



May 2023





Canon Diocesan

ROLE SUMMARY

A priest with at least six years in holy orders who will play a part in the work of the Cathedral especially providing linkage between diocese and Cathedral with a part-time executive portfolio to be agreed depending on skills and experience.



FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF CHESTER

Chester Cathedral is a jewel in the crown of the north west of England, a thriving Christian community, and a beating heart of prayer in the city and Diocese of Chester.

The Cathedral community and its buildings provide a setting that is hospitable and welcoming for a wide spectrum of people to pray, worship, and encounter the rich mystery of faith in Christ. It is the seat of my own ministry and where we can demonstrate the unity of the whole people of God across the diocese in worship and mission. I look to the Cathedral to be an exemplar of good practice, learning and innovation that is of help to other churches. The post of Canon Diocesan is crucial to the Cathedral's ability to contribute to the diocese.

I very much look forward to working with the one whom God is calling to serve in this role.

With my prayers for all involved in this process.

+Mark
Bishop of Chester



INTRODUCTION FROM THE DEAN

Thank you for considering the role of Canon Diocesan at Chester Cathedral. I hope that this brochure helps you understand us and what we are looking for in a new colleague sufficiently for you to discern whether this may be for you or not. If what we have written appeals to you, and looks like it is a good fit for the person God is making you to be, then please fill out an application form so that we also can consider what you offer.

Chester Cathedral is an exciting place to live and work. We have a strong sense of purpose and mission and seek to be of service to the Bishop and Diocese of Chester, our region and the world. The Cathedral is present both in our physical location and through a strong online offer which has a growing following.

The Cathedral is in the process of reconstituting its governance structures in line with the Cathedrals Measure 2021. We expect to have completed this process and recruited the reformed Chapter in the first quarter of 2023. In late 2023 we will review our strategic plan with the Chapter.

The current strategic plan has identified the need to build creative relationships with the diocese and support the work of the Bishop. This is a theme we hope the new Canon Diocesan will be able to develop as a priority.

We currently summarise our purpose in this way: **DISCOVERY, ENCOUNTER AND FAITH**

Chester Cathedral has been built by generations of people expressing their Christian faith through craftsmanship. The Cathedral stands in the Benedictine tradition of hospitality and welcome. It continues to be a living and working church where diverse people can gather to worship God and out of which a faithful community seeks to offer loving service to society.

Visitors to Chester Cathedral will find at first sight a magnificent building and an awe-inspiring place filled with beauty. On second glance they may begin to appreciate some greater significance in what they see. The more opportunity people are given to discover the stories of this place at their own pace and in their own way, the more they will find.

The Cathedral is not only filled with things, however. This is a place where people gather and do some journeying in company with one another. It is easy to get lost, or feel lonely in any community. If we are to be a place of encounter then every person who visits will need to feel valued and respected. Furthermore, this is a sacred space in which there is a real sense of the Kingdom of God. Visitors who want it should find space simply to be quiet and think.

The opportunity to discover something new may lead to a first step through the doors. Encountering others who work and gather here and encountering God can follow. For some there may be a further step of faith still to be taken. Through invitation to worship, faithfulness to the Gospel and confident witness to Jesus Christ we need to help those who come to inquire about or explore Christian faith.

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Dean of Chester

OUTLINE ROLE DESCRIPTION

As a Residentiary Canon:

- To provide motivational and inspirational leadership whilst also being a strong team player among colleagues
- To support the flourishing of the Cathedral in its connections to all its stakeholders, especially those within the diocese
- To attend the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer as often as is practical
- To lead and preach on occasion
- To take a share of being in residence which is normally allocated quarterly as a pro-rata share between all residentiary clergy on a whole-week-at-a-time basis
- To undertake annual Professional Development Reviews with the Dean and to attend regular management meetings

Specific responsibility will depend on skills and experience, but could include:

- Ministry team development
- Congregational pastoral care
- Community development and engagement projects
- Developing parish and diocesan co-working



PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed will be able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

- A person of vibrant and Christ-centred faith able to communicate the Gospel in a credible, articulate and embodied way
- A lively, disciplined and rich life of prayer and worship which values the Daily Office but is open to the breadth of the contemporary Church of England
- Experience and enthusiasm to empower all God's people to develop their faith and discipleship
- Having served at least six years' in holy orders
- An instinctive heart for mission and is excited about the opportunities cathedrals have today to connect to a wide range of people
- Ability to work flexibly and as part of a team being a genuine team player who can give and receive constructive observation and help all to realise their full potential and who can instil confidence in others
- A proven and engaging preacher able to adapt to different occasions and contexts and who values the priority of preaching and study of scripture and theology
- Willing to learn, grow and change under God in the joys and challenges of Cathedral ministry and leadership

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

The Dean, **Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford**: Chair of Chapter in relation to Residentiary Canons' governance responsibilities and Line Manager in relation to specific executive (worship and spirituality) responsibilities.

The Cathedral Leadership Team, chaired by the Dean and which includes:

- **Kevin Baxter**, Communications Director
- **Revd Canon Jane Brooke**, Vice Dean
- **Revd Canon Rosie Woodall**, Canon for Worship and Spirituality
- **Carolyn Bruce**, Executive Director
- **Suzi Humphries**, Executive Assistant to the Dean
- **Sharon Scarlett**, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer
- **Jon Turley**, Commercial Director

TERMS

- The Canon Diocesan lives on the Cathedral Estate at 11 Abbey Street, Chester CH1 2JF, a three-storey Georgian house with off-street parking and townhouse garden. Public rooms and external decoration is arranged by and at the expense of the Cathedral Chapter
- The resident is responsible for the decoration and providing curtains for all other areas of the house
- The Canon Diocesan may have a designated desk in the Cathedral Offices currently housed in 9 Abbey Square



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

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chestercathedral.com