

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

14 March 2026

Single Friendly Church

There will be a brief introductory video shown at Synod to introduce this topic, which will be one of the substantive items for discussion at the online meeting of Synod on 13 June 2026 when we will welcome Liz Dunbar from the Single Friendly Church organisation to tell us more about their single friendly audit and the resources they can share to help your church be more welcoming to those who come alone.

In preparation for that discussion, it would be helpful if you could discuss this issue within your parish and, in particular, consider your responses to the four questions below.

The feedback you get from your individual sessions will inform the discussions which will take place in June.

1. If you think of those who have never been married, those who are separated, divorced or widowed and those who are single in church (married but partner does not attend for different reasons), does the 40% figure ring true for your congregations and in the wider community?
2. Why might some church leaders be "frightened" or "too proud" (as mentioned in the video) to open up discussions about singleness?
3. Why do you think some single Christians have stopped attending church?
4. How single friendly do you think your church is right now?

**The Ven Janet Mackenzie
Archdeacon of Hertford**