

Benjamin John

General Synod Election 2021 – Election of Lay Representatives for the Diocese of St Albans

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but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8



I am delighted to be standing to represent St Albans diocese, being a communicant member at St Andrew's, Chorleywood, to be a voice from a younger generation, many of whom have departed from the faith they were raised in, to encourage the Church of England to be the '**simpler, humbler, bolder Church that is Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped**' (Archbishop Stephen Cottrell) by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, to pursue justice and love mercy, and to call sinners to repentance to receive the wonderful blessed grace that we have freely received and which is freely available to all. I have been a member of the Church of England all my life.



I was born in Nottingham in 1994 and was an active (i.e. loud) member of St Nic's Nottingham up to the age of 3 when my family moved to Chorleywood where we worshipped at St Andrew's Chorleywood. I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home and in a large youth group.

I spent 3 years studying Economics in London where I attended St Luke's Kentish Town where I was involved in the student ministry and PCC. After graduating I briefly worked in Management Consulting, however was convicted for the need for a bold yet gracious Christian voice in public life and in 2018 I joined Christian Concern.

For the last two years I served in Diocesan Synod, PCC and also as a youth leader with teenagers from both church and non church backgrounds.

I have been working for Christian Concern for 3 and a half years, seeking to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ in public life. My work focusses on equipping and empowering young people to step out in faith and witness and contend for justice in society today.

I am passionate about young people and seeing the next generation come through the church, hear the gospel, and flourish through union with Christ. I was previously serving in our youth group for 3 years.

Many young people today, including my generation, dismiss the church as irrelevant or outdated. I believe we have an opportunity as Archbishop Stephen Cottrell says to ***“proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation.”*** We must do this by submitting all things under God and his word, the Bible.

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD 2019-2021

PCC 2019-2021

YOUTH HELPER 2018-2021

PCC (ST LUKE'S KENTISH TOWN) 2014-2015

BAPTISED 2001

CONFIRMED 2018

This Quinquennium

Carbon Neutral by 2030

I wholeheartedly believe the Church has a role to encourage greater stewardship of the planet. My church, where I have been on the PCC for the last two years, has been active in seeking to be an ecochurch. We should guard against this being a distraction, and simply part of the spirit of the age, and use this as an opportunity to point people to Christ.

Living in Love and Faith

The Church Times wrote about my response to LLF here:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/4-december/news/uk/anti-living-in-love-and-faith-video-investigated-as-a-hate-crime>

Parish and Mission

It is important that we continue to retain a local mission with a local outreach. As the church reckons with financial pressures it is important local churches are freed to serve and witness to their communities.

Coming out of lockdown

As someone who has struggled with various aspects of lockdown, it is important that the church is proactive in engaging a traumatised nation by caring and loving.

Social Justice

The church is called to seek justice and speak prophetically to the culture, this means applying God's law-word to society as we speak about issues of race, equality, and justice. As a young person, it can be frustrating seeing the world speak about these issues and often feeling like the church is not using its voice positively to speak hope into these situations.