



APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR

The Bishop of Winchester is seeking to appoint a new Diocesan Chancellor with effect from the early 2026.

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER

The Diocese of Winchester came into existence in AD 635 when the great missionary Diocese of Dorchester, founded by St. Birinus in 634 for the Kingdom of Wessex, was subdivided into the Sees of Sherborne and Winchester. The Diocese consists of about two thirds of the County of Hampshire (excluding Portsmouth and the area immediately to its north and north-east) and most of Bournemouth in the County of Dorset. Stretching from the beaches of Bournemouth to the edges of Surrey suburbia, and from the River Hamble to the outskirts of Newbury, the area covers 1048 square miles with a population of 1.27m. Whilst much of the diocese is rural there are significant urban concentrations in Southampton, Eastleigh, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Andover and Basingstoke.

The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen is the Bishop of Winchester, supported by the Right Reverend Rhiannon King, the Suffragan Bishop of Southampton and the Right Reverend Kelly Betteridge, the Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke. There are two archdeaconries; Bournemouth archdeaconry in the south and Winchester archdeaconry in the north.

WALKING THE WESSEX WAY

Since taking up his appointment as the Bishop of Winchester in October 2023, Bishop Philip has set out his vision for the Diocese through 4 lenses:

Serving – Christlike engagement with our communities, bringing peace, hope and reconciliation.

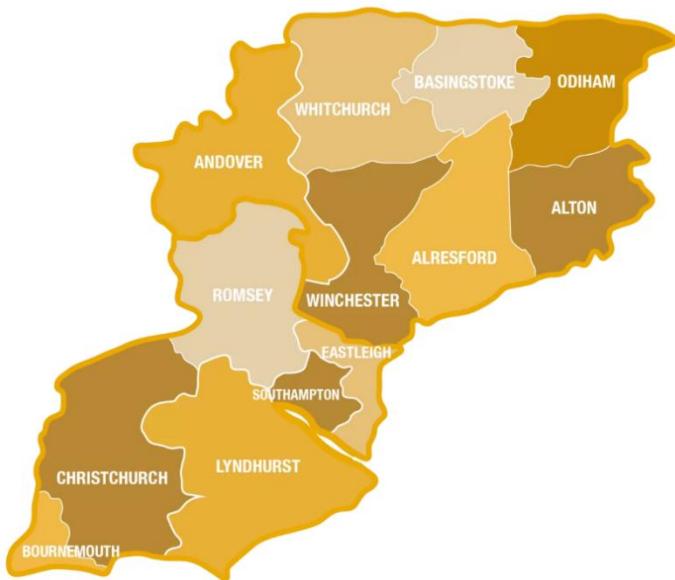
Learning – deepening our discipleship as followers of Christ.

Growing – the renewal of the Church as the Body of Christ.

Loving – making the loving presence of Jesus known in our midst, as his body.

CONTEXT & CHALLENGES

The Diocese consists of 13 deaneries, 126 benefices, 229 parishes with 351 churches in both urban and rural contexts.



- 70 churches Grade 1
- 92 churches Grade II*
- 114 churches Grade II
- 83 churches not listed
- Also 8 churches on the At Risk Register

The Diocesan Synod has adopted a Net Zero Route Map with an ambitious goal of reaching net zero by 2030.

Further information can be found online at [About Us - Diocese of Winchester](#).

PRINCIPAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Diocesan Chancellor will act as the independent Judge of the Diocesan Consistory Court. As such he/she will oversee legal issues across the Diocese, especially those which relate to the use of and reordering of church buildings and land, applications for grave reservations, exhumations and other legal matters. He/she will work closely with the Diocesan Registry, the Archdeacons and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- The appointment is for a named individual, but it is anticipated that the person appointed will wish to appoint a Deputy Chancellor to assist him/her in the performance of his/her duties, subject to the approval of the Bishop.
- The Diocesan Chancellor is expected to provide the professional services set out in The Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018. The Informal retainer for this work is paid in accordance with the recommendation in gs 2384x paragraph 26, set at 14% of the Diocesan Registrar's retainer, and in 2026 this is £17,975. The retainer covers the remuneration for the Chancellor, any Deputy, secretarial and assistant support as well as all office overheads.
- There may be exceptional circumstances, particularly when the Bishop or senior staff or the Registrar may need urgent response to business. Evening and weekend work may be required on rare occasions.
- The Chancellor will be an ex officio member of the Diocesan Synod.
- A Chancellor's appointment ceases on resignation in writing to the Bishop, or upon attaining the age of 70, as is more fully set out in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- The Diocesan Chancellor is appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and will be a person who holds or has held High Judicial office, or who holds or has held the Office of Circuit Judge or is a barrister or solicitor who has the qualifications required for holding that office.
- It is anticipated that the Chancellor may already hold or have held the role of Chancellor of another Diocese or will have acted as a Deputy Chancellor.
- If a Lay person is to be appointed, the Bishop must be satisfied that that person is a communicant member of the Church of England.
- The Chancellor will:
 - (a) Have expertise in Ecclesiastical Law
 - (b) Have judicial experience or similar experience
 - (c) Be familiar with the online faculty system of the Church of England
 - (d) Be a wise advisor to the-Diocesan Advisory Committee and Diocesan Registry
 - (e) Be able to communicate by email/ text and phone and Teams / Zoom as needed and be reasonably accessible
 - (f) Have the ability to think creatively and pastorally
 - (g) Have sensitivity, wisdom, patience and sound judgement
 - (h) Be able to discharge his or her Judicial duties conscientiously and independently, adjudicating on matters in the Consistory Court.
 - (i) Be required to take and subscribe the prescribed Oath of Allegiance and the Judicial Oath and (if a Lay person) a Declaration of Assent.

For an informal conversation about the position please contact the Diocesan Registrar:

Mrs Sue de Candole, Batt Broadbent Solicitors 01722 432390 / sue.decandole@battbroadbent.co.uk

HOW TO APPLY

- Closing date is 9th March 2026.
- A CV and covering letter of application should be sent to kate.seagrave@winchester.anglican.org, the Bishop of Winchester's Chaplain.
- Interviews will be held on 9th April 2026 at Old Alresford Place SO24 9DH
- The interview panel will consist of: the Bishop of Winchester, the Archdeacon of Winchester, the Diocesan Secretary plus the Chancellor of another Diocese.