

## THE DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS

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Blazonry: Azure, a saltire or; over all a sword erect in pale, proper, pomelled and hilted of the second. In chief a celestial crown of gold.

**The See** was founded by an Order in Council dated 30 April 1877, made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in 1875. The jurisdiction of the Bishop then extended over the whole of the Counties of Essex and Hertford (with small variations) and included over six hundred parishes.

By an Order in Council dated 21 January 1914, made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in 1913, the new Diocese of Chelmsford was formed, thus severing Essex from the Diocese; and by another Order in Council dated 30 March 1914, the County (Archdeaconry) of Bedford was severed from the Diocese of Ely and added to this Diocese.

The counties of Hertford and Bedford, though but comparatively recently joined together in the Diocese of St. Albans, were for many centuries closely connected with each other ecclesiastically. In fact it was probably only for seventy-seven years - between 1837 and 1914 - that the connection was broken. In the early days the greater part of the district was under missionary Bishops, the earliest of whom record is extant being Diuma, AD 656. Settled Diocesan rule dates from AD 679, when Mercia was divided into five Dioceses by Archbishop Theodore, viz. Lichfield, Leicester, Lindsey, Lincoln and Hereford. The succession of Bishops over the Counties of Hertford and Bedford can be traced from that point through Bishops of Leicester, Dorchester, Lincoln, London, Rochester and Ely.

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## BISHOPS OF ST. ALBANS

**1877 Thomas Legh Cloughton.** Ordained Priest 1835. Public Examiner at Oxford 1835 - 1836. Vicar of Kidderminster 1841 - 1867. Hon. Canon of Worcester 1845 - 1867. Professor of Poetry at Oxford 1852 - 1862.

Consecrated Bishop of Rochester 1867. Translated to St. Albans and enthroned on 12 June 1877. Resigned 1890. Died 1892. Buried in the churchyard of St. Albans Abbey.

**1890 John Wogan Festing.** Ordained Priest 1861. Curate of Christ Church, Westminster, 1860-1873. Vicar of St. Luke, Berwick Street, 1873 - 1878. Vicar of Christ Church, Albany Street, 1878 - 1890. Prebendary of St. Paul's 1888 - 1890. Consecrated Bishop of St. Albans 1890. Died 1902. Buried in the churchyard of St. Albans Abbey.

**1903 Edgar Jacob.** Ordained Priest 1869. Curate of Taynton 1868. Curate of Witney 1869 - 1871. Curate of St. James, Bermondsey, 1871 - 1872. Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Calcutta 1872 - 1876. Vicar of Portsea 1878 - 1895. Hon. Canon of Winchester 1884 - 1896. Chaplain to Queen Victoria 1887 - 1895. Consecrated Bishop of Newcastle 1896. Translated to St. Albans and enthroned on 16 May 1903. Resigned 30 November 1919. Died 25 March 1920. Buried in the churchyard of St. Albans Abbey.

**1920 Michael Bolton Furse.** Ordained Priest 1897. Fellow and Dean of Trinity College, Oxford, 1895 - 1903. Archdeacon of Johannesburg, 1903 - 1909. Consecrated Bishop of Pretoria 1909. Translated to St. Albans and enthroned on 22 April 1920. Resigned 1 September 1944. Prelate of Order of St. Michael and St. George 1936 - 1951. Died 18 June 1955. Buried in Cuddesdon Churchyard.

**1944 Philip Henry Loyd.** Ordained Priest 1911. Curate of St. Mary of Eton, Hackney Wick, 1910 - 1912. Vice Principal Cuddesdon College 1912 - 1915. S. P.G. Missionary Priest Miri 1915 - 1917. Domestic Chaplain to Bishop of Bombay 1917 - 1919. S.P.G. Missionary at Ahmednagar 1919 - 1921 and 1922 - 1925. Consecrated Assistant Bishop of Bombay 22 March 1925. Appointed Bishop of Nasik 1929. Resigned 1944. Translated to St. Albans and enthroned on 6 January 1945. Resigned 30 April 1950. Died 11 January 1952. Buried in Brompton Cemetery.

**1950 Edward Michael Gresford Jones.** Ordained Priest 1927. Curate of St. Chrysostom, Victoria Park, 1926 - 1928. Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1928 - 1933. Examining Chaplain to Bishop of Southwark 1932 - 1933. Vicar of Holy Trinity, South Shore, Blackpool, 1933 - 1939. Rural Dean of the Fylde 1938 - 1939. Vicar of Hunslet 1939 - 1942. Consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Willesden, 25 March 1942. Rector of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London, 1942 - 1950. Translated to St. Albans and enthroned on 28 September 1950. High Almoner, 1953. Died 7 March 1982. Ashes buried in Ramryge Chapel of St. Albans Abbey

