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The Archdeacon of Cleveland

About the Role

Introduction

The Archbishop of York, in collaboration with the Bishop of Whitby and the Diocesan Secretary, is seeking to appoint a new Archdeacon of Cleveland. The current archdeacon, the Venerable Dr Amanda Bloor, will retire at the end of March 2027. It is hoped that the new archdeacon will begin in April 2027, with an opportunity for an informal handover where possible.

Archdeacons' priestly, pastoral, and teaching roles are fundamental to their ministry in the diocese. Alongside the bishops, they are called to be leaders in mission and to facilitate and stimulate growth. Working with the York Diocesan Leadership Team (YDLT), they help to shape the culture and direction of the diocese.

Archdeacons must be confident in enabling and resourcing the Church's structures to serve God's mission. They must be self-motivated and resilient in nurturing their own spiritual growth, particularly in a role that is not primarily focused within a specific worshipping community. The role requires clear communication, including attentive listening, empathetic engagement across different contexts and cultures, and a strong sense of calling to support the work of others.

Being an archdeacon is a role of paradox. We are seeking a self-starter who is collaborative to their core; a woman or man who combines a high regard for excellent processes with the flexibility and creativity to do things differently when the context requires it; and someone who can see the bigger picture while also paying close attention to detail.



The congregation at Holy Trinity, North Ormesby in Middlesbrough (the third most financially deprived parish in the Church of England)



There might be lots of time in the car, but the commute isn't too shabby (this being the North York Moors)

The Diocese of York

The Diocese of York is a seedbed of early Gospel witness and of the Church's beginnings in this land. Across the diocese's three archdeaconries, many local saints of national significance are honoured and remembered. They offer us both a deep and rich history and inspiration for a dynamic and missional future.

In the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, this heritage is embodied in the 1,400th anniversary, in 2027, of the baptism of Hilda of Whitby by Paulinus; the legacy of St Cedd and his mortal remains in

the ancient crypt at St Mary's Church, Lastingham; and the ruins of Whitby and Rievaulx abbeys, to name just a few examples.

Geographically, the diocese stretches from the Humber to the Tees, and from near the A1 to the Yorkshire coast. Covering 2,670 square miles, it is the largest diocese in England by area, with a journey of more than two hours from north to south. It is the 14th largest in terms of population, serving around 1,457,000 people.



The recent licensing of a priest on the Moors who has moved from interim to permanent ministry in the benefice.

The A1 and A19 run north to south, the M62 serves Hull, and rail connections are provided by the East Coast Main Line, Northern, Hull Trains, and TransPennine Express.

The distribution of the population varies considerably. Although 76% of the diocese's parishes are in rural settings, more than 60% of its population lives in urban areas. This diversity is particularly visible in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, which includes both the whole of the North York Moors and *Teesworks*, Europe's largest brownfield site, on the edge of Middlesbrough.

Ethnic diversity also varies widely. In areas such as the rural centre of the diocese and the East Riding, more than 96% of the population identifies as White British. In other places, particularly Middlesbrough, demographic change over the past decade has been significant. The largest church in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland now brings together people from 15 nations. More than a third of its congregation are from Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds, and it has a new ministry in Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi.

The diocese is also increasingly economically diverse. Hull and Middlesbrough have become noticeably poorer following redundancies and closures, while marked gaps remain between rural affluence and rural poverty. Middlesbrough has the highest proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally. The main population centres in the diocese are Hull, Middlesbrough, and York.



The blessing of a new fisheries patrol boat in Whitby, part of the critical east coast maritime ecosystem.



Teesside University in central Middlesbrough: the Times Higher Education University of the Year 2025 and the Daily Mail Modern University of the Year 2026, with 25,000 students and 2,500 staff.

