

To: All Diocesan Secretaries

The Reverend Alexander
McGregor

*Head of the Legal Office,
Chief Legal Adviser to
the Archbishops' Council
and the General Synod
and Official Solicitor to
the Church
Commissioners*

6th March 2026

Dear Diocesan Secretary

**General Synod
Promulgation of Amending Canon No. 44**

I enclose a copy of Amending Canon No. 44 which was enacted at the February group of sessions of the General Synod. I also enclose a copy of the Instrument of Enactment.

The Amending Canon should be proclaimed at the next meeting of the Diocesan Synod. There is no need for the Canon or the Instrument of Enactment to be read out. Instead, the following form of words is suggested for use by the Chair:

“I give notice that, at its February 2026 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 44 be made, promulgated and executed.

“Amending Canon No. 44 amends Canon C 8 to include provision for the exercise of ministry by Armed Forces chaplains.”

Copies of this letter and its enclosures go to your Diocesan Bishop and your Diocesan Registrar.

Yours sincerely

A S McGregor

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

AMENDING CANON NO. 44 (MINISTERS' EXERCISE OF MINISTRY)

1. Canon C 8 (ministers exercising their ministry) is amended as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3.
2. In paragraph 2, after sub-paragraph (d) insert—
 - “(e) A minister who is licensed under section 2B of the Extra-Parochial Ministry Measure 1967 may perform, in the minister’s capacity as Armed Forces chaplain, the offices and services specified in the licence without any further authority from the bishop of the diocese in which those offices or services are performed.”
3. In paragraph 4, after “religious community” insert “, or as an Armed Forces chaplain,”.

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS ECCLESIASTICAL, maturely treated upon by the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England in their Synod begun at Westminster in the Year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-one and in the seventieth year of the Reign of Our Late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory and continued in being upon the Accession of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His Other Realms and Territories King Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith being a Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 44 (Ministers’ Exercise of Ministry)” which received His Majesty’s Royal Assent and Licence on the second day of February Two thousand and twenty-six

WE, being the Presidents, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of York and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity of the said Synod do hereby declare and testify Our Consent to the said Canon entitled “Amending Canon No. 44 (Ministers’ Exercise of Ministry)” And in testimony of such Our Consent We have hereunto subscribed our names as hereafter follows:

DATED this tenth day of February in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-six and in the fourth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third

+Sarah Cantuar:

PRESIDENT

+Stephen Ebor:

PRESIDENT

Luke Miller

PROLOCUTOR

Kate Wharton

PROLOCUTOR

Jamie Harrison

CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

Alison Coulter

VICE-CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

A.S. McGregor

REGISTRAR