

Diocese of St Albans

The Diocese of St Albans is part of the Church of England and home to more than 1.6 million people. It includes Bedfordshire, Luton, Hertfordshire and parts of the London Borough of Barnet.

- It ranges from small rural communities to major urban centres like Luton, Bedford, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, and Stevenage and includes suburban areas on London's outer reaches.
- The region has many sites of historic interest, and is crossed by ancient British and Roman routes including the Icknield Way and Watling Street.
- Today, the M1 and A1(M) provide rapid access through the diocesan area. London Luton Airport is rapidly developing in its passenger handling, and railway connections across the area are excellent, with several routes running directly to London.
- These communities are served by some 336 parishes, more than 400 churches and over 130 church schools.
- Across the Diocese many thousands of Christians seek to express their faith in their daily lives - in their families and at home, at their place of work and in their local communities.
- Some 350 clergy and around 300 Readers and other lay ministers offer spiritual and pastoral care, and help people to explore the significance and the challenge of the Christian faith in today's world.
- The Anglican churches work to develop close links with churches of other Christian denominations, and to build understanding with members of other faiths.
- The Diocese also has close ties with churches across the world, particularly in the Caribbean and in Continental Europe, especially Italy, Sweden and Germany.
- The Diocese is overseen by the Bishop of St Albans, supported by the Bishops of Bedford and Hertford, and by the Archdeacons of Bedford, Hertford and St Albans.

The Diocese works through a Synodical structure and statutory boards. In addition two non-statutory Boards, the Board for Church and Society and the Board for Christian Development, oversee policy for mission and ministry respectively, although there is increasing overlap and collaboration. The Diocesan vision *Living God's Love* seeks to focus through three priorities: *Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities and Making New Disciples*. *Mission Action Planning* (MAP) is being introduced to enable parishes to plan effectively for their engagement in mission and ministry. The diocese is committed to spiritual and numerical growth and the parochial clergy are key leaders in this task.

Pastoral Policy

The Diocesan Pastoral Committee works to a policy approved by the Diocesan Synod. The policy seeks to encourage church growth and, through a deployment formula, allocates resources across the diocese in order to provide leadership in mission and ministry in all the communities of the diocese. The policy encourages collaboration and the Diocesan Local Ministry Scheme provides support and training for collaborative working among clergy, Readers and lay leaders.

Diocesan Office

The Diocesan Office is based in St Albans and houses our administrative and support staff. A Parish Shares Scheme enables parishes to contribute their share of diocesan costs, the priority being to maintain mission and ministry across the whole diocese. Whilst recognizing that there can be some occasional, genuine financial difficulties, clergy coming to the diocese are expected to encourage their parishes to pay the Parish Share, and to give realistically and sacrificially, teaching and preaching this as a gospel imperative.

Vacancy at Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

This vacancy is for the post of Rector. The **Stipend** from 1 April 2019 is £27,438; a **Resettlement Grant** of £2,477 and, if appropriate a **First Appointment Grant** of £2,477 is payable. **Removal Expenses** are payable, normally based on the lowest of three estimates. The appointment will be on Common Tenure with a Statement of Particulars (SOP) and a Role Description. The SOP will be issued within one month of taking up the appointment and the Role Description will be written within 3 months of taking up the appointment.

In accordance with Canon C25, the Bishop of St Albans requires every stipendiary parish priest to live in their benefice in the house provided for the purpose. The Bishop has discretion under Canon C25(A) to make an exception to this requirement. He may do so in the case of ordained clergy spouses and partners if one of them is already resident in a provided house within convenient reach of the other's benefice. If such an exception is made a second house will not normally be provided, though of course any priest in such a situation will need a proper base in their benefice. This is to be provided by negotiation with the benefice itself in consultation with the Archdeacon on behalf of the Diocese.

Support

Any one appointed to a position in the diocese of St Albans can expect support from the Bishop and his senior staff. Ministerial Development Review is conducted every two years by a review consultant chosen from an approved list. In addition, the diocese supports a scheme known as Support in your Ministry (SIM) which is confidential and independent of, but complementary to, Ministerial Development Review. The Diocesan Initiatives in Spirituality provides courses in spiritual direction, maintains a list of Spiritual Directors, and compiles the monthly Calendar of Intercession whereby we pray for each other and the wider Church and community. Rural Deans and Deanery Chapters provide the immediate local support, and clergy are expected to give a high priority to the attendance at chapter meetings and Deanery Synod.

Ministerial Development

Regular support for ministerial development is given in a number of ways. All clergy receive an annual training allowance and a book grant. Every two years there is the Bishop's Day Conference and every year there is an Archdeaconry Study Day with invited keynote speakers and seminar leaders. An Ecumenical Study Day is held every two years. Sabbatical leave for all clergy is available on a 10 year rolling programme and funding is provided. Further study is encouraged and, to foster this, post-graduate bursaries are available.

Further details – please visit the diocesan website: www.stalbans.anglican.org

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