There are 571 churches in the diocese, served through three archdeaconries. Each archdeaconry is served by a bishop, who exercises much of the day-to-day leadership delegated by the Archbishop of York, working in collaboration with an archdeacon:

- Cleveland (the Bishop of Whitby, Barry Hill)
- East Riding (the Bishop of Hull, Eleanor Sanderson)
- York (the Bishop of Selby, Flora Winfield)

There are 122 Church of England schools: 53 in the York Archdeaconry, 41 in the East Riding Archdeaconry, and 28 in the Cleveland Archdeaconry.



The Crypt at St Mary's, Lastingham, which contains the earthly remains of St Cedd.

Although it is now slightly out of date, particularly in relation to significant changes in Middlesbrough's ethnic diversity, further information about the diocese is available in the [diocesan information document](#).

Living Christ's Story

To live Christ's story is to be part of God's mission of love in and for the world today. We need a flourishing and sustainable church of followers of Jesus for that to happen.

Living Christ's Story is our diocesan response to the Church of England's vision for a Christ-centred, simpler, humbler, and bolder Church, shaped by the Five Marks of Mission. First approved by the Diocesan Synod in November 2022, the Living Christ's Story strategic plan continues to develop and evolve, not least under the leadership of our three suffragan bishops, all of whom are relatively new in post.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we have two stories to tell: the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the continuing story of what Jesus is doing now through his Church, by the Holy Spirit, and in our lives. God writes this story on our hearts. We live it out in our daily lives and, together, help to write the next chapter through what we say and do.

Living Christ's Story builds on earlier priorities that led to successful bids for national funding. This enabled the diocese to extend its reach and develop leaders in its lowest-income communities and among people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Our shared vision is expressed through four connected priorities:

- Becoming more like Christ.
- Reaching people we currently don't.
- Growing churches of missionary disciples that are younger, more diverse, and more missionally confident.
- Transforming our finances and structures to enable stronger mission and a sustainable Christian presence.

This means revitalising our parishes, chaplaincies, and new worshipping communities so that there is a viable and flourishing Christian presence in every community. Deaneries, through their Deanery Plans and Deanery Leadership Teams, are essential partners in this work.

We are committed to living within our means and developing models of ministry that are affordable and sustainable, and that enable lay and ordained ministry to flourish. This calls us to spiritual and theological renewal as we consider what it means for each of us to follow Christ and to live Christ's story.

The next Archdeacon of Cleveland will have a significant part to play in this shared work: supporting confident lay and ordained leaders, helping churches respond to the needs and opportunities of their communities, and sustaining worship, witness, and service across the archdeaconry.

The Archdeaconry of Cleveland

The Archdeaconry of Cleveland is an area of striking contrasts. Covering the northern part of the diocese, it stretches south from the River Tees, taking in Middlesbrough, Thornaby, and Redcar, and reaching as far as the market towns of Pickering, Helmsley, and Kirkbymoorside. From Whitby, Sandsend, Staithes, and Loftus on the coast in the east, it extends west to the Vale of Mowbray, with its strong farming tradition and the towns of Thirsk and Northallerton.

Across the archdeaconry, 179 parish churches in 72 benefices serve almost half a million people. Its communities range from densely urban to deeply rural, and from financially affluent to economically overlooked.

The archdeaconry is in good heart, with close and deepening relationships across its different geographical contexts, communities, and church traditions. Over the past year, it has experienced around four times the usual number of vacancies. Following a call to prayer from the archdeacon and bishop, all 18 appointments have been filled over the past ten months, often following vacancies significantly shorter than the national average. This remarkable answer to prayer has also required tenacity and creativity from the archdeacon and bishop, who share responsibility for different parts of each appointment process.



An interview at the Bishop's Boro Big Breakfast, regularly gathering 80 civic, political, community, and charity leaders from across Middlesbrough at Middlesbrough College with the archdeacon and parish priests co-hosting.



The Gold Eco Award at St Margaret's, Aislaby, achieved with support from the buildings team, Archdeacon and colleagues.



From the fifth anniversary fair just a few months ago at the newest church building in the archdeaconry, St Hilda's, Kirkleatham.

