

NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!



Why Christians Must Speak Out in the 2024 UK General Election

by DIONNE GRAVESANDE, NCLF Co-Chair

As the 2024 UK General Election fast approaches, it is imperative for Christians to make their voices heard in the pursuit of equality and self-determination. The Christian faith, rooted in the teachings of love, justice and compassion, demands an active engagement in shaping a society that reflects these values.

In a landscape marked by widening economic disparities, racial injustices, and social exclusion, Christians are called to advocate for policies that uplift the marginalised and promote the common good. Silence, in this context, equates to complicity. The biblical mandate to 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves' (see Proverbs 31:8) is more relevant than ever.

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THE POLITICAL JESUS



by Rev Ronald A. Nathan

This year's July 4 general election represents the 21st held in the UK since the landing of the MV Windrush at Tilbury Docks and the arrival of the first wave of Caribbean migrants.

As we engage in political lobbying, let us consider Jesus, who held together the priestly, pastoral, prophetic roles of the Messianic.

We must reject falsely misreading the Bible and leaving no room for advocacy in the life of a praying saint, nor time for protest alongside faith-filled discipleship. Jesus' followers institutionalised His radical message in a movement that addressed the spiritual, social and economic ills of the 1st century AD, and turned their world upside down by exposing the horror of the status quo.

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It has become popular to remove the political significance of Jesus' life and ministry when reading the Bible. This is heretical. It dismisses the far-reaching nature of the Gospel and sets a precedent for ignoring the context within which it was first preached, and establishes an ongoing passivity towards our current contexts.

Jesus' manifesto, revealed in Luke 4:18, demonstrates that the Holy Spirit plays a role in addressing the issues and conditions faced by ordinary people. Jesus was deeply concerned about access to truth-telling and justice for the vulnerable and powerless in society. 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' exposes Jesus' indiscriminate compassion for all, including the poor, the stranger and the immigrant.

Exercising our democratic privilege is an opportunity to 'occupy' the political spaces we are in until our Lord and Saviour comes.

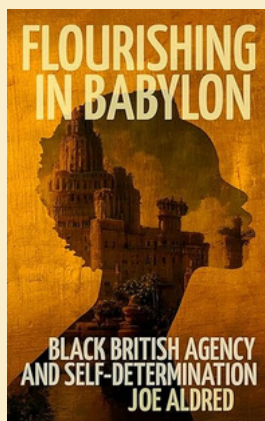
For a round-up of the party manifestos, visit <https://christianconcern.com/news/round-up-understand-the-party-manifestos/>
More resources on page 3

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Christians must not retreat into apathy but step forward as beacons of hope and justice.

Moreover, the principle of self-determination is enshrined in the Christian ethos of human dignity. Each individual, created in the image of God, deserves the opportunity to influence the conditions of their existence. Voting is a powerful expression of this agency, a sacred duty to ensure that governance reflects the will and needs of the people.

The stakes are high. Christians must not retreat into apathy but step forward as beacons of hope and justice. By making our voices heard, we not only fulfil our spiritual obligations but also contribute to the creation of a more equitable and compassionate society. The time to act is now; let us heed the call and vote with conviction and conscience.



BISHOP DR JOE ALDRED TO SPEAK AT KEEP THE FAITH MAGAZINE ONLINE TALK

Author of *Flourishing in Babylon: Black British Agency and Self-Determination*, Bishop Dr Joe Aldred will be speaking on 'The Black Church: An Agent for Change

and Upward Mobility?' The talk, hosted by KTF's Marcia Dixon MBE, will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 29 July.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN JULY



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HOW TO NAVIGATE THE ELECTION LANDSCAPE AS A CHRISTIAN

“Your vote is your right; it is your authority; it is your influence. Use it well.”

Rev Ade Omooba, NCLF Co-Chair

Following the surprise General Election call, the election machines are now in full swing. Here is some information from leading Christian organisations to help you to make informed and godly decisions regarding your vote.



[How should Christians vote in the General Election?](#)

HOW TO PRAY

Vote, pray, and think Christianly this election:

<https://christianconcern.com/resource/vote-pray-and-think-christianly-about-the-election/>

Praying for the General Election:

<https://christianconcern.com/resource/election-2024-prayer/>



[General Election 2024](#)



[A Call to Action](#)

KNOW THE REAL BIG ISSUES

The big issues you will not hear on the news:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/the-big-issues-you-will-not-hear-on-the-news/>



[Know your candidates](#)

PARTY MANIFESTOS

Labour:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-the-labour-manifesto/>

Reform:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-reforms-contract-with-the-people/>

Conservative:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-the-conservative-manifesto-2/>

Lib-Dems:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-the-liberal-democrats-manifesto/>

Greens:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-the-green-party-manifesto/>

Smaller parties:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/do-the-smaller-parties-offer-a-real-alternative-this-election/>

For Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish national parties:

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/responding-to-manifestos-for-scottish-welsh-and-northern-irish-parties/>

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Mobilising the Black Christian Voice: The NCLF Manifesto for Action

by PAUL JOHNSON, blackgifted.com

Black Christians are a significant force in the UK electorate, with the power to influence key issues like education and social justice. As the elections draw nearer, it's crucial to get informed and engaged.

The NCLF Manifesto II (2nd Edition) is a 'manifesto for action', outlining the priorities of Black Christians in the UK. Published in print and various digital formats, it includes recommendations on several key areas, including education, economic development, Information, Communications & Technology (ICT), and political participation.

By outlining these topics, the Manifesto empowers Black Christians to engage more in their community and political process. Whether it's contacting local representatives or registering to vote, the Manifesto provides a roadmap for making your voice heard.

A Manifesto For Action

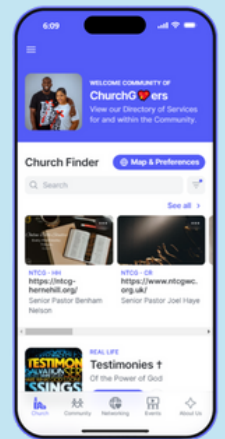
Empower yourself and your community to make a difference together. Explore the resources and join the conversation!

- Visit the NCLF website <https://manifesto.nclf.org.uk>
- Contact ChurchGOers: churchgoers.app@gmail.com



Update on the ICT Manifesto Initiative

The ChurchGOers digital platform is the ICT manifesto initiative that goes a step further, provisioning churches with the resources to plant and grow digital ministries. It offers practical guides, templates, and an extensive blueprint for leveraging technology for online ministry and outreach. The groundbreaking platform features a mobile app of church directories and their services, like foodbanks and warm spaces. A communications network of faith groups and forums, plus a digital ministry knowledgebase of evangelical blogs, articles and video podcasts.



YOUR NEXT ISSUE

The NCLF Newsletter is published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We welcome contributions (500 words max) about news of national interest happening in our churches or elsewhere, national or international. Tell us your events, eg. national conventions, etc.

Key areas of interest are topics in line with our Black Church Manifesto. Submission does not guarantee inclusion. Please include your name and contact details and send to: Jackie Raymond at bereanservicesuk@gmail.com, and cc to info.nclf@gmail.com.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST.

Email us at info.nclf@gmail.com or connect with us on social media



PLEASE DONATE TO NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM (NCLF):

Barclays Bank PLC | Account Number **33315959** | Sort Code **20-41-50**

Thank you!