

Candidate: Timothy Payne

- 1 *Describe your Anglican identity in three words.*

Love your neighbour

(Moving our **churches** to the **centre** of our **community**)

- 2 *What would be your top three priorities for this coming General Synod if you were elected?*

Inclusion, parish life, social justice in the Church

- 3 *What would you bring to the General Synod which will enhance its culture, reputation and work?*

Honesty – and a work ethic that makes a difference and drives change

Decades of experience of transforming organisations, managing change, marketing & communications and organisational efficiency.

- 4 *How best do you think the National Church could use its significant financial resources to further the 5-marks of mission?*

Funding parishes properly, continuing to support ‘net zero’ initiatives, including eco-friendly improvements to fabric. Mission will not thrive if the Church cannot function properly.

- 5 *What steps do you believe General Synod must take next to ensure robust independent and transparent safeguarding practices across every level of the church?*

Stronger accountability within senior structures, perhaps especially in the House of Bishops -create feedback system from Parishes on Church processes and hierarchy - this should be listened to acted on. The National Safeguarding team must be truly independent and fearless.

- 6 *What is your vision for the rural church and how its life and mission should be supported?*

In a Diocese like Norwich, rural church life is especially important. Resources are too thinly distributed at present – multi-parish benefices are difficult to run for everyone’s satisfaction; there are many calls for more stipendiary clergy – but in addition we should not ignore the tremendously important ministry of Readers/Licensed Lay Ministers and self-supporting clergy.

- 7 *What do you believe the church's role is at this time of climate crisis?*

Setting a better example on the ecological crisis than our current political parties. The Bishop of Norwich is currently driving progress to net zero very well.

8 *In light of the Church of England's From Lament to Action report, and recognising the increasing polarisation in UK public life around nationalism, identity, and migration, what would your contribution be to fostering racial diversity and challenge discrimination in our church?*

I strongly support CofE lines on all forms of social justice and ending discrimination.

9 *What are your views on Project Spire (the Church Commissioners' findings about transatlantic chattel slavery) and the proposal to create a fund for healing, repair and justice?*

Slavery reparation is controversial, even though it's supported by Archbishop Sarah. However:

- 1) The degree of the Church's involvement in 18th century slave trade is not always clear.
- 2) These reparations are going to churches in the third world at a time when many western governments have reduced or ended overseas aid – with some drastic humanitarian results (e.g. cutting US foreign aid estimated to cause millions of child and vulnerable population deaths by 2030).

On balance, there is a fair case for reparations. I suspect the Church Commissioners could manage to fund reparations and be generous to Save the Parish

10 *What is your view about the sacramental ministry of priests and bishops who are women, and do you personally receive their ministry in full?*

I believe the CofE would collapse completely without the ministry of women

11 *What is your view on the current status of the 'House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and the Five Guiding Principles?*

I don't think the argument that 'we need to be a broad church and respect everyone's views' should be used as a reason to continue discrimination against womenor other segments of Christ's body.

12 *What is your view about services of blessing in church after a civil same-sex marriage at (i) a usual service, or (ii) a standalone service, and (iii) same sex marriage conducted in churches (in all cases where the incumbent and PCC are supportive)?*

It's disgraceful that the Church of England has been so indecisive and has not moved forward on these steps. The answer always seems to be 'just wait, its coming'. I've already been waiting 48 years. It's too late for me now, but I owe it to Christ's body & the younger generation to try and encourage change.

13 *What is your view about the ordination of candidates who are in same sex marriages, and the licensing of clergy who enter same sex marriage?*

It would strengthen the ministry of these individuals

- 14 *How do you plan to communicate and consult effectively with the wider electorate?*
My career encompassed marketing & communications. We utilise those skills already for St Nicks Arts Centre and St Nicholas, Swafield (Social Media, Blog, Print, TV, Radio, Posters) and those tools would be leveraged if I were elected to general synod.