Urban: Middlesbrough, Thornaby, and Ingleby Barwick

More than half of the archdeaconry's population lives in or around Middlesbrough. It is a place with a proud story, shaped by the iron, steel, and chemical industries, but now living with the consequences of many industrial closures. A strong sense of pride sits alongside a lack of confidence, sometimes reinforced by a feeling that decisions are made elsewhere and imposed on the area.

Levels of deprivation are acute. Four of Middlesbrough's 20 wards are among the most deprived 1% nationally, with another four among the most deprived 3%. Newport Ward has the highest rate of child poverty of any ward in England (85%), while employment deprivation remains among the highest in the country. TS1 is one of the cheapest postcode areas in the country for home buyers.

Alongside these challenges are significant opportunities for regeneration. *Teesworks* is being developed with an emphasis on renewable and low-carbon technologies, including offshore wind manufacturing and carbon capture and storage. The area is served by the Mayor of Middlesbrough and by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority, with whom the diocese has close working relationships.

The past decade has brought significant demographic change. A number of Anglican churches now worship in several languages, and plans are being developed for intentional investment in intercultural ministry from 2027. Middlesbrough is also home to most of the clergy serving with Overseas Permission to Officiate across the diocese, many of whom bring experience of ministry in Nigeria and Pakistan.

The blessings of becoming intercultural churches in a multicultural town exist alongside real tensions. Following the riots of summer 2024, people from across the community came together in shared clean-up efforts. However, the trauma remains with many of those most directly affected.



The Area Dean and two Assistant Area Deans of Middlesbrough helping facilitate a deanery synod discernment evening.

Middlesbrough is home to Teesside University and Middlesbrough College, which together serve more than 38,000 students and almost 4,000 staff. Neither currently has paid chaplaincy provision, but plans are being developed to launch a new student-focused church, TS1, in 2027. Both institutions are closely rooted in their local community. Around half of Teesside University's students come from the North East, many from Teesside itself, and almost half are from GMH backgrounds.

Middlesbrough College opened its £12 million TTE technical training centre in 2024. Teesside University has undertaken a £300 million campus transformation

programme and was named Times Higher Education University of the Year 2025 and Daily Mail Modern University of the Year 2026. It was also the first university in Europe to become an Adobe Creative Campus, reflecting its ambition to help establish TS1 as a centre for the creative technology sector.

From September 2026 to March 2027, the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), part of Teesside University, will host the Turner Prize exhibition. Middlesbrough has also been longlisted for UK City of Culture 2029, building on a thriving and sometimes less visible local arts scene. The Church of England is closely involved in both projects.

Middlesbrough Football Club celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2026. It was among the first clubs in the country to establish a charitable foundation, which is marking its 30th anniversary. The club has been owned by local businessman Steve Gibson since 1986, and the diocese enjoys close relationships with both the club and its charitable foundation.

Middlesbrough is a major part of the diocesan proposal being prepared for the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). The proposal focuses on developing ministry with children, families, and young people; serving the most overlooked communities; growing intercultural ministry; and reaching students. The new Archdeacon of Cleveland will have a leading role in encouraging, supporting, and overseeing this work and its governance.

Middlesbrough's Anglican churches represent a wide range of traditions. A significant number of evangelical churches minister alongside most of the parishes in the Diocese of York associated with The Society, which receive pastoral and sacramental oversight from the Bishop of Beverley.



Pilgrims arriving in Rievaulx Abbey at the end of the inaugural St Aelred's pilgrimage trail day, a new trail of churches around Helmsley which has attracted significant local and national engagement.

Previous Bishops of Whitby came from the traditional Catholic tradition, although the two most recent appointments have represented a change. Shared mission, close working relationships, and personal friendships have become marks of the town's more recent church life. These relationships have been hard-won, and there is a shared commitment to continuing to serve closely together. The new archdeacon will be central to maintaining and developing them, working alongside the Bishop of Whitby, who regularly preaches and worships with parishes of The Society.

