

Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE

Alison Gowman is the Alderman for the Ward of Dowgate and served as Sheriff of the City of London from September 2021 - 2022.

Alison has practised as a solicitor in the City of London all her working life, specialising in commercial property at international law firm DLA Piper. She was the first female partner at her firm and combined a senior partner role with many outside roles including as a founder Chair of The Law Society Conveyancing Quality Scheme.

She first represented the Ward of Dowgate as a Common Councillor from 1991 - 2002 and thereafter as the Alderman of the Ward. Alison has served on most of the City's committees and is currently a member of the Bridge House Estates Board (Chair of the grant making arm, City Bridge Trust from 2016 - 19) as well as the Markets, Investment and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committees. She is a Governor of the London Museum and Museum of London Archaeology. She has also served as Chair of the City of London School for Girls and as a member of the Police Authority Board for 12 years, chairing the Professional Standards Subcommittee. She is a Magistrate, sitting as a presiding justice, on the Central London Bench.

Alison is the City Corporation's lead member for climate action biodiversity and urban greening. She was a founding Director of the Green Finance Institute and promotes green finance. She founded and chairs the Livery Climate Action Group that is addressing climate issues and net zero with 105 Livery Company and related members.

Alison is a member of the Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral and a lay Canon.

She chairs the Active City Network, a business network that encourages safe walking and cycling in the City to create healthy streets and promote wellbeing. She is a trustee of Trust for London, an independent charitable foundation that aims to tackle poverty and inequality in London. She is also on the Council of the London Guards.

Her interest in the City has led her to write about the workings of the Civic City and these are now published in a book "The City of London: who, what, why?"

Alison was Master of the Plaisterers' Livery July 2019 - 2020. She was Master of the Glovers' Livery in 2013 – 2014 and is a Liveryman of the Solicitors' Livery. She is on the Court of the Chartered Surveyors' Livery and an Honorary Liveryman/Member of the Upholders, Fuellers, Constructors and Management Consultants. She was President of the City Livery Club 2009-10 and Chairman of the Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch) 2017 – 18.

Alison lives in the City and enjoys the rich opportunities of the cultural life on offer and enjoys country walking and cross country skiing in Norway. She was awarded the CBE in the King's Birthday Honours 2024.