Reply:</b> 120 word limit applies	I would support it. I'm concerned that the Church Commissioners think net zero can be achieved by 2050, when the Church of England is talking about 2030! However, I am encouraged by the Transition Pathway Initiative launched 18 months ago by the Church of England Pensions Board – do check it out.