The communities surrounding Middlesbrough share some of the town's characteristics, but in very different contexts. Ingleby Barwick is a major modern housing development, Thornaby has a history stretching back long before the growth of Middlesbrough, and Redcar has an identity shaped by both town and sea.



Clergy, lay ministers, and their households at the 2026 archdeaconry garden parties.



All Saints, Middlesbrough, serving part of the town centre and one of seven Society parishes in the archdeaconry.

The North York Moors

A short drive from Middlesbrough brings you to the North York Moors National Park, the whole of which lies within the archdeaconry. Covering almost 1,500 square kilometres and home to just over 20,000 people, it contains one of the largest expanses of heather moorland in England and Wales.

The landscape has three principal forms: pasture, heather moorland, and woodland. It supports a strong farming tradition, with many flocks living outdoors throughout the year. The Cleveland Hills also contain the ironstone whose discovery helped to drive the development of the iron and steel industries in Middlesbrough. It is perhaps one of the most beautiful commutes enjoyed by any archdeacon in the country.

Two railways cross the North York Moors. The Esk Valley Line connects Whitby and Middlesbrough, while the North Yorkshire Moors Railway runs heritage steam services between Pickering and Grosmont, with connections to Whitby. Cycling is also an important part of life on the Moors, supported by an extensive network of routes.

The churches and congregations of the Moors bring a creative, practical, and no-nonsense approach to church life. One example is the St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail, a route of more than 40 miles connecting 12 churches. The trail has proved popular, supported by entrepreneurial and mission-minded lay and ordained leaders. Following coverage on The One Show, those involved are exploring the possibility of acquiring a closed church building and creating a "champing" venue for pilgrims.



The licensing of a new 'Curate-in-Charge' to a small benefice previously advertised six times without being able to fill.

The moorland fires of 2025 were among the worst in living memory. The whole community rallied to support those responding, including a firefighter who is also a priest. Whitby Fire Station continues to receive sweets, cakes, and water donated by well-wishers from across Cleveland.

Market Towns

Around the edges of the Moors are market towns and large villages including Helmsley, Pickering, Kirkbymoorside, Great Ayton, Stokesley, Thirsk, and Northallerton. Each has its own unique character, shaped in different ways by farming, antiques, tourism, horse racing, and other industries. The popularity of television programmes about antiques and auction houses has contributed to increased tourism, including the opening of a large new hotel in Pickering.

These towns often serve as hubs for the surrounding villages and hamlets. Ruswarp and Thirsk have significant auction marts, both supported by Church of England chaplaincy. Thirsk and Redcar also have large racecourses and associated local economies.

Many of the market towns include areas of relative wealth and some of the region's highest house prices, but this can conceal significant rural poverty. Relationships with organisations including the Farming Community Network, the National Farmers' Union, and the Country Land and Business Association are important in supporting those facing difficult circumstances. Changes to agricultural inheritance tax relief and farming support schemes have also created significant anxiety and uncertainty within rural communities.

Churches remain at the heart of many of these communities. The archdeaconry is blessed with excellent clergy and committed lay leaders, although shortages of church officers continue to present challenges in some places.

Housebuilding is a common theme across the archdeaconry. Significant developments include a Church Commissioners-led scheme on the edge of Northallerton, together with a new Church of England school, and plans for 3,400 new homes around Middlesbrough College.



Redcar Races, one of a number of racetracks in the Diocese and one which enjoys a clergyperson serving voluntarily as Chaplain.



Ordinations this summer at York Minster. Only three people were ordained to serve as deacon or priest in the Cleveland Archdeaconry this year, but...



...over 40 attended a Vocations Day in Middlesbrough this spring.

The Coast

The coastal part of the Cleveland Archdeaconry has played a defining role in the Christian story of the region. That story reaches back to 627, when Hilda was baptised by Paulinus. Her later ministry at Whitby became part of a movement through which many people came to faith and churches were established across the region.

