

Dean of St Alban Role Specification

Purpose of the role

To lead the life and work of the Cathedral Church of St Alban and to share with the Diocesan Bishop and other senior colleagues in the oversight of the Diocese of St Albans and in supporting its vision of 'Living God's Love'.

Main responsibilities

These main responsibilities are common to all Deans in the Church of England:

- As Dean and senior priest in the Diocese, to share with the Bishop and other senior colleagues in the oversight of the Church's mission, and to be a member of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop's Staff Team and the Diocesan Synod;
- As head of the Cathedral foundation and its principal dignitary after the Bishop, to preside over the Cathedral Chapter, with it to direct the life and work of the Cathedral, and to take emergency decisions on behalf of the Chapter when circumstances require;
- To represent the Church in public life across the diocese and county, to grow partnerships with faith and secular institutions, and to contribute to their intellectual, social and theological capital;
- To preside over the College of Canons, working with the Cathedral Council and other statutory bodies, and in collaboration with the Chapter to ensure sound governance across the Cathedral;
- To exercise leadership in the Cathedral's liturgy, preaching and pastoral care, to develop healthy team working, and to be personally committed to its pattern of daily prayer;
- To lead the mission and outreach of the Cathedral, including the presentation and interpretation of its heritage;
- With the Chapter, to have oversight of the Cathedral's development and to lead in securing funds for its long term future;
- To ensure that the Cathedral's operations are properly managed, including staff, finance, compliance and the care of the fabric;
- To ensure that the constitution and statutes are faithfully observed;
- To exercise responsibility for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, the provision of pastoral care of survivors, and creating a culture in which all will flourish and which is coherent with the safeguarding policies of the Church of England.

Opportunities and challenges for the next Dean of St Albans

The next Dean will have the opportunity to build on all that has been achieved in, by and through the Cathedral community in recent years, and in particular to:

- Lead the Cathedral Community as it reviews its vision and strategy for mission and ministry, building on the momentum of 'Alban, Britain's First Saint' and in light of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the Cathedral, Diocese and wider communities;
- Grow and broaden the congregations, building diverse and inclusive communities of faith and championing the Cathedral's work with families, children and young people;
- Develop the ways in which the Cathedral contributes to the *Missio Dei* as expressed in the Five Marks of Mission (particularly deepening our voice and action in addressing social justice and environmental issues), and build the confidence of the congregations to engage in mission;
- Strengthen the Cathedral's engagement with parishes, schools and chaplaincies across the whole Diocese;
- Increase the Cathedral's presence in the wider community, building relationships with civic leaders in the city and counties, creating and taking opportunities to speak prophetically into the public square and serve the common good;
- Ensure that new governance arrangements are implemented in line with the Cathedrals Measure, and that safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is embedded in every aspect of Cathedral life.

Key criteria

The panel are looking to appoint someone who demonstrates these qualities and characteristics:

- Respecting and drawing on the traditions of St Albans Cathedral, is nourished by the daily rhythm of cathedral worship, and is open to embracing and learning from other expressions of Christian worship;
- Is an excellent preacher and teacher, able to equip people of all ages in their discipleship;
- Brings experience of growing a church numerically and spiritually;
- Has a vision for how Cathedrals can contribute to the Five Marks of Mission;
- Brings experience of equipping the whole people of God for their fields of mission, and encouraging everyone to flourish in their vocations;
- Has led and developed effective teams of clergy and lay people, and is skilled at providing constructive challenge and support;
- Enjoys encounters with people, investing time in building relationships with others and demonstrating hospitality;
- Has the gravitas and humility to build strong partnerships with business, civic and community leaders for the benefit of the Cathedral and wider society;
- Able to be an ambassador for the Cathedral across the Diocese, nationally and internationally, encouraging others to support the ministry of the Cathedral (including via fundraising when necessary).