

**Diocese of Oxford
General Synod Elections 2021**

Questions to Candidates

Name of Candidate (please enter name in full)	JULIE PATRICIA DZIEGIEL
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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	This is a huge issue for the CofE. I have been involved in developing legislation which removes barriers to the recruitment of UKME/GMH people to the Church Commissioners, which was passed in the July group of sessions. More such changes will be needed, involving General Synod, as the church's legislative body. But also, GS members must report back from debates and presentations to Diocesan and Deanery Synods and PCCs, to change attitudes at all levels of church, and promote greater involvement of UKME/GMH people everywhere.

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 vital in the CofE, the 'coal face' where the kingdom work happens, and the work of General Synod, and Diocesan Synod, is all about facilitating and resourcing work in the parishes so that the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ can be grown.</p> <p>But this does not mean change is not needed, it is – missional cooperation between parishes and across parish borders will enable our churches to reach people where they are, modelling and sharing Jesus with them. Change is hard, inevitably, but the growth of the kingdom is worth it, particularly in estates and areas of new housing. We cannot expect people to come to us, we must go to them, showing the love of Jesus.</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?
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<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>This is an area where there is much pain within the church. I would support same sex marriage being permitted, as my understanding of the Bible is that there's no barrier to this. However I would want to see provision for those who read the Bible differently, so no one should have to conduct same sex marriages if it is against their conscience.</p> <p>I pray Living in Love and Faith will help us all to be aware of the different perspectives and positions on this issue. I particularly pray that ALL will engage with this work, and that greater mutual understanding will ease some of the pain. We need to work together, modelling Jesus, with respect and love, however costly.</p>
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<p>Question 4:</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Reply: 120 word limit applies</p>	<p>I fully support using the Transitions Pathway Initiative, enabling our investment bodies to engage with companies as 'noisy shareholders' to insist on environmental action. If companies are unresponsive, disinvestment should (does!) follow as a last resort. As disinvestment removes our voice for positive change, it should only be a last resort. I thank God that our investment value is large, so our voice carries substantial weight, increased when we join with others.</p> <p>The challenge immediately ahead is to help parishes embrace the green agenda, and not to be discouraged by the difficulty of working towards historic buildings becoming carbon neutral. Parishes have much to do in the wake of COVID, but the climate emergency needs to be a priority.</p>