The legacies of Hilda, Paulinus, Caedmon, Cedd, Bede, and others continue to be felt, particularly in Whitby and along the North Sea coast. The ruins of Whitby Abbey and the continuing life and ministry of the Order of the Holy Paraclete stand as visible witnesses to this history of faith and mission.

The area's maritime heritage continues to shape its tourism and hospitality industries. Whitby's streets are busy throughout much of the year, particularly during Whitby Goth Weekend, with its links to Bram Stoker's Dracula. Second homes and short-term holiday lets also have a significant effect on communities including Staithes, Sandsend, and Hinderwell, with its ancient holy well.

The coast remains home to important industries, including mining and parts of the steel sector. Although some industries have closed, others continue to provide employment and shape local identity. Travelling north along the coast, the landscape becomes increasingly urban through communities including Liverton, Marske, Redcar, Coatham, and Dormanstown.

Churches in many of these coastal communities, as in parts of Middlesbrough, depend on Lowest Income Communities (LLnC) Funding to sustain ministry at an adequate level.

The Task of the Archdeacon

The archdeacons are constitutionally officers of the Archbishop in his capacity as Diocesan Bishop. They work closely with the suffragan bishops to support fruitful mission and ministry across the diocese. Each suffragan bishop has significant delegated authority from the Archbishop to act on his behalf in almost all matters, particularly within their respective archdeaconries.

In the Diocese of York, the Bishop of Selby holds delegated episcopal authority for the Archdeaconry of York and serves as lead bishop for the diocese, supporting the Archbishop in his role as Diocesan Bishop. The Bishop of Hull serves as lead bishop for Discipleship and Evangelism, while the Bishop of Whitby serves as lead bishop for Growing Younger and More Diverse, which includes chairing the Board of Education.

The archdeacons represent the diocesan bishops' interests in policymaking and the life of the diocese through their ex officio membership of its statutory, synodical, and other major committees.

Through membership of the York Diocesan Leadership Team (YDLT) and the Archbishop's Council, which serves as the board of trustees of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), the archdeacons share in shaping the strategy for leadership and oversight across the diocese. They have particular responsibility for buildings, law, and finance.

They play a key role in the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), are members of the Mission and Pastoral, Closed Churches, Finance, and Property subcommittees, and are trustees of the Ministers' Relief Fund, a diocesan charity supporting clergy.

It is envisaged that, if SMMIB funding is awarded, the new archdeacon will play a leading role in supporting, overseeing, and encouraging the Middlesbrough focus of this investment. This would take place both formally, through being a key part of the governance structure, and informally, through working closely with the Deanery Leadership Team.

In addition, each archdeacon:

- a. works closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) in handling serious safeguarding situations involving church officers in parishes; monitors and attends Safeguarding Case Review Meetings, chairing them where appropriate; and supports and advises parishes on safeguarding policy and practice;
- b. shares pastoral oversight of the archdeaconry with the bishop, working with Area Deans to support clergy, their families, and church officers, and drawing on the expertise of the Advisor in Pastoral Care where appropriate;
- c. works with the bishops to implement the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, ensuring and overseeing deanery planning and deployment strategy, and convening visits by Archdeaconry Pastoral Working Parties in matters of pastoral reorganisation;
- d. under the guidance of the Registrar or Diocesan Chancellor, is appropriately involved in clergy discipline and capability procedures, including the specific duties set out in the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 and the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009;
- e. shares with the Chancellor in exercising Faculty Jurisdiction and dealing with those applications normally assigned to archdeacons;
- f. supports parish officers during clergy vacancies and works with the bishop in the processes leading to the appointment of incumbents and other ministers;
- g. inducts new incumbents, installs Priests-in-Charge at their Services of Welcome, and presents those to be ordained in the diocese as deacons and priests;

