

ALICE KEMP

Nominated by: Rev Trudie Wigley (Chair of the House of Clergy)

Seconded by: Rev Ruth Harding (SSOM Convenor)



I am standing for re-election to general synod because I am passionate about the Church of England and the ministry exercised in our churches, communities, chaplaincies, diocese and country, touching hearts and changing lives. I long to see a church in every community where all can belong and flourish.

I would welcome your first or second preference vote

What do I bring?

A love for local churches and for the joyful diversity of the Church of England.

A breadth of experience both in my career and after ordination as an SSOM and chaplain, which means I am deeply committed to a church that is rooted in faith but deeply connected with the real world.

First-hand knowledge of General Synod and the Diocese of Bristol which gives me confidence to speak out and helps me to work within governance structures to bring about change.

A unique voice and perspective, shaped by a diverse vocational journey, ministry as a disabled person, and substantial professional experience outside ordained ministry, all bringing a distinctive voice to conversations.

Who am I?

I came to faith on my 16th birthday and being part of a Christian Community has shaped my life. I have held careers in specialist housing where I worked with people with AIDs and HIV, and in education, where I taught in estate schools before moving into special needs.

I was ordained 16 years ago, and my ministry has been varied and rooted in service. After curacy I spent 11 years as Chaplain at MOD Corsham, and alongside this I was the Diocesan Disability Adviser as a volunteer and more recently as DSS staff. I am now also Dean of Women's Ministry, where I am able to bring perspectives from parishes into Bishop's Staff Team meetings. Alongside this I have held SSOM roles in parish and interim ministry. I also founded and lead a fresh expression for people with learning disabilities called LIGHT. I have been a member of Bishop's Council, the Diocesan Board of Education, the Audit and Risk Committee and my Deanery Leadership Team.

I am married and we have two adult children, both disabled, who have been among my greatest teachers in life. I was primary carer for my son for the first 18 years of his life, who has complex physical and learning disabilities. I am also disabled and neurodivergent myself. When I am not working, I enjoy weaving, crochet, painting and singing with a Military Wives Choir.



National Church Contribution

I have sought to speak faithfully about Bristol and to reflect the breadth of life, ministry and challenge across our diocese in debates including those about mental health and lay conduct. I have supported and voted in debates on clergy wellbeing, pensions, replacement CDM, more rest periods and more. I co-wrote a motion on neurodiversity that highlighted the work being done in Bristol. I have regularly asked questions on a variety of issues including disability, neurodivergence and safeguarding.

As a member of the national Disability Task Group I chair both the Accessible Liturgy and Learning Disability working groups and am a member of the Neurodiversity group. At synod I have jointly led the Accessible Synod group working with synod staff and the Business Committee to make General Synod more accessible for all.

My priorities if re-elected

Representation: I am committed to listening to you and representing your voices on synod. I want General Synod to understand the pressures on parish clergy – both stipendiary and SSOMs - so that decisions are made that support clergy and the places that they serve in, enabling the flourishing of both lay people and clergy so we can work together for the Gospel.

Belonging: I long to see a church that recognises, celebrate and affirms that we are all made in God's image and equally loved by God. I will continue to work for a church where all people are welcome regardless of their age, gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I also recognise that we don't all agree on issues of sexuality and I am committed to working with those with different views to me so that we can bring the work begun in the LLF process to a conclusion.

Safeguarding: Through my own personal experiences and my work life I am committed to continuing to challenge unsafe structures in our National Church by asking clear questions and supporting practices that protect the vulnerable and challenge exclusion. I will continue to push for a truly independent National Safeguarding organisation that will provide both challenge and support for those working in our parishes and dioceses to create a safer church.

Canon reform: Continue campaigning for changes to Canon B17 so we can legally use truly gluten free bread and alcohol free wine in Holy Communion. And to Canon C4.3 to put in protective safeguards for disabled people in the discernment process. These changes would mean that church law better reflects inclusion, pastoral reality and good practice.



“Alice brings a distinctive and grounded voice shaped by her professional life beyond the Church, ministry as a self-supporting parish priest, and her own experience of disability – a breadth of perspective that I believe is a real gift to General Synod and God’s church.” Trudie Wigley

Please do get in touch if you have any questions please get in touch alicekempgs@gmail.com If you would like me to be re-elected please put me as your first or high preference.