



ALDERMAN ALEXANDER BARR

**Cordwainer Wardmote: re-election address
9 September 2026**

**My Lady Mayor's Aldermanic Representative; Town Clerk; the
Electors of Cordwainer Ward:**

It is always a privilege to stand before you in this church - a church whose bells have marked the life of this great ward, and Britain's folklore, for centuries, and whose wardmote is one of the oldest continuous acts of civic self-government anywhere in the world.

Not many places in the world can hold an election in a place where the same election has been held, more or less, since the twelfth century. It is a rare thing, and it is worth pausing on.

This is also the church that witnessed the baptism of my five-times-great-grandmother in 1741 - her family lived in this ward.

With all that history, I am honoured to be returned as your Alderman for Cordwainer Ward - a ward I have represented as a Common Councillor since 2017, and as your Alderman since 2022.

I am grateful to the City for the care taken over the election process, and to *every one of you* for your continued confidence.

I remain conscious that this office is not an individual one. I serve alongside Sir Michael Snyder, Jamel Banda and Amy Horscroft - colleagues from whom I learn constantly, and whose combined work for this ward far exceeds what any one of us could do alone.

It is also a role that stands on the work of ALL Cordwainer's Common Councillors and Aldermen *who have come before us* - a tradition of dedication we are proud to continue.

My key priorities for the term ahead are unchanged:

First, to keep the City of London globally competitive - a place where the world still chooses to invest, to work, and to build.

Second, to champion Cordwainer's businesses and to ensure that the voice of this ward is properly heard at our flagship institutions - Guildhall, Mansion House, the Old Bailey.

And third, to support opportunity, skills and talent, so that the City's success is open to the widest possible range of people who might contribute to it.

Each of these is a practical undertaking, and I am accountable to you for their delivery.

The office of Alderman is an old one, and as I see it, our role is to hold something in trust on behalf of others, and to give it back in better order than we found it.

My intention is to also serve you and this City in *higher civic office*, and that starts, subject to election at Common Hall next year, as the City's Aldermanic Sheriff 2027 to 2028. And particular thanks to those in the room who have supported me in this ambition.

Lastly - and they are not in the room, but I do want to thank *my family* and *my closest friends* for their support through the recent election process.

All the above is our work.

And I am glad to continue it, in your service.

Thank you.