

# Ken Benjamin

Baptists  
Together  
President  
Nomination

I am grateful for the chance to introduce myself, both with this written candidate information and with this short video [www.baptist.org.uk/kenbenjamin](http://www.baptist.org.uk/kenbenjamin)

**Background:** I am married to Sue, and we have two adult-children both at university. Sue and I grew up in South London and were members of our local Baptist church. I consider myself to have been blessed by being born into a mixed-race family. My Dad was from an Asian background, having been born in Sri-Lanka, and my mum is from a white-British family. Prior to church ministry I was a retail manager and trainer for one of the department stores on Oxford Street and a lecturer, teaching business studies and management skills. I have served as a minister in Chichester Baptist Church for 21 years. I love the church minister role that I have been called to (most days!) **A primary motivation in my standing for consideration for the President role, is a belief that the times that we live in call for us to think beyond our existing patterns and programmes in imaginative and creative ways.** To that end, if elected, I would particularly promote two things: An emphasis on both whole-life discipleship and missional communities.

**Whole Life Discipleship:** I am an Associate Speaker for LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). Their message is that all Christians should go into their everyday 'Frontline' world confident that God can work through them. This fits really well in a Baptist context with our emphasis on the priesthood of all believers. Many of our churches already engage with their ideas and resources and I would seek to grow and develop this link. Whatever we seek to do as churches, whatever events we put on or new initiatives we introduce, they will always fall short of their potential unless the individual followers of Jesus, in our churches, are equipped and confident as His representatives. I believe the messages from LICC hold some keys for us at this time and that there is further room to engage with them in a way that specifically fits our denomination.

**Missional Communities:** We appreciate our Sunday services at our church and try to make them as accessible and relevant as possible. But we also recognise that a growing number of people want to explore faith in a completely different environment. So, for the last six years, we have also run various monthly gatherings in a wide variety of contexts and locations [www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk/alternativegatherings.htm](http://www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk/alternativegatherings.htm) A growing number of Baptist Churches are exploring and trying similar ways of reaching out. There is the potential within the role of President to develop ways to share ideas and seek to encourage any churches who are looking to explore new and additional ways of gathering.

**Further information:** I have written a small 'give-away' book about grief and bereavement, 'Some words for another time', which is used by a number of our churches as a resource for funeral services.

[www.baptist.org.uk/Shop/Products/497365/Some\\_words\\_for.aspx](http://www.baptist.org.uk/Shop/Products/497365/Some_words_for.aspx) With my free time, I enjoy playing golf and tennis as well as time away in our VW camper.

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*The times that we live in call for us to think beyond our existing patterns and programmes in imaginative and creative ways*

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*Whole-Life Discipleship*

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*Missional Communities*

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# Linda Turner

In addition to this written information, Linda has provided a video which can be found at: [www.baptist.org.uk/lindaturner](http://www.baptist.org.uk/lindaturner)

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*From Revelation  
to Elevation*

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Linda spent her childhood in North Shields a fishing town in the North East of England. In 1977 she moved to Bradford, West Yorkshire to undertake her nurse training, moving to Norfolk in 1995 to work as a Forensic Psychiatric Nurse, continuing her education Linda gained a BSc (hons) at the UEA in 2005 eventually becoming the Head of Education and Development for the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust.

A published author, she married Malcolm in 1978, together they have six children, fourteen grand-children and five great grand-children, life is busy and all about relationships, with both family and church.

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*a journey in  
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As a youth worker for 18 years Linda enjoyed the challenge of working with young people and was a co-ordinator for an international team of young people as part of the Operation Mobilisation 'Love Bradford' mission.

She has been involved in both rural and urban outreach work, including being a lead singer in a Christian band, working with the then Yorkshire Baptist Association Evangelist.

Following her move to Norfolk God called Linda to overseas mission where she worked as a volunteer nurse at an orphanage in Zimbabwe, looking after babies and children orphaned through HIV/AIDS. This experience had a profound effect on her relationship with God.

After retirement in 2010 Linda studied at Spurgeon's Bible College in London and was ordained in August 2013 and is the minister of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Martham, Norfolk, where she was Pastor for ten years. Co-founder of Faithful Radio an online Christian radio station she has a heart for reaching new people with the gospel.

Linda is Moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association - a role which she loves, although this will be coming to an end soon.

She also loves to journey with people in the freshness and growth of their developing relationship with God.

If successful in becoming President, Linda's theme 'From Revelation to Elevation' based on John chapter 14, is a journey in recognising that God's character is revealed through Jesus, and Jesus is revealed through us.

The more revelation of God's character in our lives, leads us to a greater elevation in our relationship with him. As the elevation of our relationship with him rises, our ability to do his work and his will also rises.

Linda believes that God wants us to be a prayerful, faithful, believing, healing, teaching, life raising people, to be this, we have to have a revelation of God's character, that leads us to an elevation of our relationship with him.