- h. conducts Ministerial Development Reviews alongside the Bishop of Whitby and the team of Bishops' Reviewers;
- i. conducts the Archdeacon's Parochial Visitations in parishes, under Canons F17 and F18, and carries out duties under the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955;
- j. ensures that the parochial returns for the Archdeacon's Visitations are collated;
- k. oversees arrangements for the admission of churchwardens, including admission services within the archdeaconry unless the Archbishop conducts an admission in person;
- l. visits churchyards, chapels, and churches to prepare reports for the Registrar when consecrations or closures are required;
- m. prepares role descriptions for ecclesiastical offices and visits new incumbents after six months to review them;
- n. visits parsonages with the diocesan surveyor during vacancies to agree the work required before a new occupant moves in;
- o. convenes meetings of Deanery Financial Advisers and works closely with the diocesan finance team to oversee the local implementation of the Free Will Offer process for contributions to the Common Fund;
- p. assumes responsibility for aspects of diocesan strategy and leadership, as required by the Archbishop; and
- q. is an ex officio member of the College of Canons of York Minster.

A considerable amount of time is spent in meetings and travelling. The archdeacon must ensure that these meetings are instruments of mission and relationship-building, representing the voice of parishes in diocesan discussions and communicating the significance of the diocese's common life to its parishes.



Clergy at the annual archdeaconry quiet day, this year led by Archbishop Stephen.



The North York Moors, ravaged by some of the worst fires in generations last summer. Among those who fought them was a priest of the archdeaconry who is also a firefighter.

Archdeacons are crucial to ensuring that Living Christ's Story is not simply a slogan, but the lived reality of churches engaged in mission and ministry, inspiring people to follow Christ and witness to the hope that Jesus alone offers to all.

The archdeacon is a bridgebuilder, a focus of pastoral care and support, and an encourager of fresh initiatives. It is therefore a spiritual and enabling ministry with important administrative and regulatory responsibilities. The ability to understand the missional and ministerial implications of meetings and decisions is at the heart of the role.

To achieve this, it is vital to maintain good communication and strong partnerships with the Archbishop, the Bishop of Whitby, the other archdeacons, the Diocesan Secretary, the teams based at Diocesan Office, the Diocesan Registry, and the archdeaconry's Deanery Leadership Teams.

The archdeacon is supported by a part-time PA, with whom it will be important to establish and maintain a good working relationship. The same person also works part-time for the Bishop of Whitby as part of an executive assistant job share, taking the lead in supporting vacancy and appointment processes.

Alongside the duties intrinsic to the role of Archdeacon of Cleveland, members of the York Diocesan Leadership Team may be asked to take responsibility for particular aspects of the diocese's mission, taking account of their individual skills and interests.

For example, the Archdeacon of York has a particular interest in supporting the Free Will Offer scheme and chairs the Generous Giving Oversight Group. The previous Archdeacon of the East Riding led on deanery planning and served as Project Sponsor for the Multiply programme. The current Archdeacon of Cleveland has a particular focus on ministerial wellbeing and chairs meetings of the Safeguarding Operational Group.



Clergy and their households enjoying a 'thank you' ice cream at the garden parties



A new ministry in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, and English, commissioned in Middlesbrough by Bishop Barry just a few months ago.

Within the archdeaconry, as a colleague of the Bishop of Whitby

The prayerful and mutually supportive relationship between the Archdeacon of Cleveland and the Bishop of Whitby is essential. They meet both formally and informally throughout the week.

The archdeacon shares with the bishop the pastoral oversight of clergy and lay ministers and may occasionally act as line manager or supervisor for particular roles. As part of a four-year cycle shared with the bishop and the Bishops' Reviewers, the archdeacon undertakes Ministerial Development Reviews with between 12 and 14 clergy each year.

The bishop and archdeacon meet regularly with the Area and Lay Deans of the archdeaconry and its six Deanery Leadership Teams.

Encouraging and advising churchwardens and other lay officers is a core part of the archdeacon's role within the archdeaconry. The archdeacon also works with, and occasionally brings together, Deanery Financial Advisers.

The archdeacon serves as an ex officio trustee of several clergy wellbeing and grant-making charities.

There will be opportunities to collaborate, particularly with the bishop, in working with other churches and Christian organisations to strengthen partnerships with local authorities, government agencies, community groups, and ecumenical partners.

