



Alison Horsey

Standing for the House of
Laity of General Synod 2026

Proposer: **Kathryn Tucker**, General Synod 2015-2021, Bishops Council, Exmoor Deanery.
Seconded: **Mal Lee**, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod, Somerset South Deanery.

Dear Elector

I am writing to ask you to vote for me in this important election for General Synod.

I love my village church, St Andrew's West Hatch, & our benefice family, the Seven Sowers, just south of Taunton. But year by year I've seen the **increasingly heavy load borne by committed volunteers & the much reduced number of clergy who are giving their all in our rural churches**, and how National Church seems **more and more detached from real life** in our parishes and I feel God is now **calling me to stand for General Synod, to help reverse these trends**.

I became a Christian about 25 years ago. It has taken me years to grow to appreciate our traditional Anglican services. I loved my 6 years at a large charismatic Baptist church: I didn't have to take on any roles, I could simply attend and absorb, and there were many others there my age, and many even younger! But after 6 years, spiritually refreshed and renewed, **God called me back to worship with, & walk alongside, the people who live around me**, hence my return to St Andrew's and the CofE in 2022.

On my Christian journey, **I have learnt so much from so many loving and kind older Christians** who have sadly for us, gone to be with our loving Lord. The workers are now indeed few, and the potential harvest is still plentiful. **It is now my turn** to take the baton and run that race, using all I've learnt from those saints who have gone before me. And being on General Synod would be one way to honour all that these people have taught me: **to improve the church in Jesus' name**, to help it fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples across all nations - **across all our parishes in England, including our rural parishes**.

I also believe wholeheartedly in **a church that welcomes everyone** - Jesus prioritised time with the working class, the poor, the vulnerable, women, the outcast, and He wants us to welcome them now. I support the work of the charity **Together for the Church of England**. Their **Inclusive** Campaign has taught me a great deal about how we can make our churches better places for all.

I am a **fast learner, curious** about how Synod really works, and **keen to work with, and learn from**, people from **all backgrounds** especially those with differing views to my own, to **collaboratively develop effective practical solutions**.

Do get in touch if you would like to find out more about me, & please take the time to vote for whoever you feel will advocate for the issues that are important to you.

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Votes must be in by Tuesday 13th October

My church work includes:

- West Hatch **PCC member** for the past **29 years**, apart from 6 years at a large charismatic Baptist church 2016 -2022.
- **PCC Treasurer** 2001 – 2016, & 2023 to date.
- **PCC Secretary** 1997 – 2000, & 2026 to date
- **Churchwarden** from 2022 to date
- **Co-Founder Trustee & Treasurer** of Benefice Charitable Trust, 2004 to date
- **Lay Worship Assistant** Jan 2026 to date, creating & leading non-traditional services to build up and inspire
- **Open the Book** team member 2014 to date
- **Independent Examiner** of 4 rural churches from 2006 to date
- **Sunday Gang Leader, & Part of Management Team** for Children's Schools & Families Worker 2009-2016
- **Deanery Synod Rep** 2026 to date, Deputy 2023-2025
- **Alpha Course & Home Group leader** 2024 to date
- **And one paid church role:**
Children's Schools and Families Worker (mat leave cover) 2022-2023

My life outside church:

- **Working class, West Country roots** – youngest of 6 children of farm-worker dad and stay-at-home mum. Our house went with dad's job, dad changed jobs a lot until I was aged 11 when we finally settled at West Lydford, near Somerton.
- **1990 to date**, married to Michael, **farming** small 100 acre dairy/now suckler family farm. Hard work, but blessed to work in & with God's creation every day.
- **1994:** Qualified as an **Accountant**.
- **1995 to 2015:** housewife, farmer & stay-at-home mum to our 3 girls.
- **2000 to 2009:** Treasurer of two **local Pre-Schools** (one we very sadly had to close, unviable after government funding changes)
- **2015 – 2022:** Employed as **Part time Auditor**, specialising in **Solicitors**.
- **2022 to date:** Self-employed Part- time **Bookkeeper** for farmers.
- 2010 to 2015, & 2025 to date: **Hand bell ringing**.
- My weekly **swims & Pilates** are good times to pray and reflect, and help control my scoliosis that I've had since my teenage years.
- I love **walking** in the local area taking in the changing seasons; listening to **Lectio 365 App** & all sorts of **music**; and slowly teaching myself to play the **piano**.
- I enjoy catching up with **family & friends**.

