

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Casual Vacancy Elections 2024**

Questions to Candidates

Voters were given the opportunity to pose questions which might be put to the candidates, relating to any matters on which they believed a representative of the diocese on General Synod might wish to express a view.

Several suggestions and suggested themes were received, and I have selected Four, as set out below.

I am now inviting all candidates (clergy and lay) to consider the questions and, if they wish, to submit written responses. No candidate is obliged to provide answers to any or all of these, but any written responses any candidate wishes to make will then be posted on the diocesan website.

Please note that if a candidate does not provide any answers, the relevant part of the website will be marked “none provided” and if a candidate chooses not to answer every question, the words “no answer provided” will be inserted for that particular question.

The website will also make clear that this is entirely optional. It is an additional opportunity for you to engage with voters if you wish to do so. I reserve the right to remove any response which might reasonably be considered offensive or prejudicial (though I do not expect that I shall need to do so).

A word limit has been set for your replies of **120 words per question**. Additional words will be cut from the final submission but you could, of course, give a shorter answer.

Please return your completed form to doliver@wslaw.co.uk and copied to sleader@wslaw.co.uk, by **5pm on Tuesday 14 May 2024**. Your submissions will be posted on the Diocesan website, with your Election Address and Video Presentation, on Thursday 16 May 2024 at 5.00 pm.

Darren Oliver
Presiding Officer for General Synod Election
9 May 2024

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	Ayodeji Ocholi Ibrahim Ada AUDU
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Questions and Replies

Question 1:	What are your views on the ‘Future of Church Safeguarding Report’ by Professor Alexis Jay released in February 2024?
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<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I agree with Prof. Alexis Jay about the need to create a ‘person-centred culture’ in which the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.</p> <p>However, It is vital that the experience and understanding already gained by diocesan safeguarding teams isn’t lost in the process of securing operational independence.</p> <p>Significant work remains to benchmark baseline training & certification of staff. Also, funding sources both for ongoing work and historical redress must be secured.</p>
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<p>Question 2:</p>	<p>What is your position on ‘Living in Love and Faith’ and on the inclusivity of LGBTQ+ people in the Church?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I believe the Living in Love & Faith process is a vital tool to help us live well with difference and we need to continue exploring what it means to walk together in unity.</p> <p>I believe that Synod decisions to allow the Prayers of Love and Faith to be used by those clergy who wish, and for Issues in Human Sexuality to be replaced need to be implemented as soon as possible.</p> <p>I will engage with different ways that the church can remain united alongside the LLF measures being brought in, so we can fully focus on God’s mission and ministry to our communities</p>

<p>Question 3:</p>	<p>Noting the Five Guiding Principles in the House of Bishop’s 2014 Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (under which the diocesan bishop can make arrangements for pastoral and sacramental provision for churches who cannot accept the ministry of bishops and priest who are women), would you support similar arrangements being made for clergy and churches on matters arising from ‘Living in Love and Faith’?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>It remains to be seen whether the arrangements made under the 2014 Declaration have been positive all round. The testimony of bishops who are women across the last 10 years suggest otherwise. As such my preference would be to work hard to attain and endeavour to support a provision and settlement which does not lead to a separation amongst people in the Church of England. Yet, I am pragmatic enough to admit that for some, these matters are first-order issues, rather than matters on which Christians can amicably disagree (to use the words of +Steven Croft) as such in the event that my preferred approach is not attainable I would be minded to support similar arrangements as the 2014 Declaration.</p>

Question 4:	Bearing in mind the Diocesan Synod's March 2024 resolution endorsing the need to significantly increase our engagement with young people, families and schools, how would your membership of General Synod help with this?
Reply: 120 word limit applies	I would use my membership of the General Synod to advocate for national policies and provisions which align with the objectives and vision of the March 2024 resolution of Diocesan Synod.