The current Bishop of Whitby is Barry Hill. Based in Middlesbrough, he has served the archdeaconry and diocese since arriving in September 2024. More information about his background and experience is available here: [The Rt Revd Barry Hill | Diocese of York](#).

Ideally, the archdeacon and bishop will bring complementary leadership styles and experience, enabling them to serve the whole archdeaconry as effectively as possible.

As a priest in their own right

Although the responsibilities of an archdeacon are demanding, it is important that the archdeacon has the space to shape their own pattern of prayer and worship as a mature and experienced priest, to take a retreat, and to make time for reflection.

The archdeacon is encouraged to work with a spiritual director and/or pastoral supervisor and will have opportunities to exercise their distinctive personal gifts and pursue areas of particular interest, both within the diocese and beyond.

The archdeacon will exercise a preaching and sacramental ministry across the archdeaconry each week, building a network of trust, confidence, and friendship with clergy and lay people.



A dawn Easter Sunday service on Sandsend beach, witnessing to holidaymakers and the local community.

Training and support

The archdeacons in the diocese meet regularly, providing mutual support for one another. Each also meets regularly with their respective suffragan bishop and with the Diocesan Secretary. In Cleveland, this has included Morning Prayer with the Bishop of Whitby every Monday morning, alongside regular informal contact throughout the week.

The archdeacons meet colleagues from other dioceses, particularly through the Northern Archdeacons Network, and attend the biennial Northern and National Archdeacons' Conferences. They serve as members of the York Diocesan Leadership Team, which meets monthly at Bishopthorpe, and are ex officio members of the College of Canons at York Minster.

Archdeacons are expected to participate in Continuing Ministerial Education and to undertake regular Ministerial Development Reviews through the diocesan scheme.

The induction programme for the new Archdeacon of Cleveland will be developed within the diocese, drawing on the training programme created by the College of Archdeacons. It is recognised that moving into an archidiaconal role involves significant change, particularly for someone coming from a parish context. The induction will therefore include mentoring from an experienced archdeacon and access to the Archdeacons' National Development Officer.

Depending on personal circumstances, it is also hoped that the incoming archdeacon will be able to meet the outgoing archdeacon during March 2027, either online or in person, for a period of handover.



The welcome wall at MIMA, the Middlesbrough arts institute, which welcomes the Turner Prize this autumn.



Mustard Seed community ministers at an archdeaconry gathering, 'growing disciples in places where life is tough' and helping to transform the life of local churches.



School children and sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete, in Whitby, at the national launch of the prayer movement Thy Kingdom Come.

Personal qualities

The Canons of the Church of England require the appointee to have completed six years in holy orders and to be in priest's orders at the time of appointment. The appointment is also subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check.

The person appointed as Archdeacon of Cleveland will be an experienced priest with a deep understanding and knowledge of the Church of England, a proven commitment to church growth, and experience of effective, collaborative leadership.

Essential characteristics, gifts, and skills include:

- a deep reliance on God in prayer, a thorough dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us, and a faith inspired by a personal and living encounter with the risen Jesus Christ;
- enthusiasm for being an ambassador for the Christian gospel;
- a maturity centred on Christ and a desire to attain 'the full stature of Christ', coupled with a high level of self-awareness and ability to be undefended;
- a positive commitment to parish revitalisation, to both inherited and emerging forms of church, and to growing churches;
- a commitment to, and demonstrable experience of, collaborative ministry and team building, with the ability to work creatively and effectively within collective responsibility, where final decisions may be made by, or shared with, others;
- a commitment to excellence in process, particularly in creating clear new processes to respond to fresh challenges and opportunities, alongside the flexibility to make appropriate exceptions while ensuring that necessary steps are completed well;
- whatever their own tradition, the ability to recognise and draw out the best in every tradition, and enthusiasm for working with people and communities across the full breadth of the Church of England;
- the ability to communicate the Christian good news through preaching and in other formal and informal contexts;
- theological literacy, with the ability to interpret the Church to the world and the world to the Church;
- a commitment to expressing and increasing the cultural diversity of our Church;
- pastoral ability, wisdom, and experience;
- a strong personal commitment to the Church of England's cultural and organisational transformation around safeguarding, together with significant experience of fostering cultures in which safeguarding is recognised as a core part of the gospel;
- the ability to discern the spiritual character of the organisational demands of the role;
- financial literacy and the confidence to provide leadership in financial matters, together with an understanding of Christian giving and the ability to speak, and inspire others to speak, clearly, confidently, and appropriately about the financial dimensions of discipleship and the needs of the Church;
- the ability to work effectively with the legal and statutory requirements of the post;