A better deal for the local church

The Finances of the CofE are top heavy, with millions of pounds from the Church Commissioners being spent on questionable projects. If elected I will work to ensure **greater focus on resources being used to support the 12,000 parish churches we already have.**

Supporting rural multi-parish benefices

Rural churches are special. They support our village schools, halls, pubs, shops, and from personal experience I can say they are a lifeline to isolated farmers who care for the land around us.

Rural benefices bring local churches together, sharing resources and experience. Our Seven Sowers Benefice Open The Book Team visits all 3 of our benefice primary schools every week, showing the love of God by acting out a bible story – we're by no means professional actors (!), but we bring enthusiasm, joy and hope, and we do it with love for the children (all 300 of them), the school staff & each other.

Valuing Volunteers

I appreciate the **dedicated work** that all volunteers give so freely to keep our churches running. My principle in any decision at Synod would be to make sure **things are kept as simple and effective as possible, always considering the volunteers who work diligently & lovingly.**

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General Synod 2026

An inclusive church for everyone

We are all made in God's image, we are all invited to the Lord's Table. **I fully support women's ministry, equality for LGBT+ Christians, and for Christians from all races and ethnic backgrounds, at all levels and in all roles in the church.** Our churches must be **more accessible to the disabled and neurodivergent people.**

I was shocked and moved when Kat D'Arcy Cumber, Churchwarden at St Nicholas, South Ockenden, and member of Together for the Church of England, recalled an event at General Synod just after she had begun her quinquennium on General Synod back in 2021: General Synod were discussing co-opting Global Heritage Majority members to the House of Laity. Some members used the phrases "slippery slope", "where will it all end", Kat could not believe what she was witnessing, she says it felt like she was a child in the 1980's again. It was such a painful experience that afterwards she sat in tears in Parliament Square.

I will work to ensure General Synod welcomes Global Heritage Majority members. **We are all part of the body of Christ, and without everyone from all walks of life, without every part we cannot fully be Jesus to those around us.**

Improving Care of our Clergy - a joyful, supported priest is the most effective vocations officer for the Church.

The CofE has experienced modest growth in the last few years, but this has not been true for many rural churches. In the past 5 years our Benefice Ministry Team, like many others across the country, has shrunk significantly - we've lost our House for Duty, an Associate Priest and a Lay Reader. **As much as volunteers try to help, we are not filling the void left by less clergy serving in the benefice.** Hence clergy life is tougher than ever - **35% of incumbents exhibit symptoms of depression, 40% of clergy experience chronic illness** (Living Ministry Survey, 2025).

I will do all I can to promote changes that will **protect our frontline clergy from mental & physical exhaustion.**

So why vote for me?

My love of Jesus & the church, & the joy it gives me, is why I spend so much of my free time volunteering for the church.

My lay worship assistant role has shown I am **confident** in preparing & speaking out my message.

The accountant in me makes me pay **attention to detail** and specialising in Solicitors for 6 years means **I know how to read rules & legislation.**

The farmer in me makes me **resilient** with determination to **persevere** until I **get the job done** to the best of my ability.

This combination of my faith, 29 years of church volunteering, and my business experience **makes me an ideal candidate for General Synod.**



Our communities need the church, even those who never or seldom go into the church building, in this troubled world we all need a place we can go for peace & solace, & everyone needs to know they are forgiven, loved & precious to God.

**Don't forget to vote!
Votes must be in by Tuesday 13th October**