



## Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

### Prayers and Resources for Elections

This guide has been prepared as we seek to pray for our Nation and those prepared to stand for election and putting themselves forward to be our elected representatives in Westminster in the General Election to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Scriptures exhorts us to pray for all those in authority, and voting is part of our responsibility as Christians as we seek to be Salt and Light in this world.

#### ***Some Key Dates and Information***

- Deadline for applying for a postal vote, 17:00 on 19 June (this can be done online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>)
- Deadline for applying for a proxy vote, 17:00 on 26 June
- Deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, 17:00 on 26 June

Polling day is on Thursday 4 July, between 07:00 – 22:00.

The electoral commission (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>) has resources on how to vote, voter ID and other information for voters.

The Orkney and Shetland constituency remains the same, however, all the other Westminster constituencies in the Diocese have had boundary changes with some name changes. Interactive maps are available via the House of Commons library (<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/boundary-review-2023-which-seats-will-change/>)

#### ***Some Prayers for Elections***

*For use at the time of an Election to Parliament*

Let us pray for God's guidance in this election.

V. In all thy ways acknowledge him;

R. And he shall direct thy paths.

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all wisdom: Guide and direct, we humbly beseech thee, the minds of all those who are called at this time to elect fit persons to serve in the Parliament of this nation; grant that in the exercise of their choice they may promote thy glory and the welfare of thy people; and to those who shall be elected give, we pray thee, the spirit of wisdom and true godliness. All this we beg for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*[From the Scottish Prayer Book 1929]*

*For Responsible Citizenship or for an Election*

Lord, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and thus serve you faithfully in our generation to the honour of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*[From the Book of Alternative Services, Anglican Church of Canada]*

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United Kingdom (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfil your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*[Adapted from The Episcopal Church BCP 1979]*

***Other Resources (Christian, non-partisan groups)***

***Christians in Politics*** (<https://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk/>) whose mission is “to inspire and encourage Christians to get involved in politics and public life. We believe that decisions are made by those who show up. We strive to put kingdom before tribe and disagree well. Christians in Politics draws together Christians from across the political parties and beyond, and from across the breadth of the church.” They have links to documents on Christian ethics and different political parties and signpost links to the Christian groups within different political parties at <https://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk/political-parties>

***Joint Public Issues Team*** (<https://jpit.uk/elections>) who are churches working together for Peace and Justice

***Tearfund*** (<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/its-election-time>)

***Theos*** (<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/>) has reports on religion and the election, including How Religion Will Influence the 2024 General Election.