

Diocese of Bath and Wells  
Election of Laity to General Synod 2021



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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of England stands at a crossroads. So much is changing around us: the pandemic, our climate, the church's position in society. As a result, it can be hard to see where the church fits in. We are called to tell a changing world the unchanging gospel of God's faithful love for all kinds of people. So we must always be asking how we can stay relevant in proclaiming that message. That's why, after prayer and consideration, I'm standing in this election: I think having the younger generation represented in the House of Laity will help us understand the changing needs of our society.

If you'd like to talk to me, I'd be delighted. Please do get in touch by any of the methods above.

## About me

I'm 19, the oldest of four brothers, a nature lover and birdwatcher, and an avid village cricketer. After a year working for a cybersecurity company, I'm about to start reading Arabic and Hebrew at university. I am a volunteer speaker for Wycliffe Bible Translators, which means I help churches learn how they can get involved in supporting this exciting work.

## Church background

I have belonged to St Nicholas' church since moving to beautiful Bathampton six years ago:

- serving briefly on PCC
- helping set up a partnership between my church and Wycliffe Bible Translators
- leading the youth bible study for the last year. It's been a true delight to see the young people growing together as we've prayed and studied Philippians, 1 Samuel, and the Sermon on the Mount.
- helping lead Junior Church for the 7-12 year olds during the pandemic, with a mixture of Zoom calls and, as we emerge from the lockdowns, outdoor games and bible stories

## My convictions

The Church of England is facing several important decisions:

How should the church stay relevant to a rapidly changing society?

- We have truly amazing good news: Jesus suffered for us, to rescue all kinds of people from every kind of sin and suffering, and to give us the true life with him for which we were created. The way for the church to flourish in the modern world is by **finding new ways to tell this timeless message**, which everybody still needs to hear. We can't afford to compromise on this gospel. We must proclaim it to everyone, including those very different from ourselves, winning some and so becoming more and more diverse.

How should the church respond to the crisis of climate change?

- It would be easy to say that dealing with climate change isn't what the church is there for. Indeed, it's true: we do have a greater, eternal hope in the new creation. But in fact, unless someone does something, life in this world as we know it will become impossible. It would be hypocritical if the church said this without **leading the way in being responsible stewards** of God's glorious creation. We can save money in the long run by using renewable energy and improving our efficiency. (For example St Michael and All Angels, Withington, will be saving money within 14 years of becoming carbon negative. <https://bit.ly/3nr9uXg>)

## My commitments

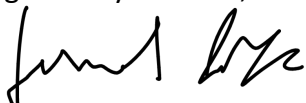
If elected, I will:

- urge the church to **welcome all people**, regardless of age, race, background, gender or sexuality.
- try to get the church to **model faithful stewardship** of our fragile world.
- seek to **represent all the lay people** of Bath and Wells. As a teenager, I can especially represent the concerns and needs of younger Christians.
- be eager and available to **talk to you**, so I can best represent your views to the Synod. I'll always be available to feed back to you, and discuss with you the issues from Synod. My contact details are above.

## In conclusion

It's my privilege to ask you to **prayerfully consider giving me a high preference vote**. But more than that, please **pray for our church**: that the Lord's will be done, that we seek his guidance in all we do, and that he appoint to General Synod men and women who will glorify his name.

Yours gratefully in Christ,



Samuel Frith