- skill in managing change, and in averting and resolving conflict;
- an interest in, and commitment to, supporting local church communities with both the grace and the burden of their buildings;
- skill in discerning, encouraging, and harnessing the gifts of others;
- administrative confidence and clarity of mind, including the ability to decide whether to address an issue personally or refer it elsewhere;
- empathy with parochial ministry in a variety of settings;
- experience of working in partnership with secular organisations;
- the ability to engage constructively in robust debate and challenge;
- the ability to communicate through the media and to learn how to manage challenging interviews;
- the ability to travel throughout the diocese; and
- a sense of humour.



A stained glass window at Christ Church in Great Ayton honouring the Monday to Sunday discipleship and ministries of the whole people of God as they invite others to join in Living Christ's Story.



The new Bishop of St Albans, and lead bishop for church buildings, leading a service with Bishop Barry at the end of the annual St Aelred pilgrimage day, in the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey.



Clergy and churchwardens at a recent licensing in Mowbray deanery following a complete grassroots-led reorganisation of the deanery for mission, supported by the Archdeacon.



When the rural commute doesn't go quite as smoothly!

Terms of Appointment

- The appointment is made under Common Tenure and is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check.
- The stipend will be set according to the national scale for archdeacons (currently £44,811) and the postholder will automatically be enrolled in the Church of England Pension Scheme.
- A resettlement grant and removal costs will be paid at the current rate.
- IT and communication support will be provided, including a laptop computer and smartphone linked to diocesan systems.
- Full working expenses are reimbursed by the Diocesan Board of Finance.
- Part-time administrative support is available from the Archdeacon's Personal Assistant, who generally works from home, with Mondays in the Bishop's Office (as part of her parallel role) and with visits to the Archdeacon's Office as helpful.
- The archdeacon will live in and work from accommodation provided by the Diocese of York. The detached house is ideally located for travel across the archdeaconry, in the attractive Cleveland village of Hutton Rudby. Set at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac at 48 Langbaugh Road, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, TS15 0HL, it offers five bedrooms, a garden, a spacious kitchen-dining room suitable for hosting, as well as a separate study. The property has an EPC rating of C.



For an informal discussion please contact Barry Hill, Bishop of Whitby at BishopOfWhitbyEA@yorkdiocese.org or on 01642 593 273, or Canon Peter Warry, Diocesan Secretary at peter.warry@yorkdiocese.org or on 01904 699 505.

Only fully completed applications through Pathways will be accepted; applicants must already have the right to work in the UK.

The Diocese of York is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion and welcomes applications from all qualified people, mindful of the desire for our leadership to better reflect the communities we serve and recognising that those of global majority heritage are particularly underrepresented in our current leadership teams.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. All employees are expected to share this commitment. You will be required to undertake safeguarding training, and this role will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 8th October 2026 (midnight)

Shortlisting Wednesday 14th October

Interview part 1 (chaired by Bishop of Whitby): Thursday 29th October in Middlesbrough

Interview part 2 (with the Archbishop of York): Monday 9th November (pm) in Bishopthorpe

Part 1 of the interview will be with an advisory panel drawn from across the archdeaconry, the wider diocese, and beyond. Part 2 will be one-to-one with Archbishop Stephen.



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