**1970 Robert Alexander Kennedy Runcie.** Ordained Priest 1951. Curate of All Saints', Gosforth 1950 - 1952. Chaplain, Westcott House, Cambridge, 1953 - 1954, Vice-Principal, 1954 - 1956. Fellow and Dean, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1956 - 1960. Principal, Cuddesdon College, 1960 - 1970. Vicar of Cuddesdon, 1960 - 1970. Examining Chaplain to Bishops of Wakefield and Norwich, 1960 - 1970; to Bishop of Guildford, 1961 - 1970: to Bishop of Chelmsford, 1962 - 1970. Canon and Prebendary of Lincoln from 1969 - 1970. Consecrated Bishop of St. Albans 24 February 1970. Enthroned on 14 March 1970. Chairman, Central Religious Advisory Council for BBC and IBA 1973 - 1979. Translated to the See of Canterbury and enthroned as Lord Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March 1980. Retired 1991. Died 11<sup>th</sup> July 2000. Buried in the churchyard of St. Albans Abbey.

**1980 John Bernard Taylor.** Ordained Priest 1957. Curate of Morden, 1956 - 1959. Vicar of Henham and of Elsenham, 1959 - 1965. Examining Chaplain to Bishop of Chelmsford, 1962 - 1980. Senior Tutor, Oak Hill Theological College, 1964 - 1965. Vice-Principal, 1965 - 1972. Vicar of Woodford Wells 1972 - 1975 and Diocesan Director of Ordinands for Chelmsford 1972 - 1980. Archdeacon of West Ham, 1975 - 1980. Consecrated Bishop of St. Albans 1 May 1980. Enthroned on 14 June 1980. High Almoner from 1988. Retired August 1995

**1995 Christopher William Herbert.** b 44. Univ of Wales (Lamp) BA 65. Wells Th. Coll 65. Deacon 1967 Ordained Priest 1968. Curate Tupsley Hereford 1967-1971; Dioc. RE Adviser 1971-1976; Diocesan Director of RE 76-81; Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral 1976-1981; V. of The Bourne, Guildford 1981-1990; Hon. Canon Guildford Cathedral from 1985; Archdeacon of Dorking from 1990. Consecrated Bishop of St. Albans on 17 November 1995. Enthroned on 20 January 1996.

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## HISTORY OF SEES OF HERTFORD AND BEDFORD

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### Bishops Suffragan of Bedford

Bedford is among the twenty-six places listed in the Suffragan Bishops Act, 1534, to "be taken and accepted for Sees of Bishops Suffragan to be made in this realm, and the Bishops of such Sees shall be called Suffragans of this Realm". John Hodgkins thus became Bishop Suffragan of the See of Bedford in 1537. After 1592 the Act ceased to be used until 1870, although the Canons of 1604 assume the existence of suffragans.

In 1879, William Walsham How (translated to Wakefield), and in 1888, Robert Claudius Billing (died 1898) were appointed suffragans to the Bishop of London, with the title Bishop of Bedford. Suffragan bishops at this period - and until 1914 - in the Diocese of St. Albans were the Bishops of Colchester (from 1882) and of Barking (from 1901).

In 1935 the Bishop of St. Albans petitioned the Crown to call out of abeyance the ancient Suffragan Bishopric of Bedford and to appoint a suffragan bishop to give episcopal assistance in the Diocese of St. Albans. Since then, the Suffragan Bishops of Bedford have been:

1935 James Lumsden Barkway <i>(translated to St. Andrew's)</i>	1963 Albert John Trillo <i>(translated to Hertford)</i>
1939 Henry Aylmer Skelton <i>(translated to Lincoln)</i>	1968 John Tyrrell Holmes Hare
1942 Vacancy Graham	1977 Andrew Alexander Kenny <i>(translated to Newcastle)</i>
1948 Claud Thomas Thellusson Wood	1981 David John Farmbrough
1953 Angus Campbell MacInnes <i>(translated to Jerusalem)</i>	1994 John Henry Richardson
1957 Basil Tudor Guy <i>(translated to Gloucester)</i>	2003 Richard Neil Inwood

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## Bishops Suffragan of Hertford

An Order in Council of 5 July 1889 directed that the town of Hertford "should be taken and accepted for the See of a Bishop Suffragan". In 1967, the report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on the organisation of the Church in London and the south-east of England recommended that the Diocese of St. Albans should have a second suffragan, for whom there was already the dormant See provided by the 1889 Order in Council, and the first appointment was made in December 1967. The holders of the See since then have been:

1967 Albert John Trillo  
Pillar

*(translated to Chelmsford)*

1971 Hubert Victor Whitsey  
*(translated to Chester)*

1974 Peter Mumford  
Foster

*(translated to Truro)*

1982 Kenneth Harold

1990 Robin Jonathan Norman Smith

2001 Christopher Richard James

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## HISTORY OF THE ARCHDEACONRIES

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#### Archdeacons of St. Albans

The list of Archdeacons of St. Albans goes back to AD 1120. At the time of the Dissolution the Archdeacon was Ordinary of Peculiars, and the holder of the office was instituting as well as inducting incumbents to parochial cures as late as 1554.

The last ten have been:

1936 Henry Aylmer Skelton	1973 Peter Mumford
<i>(also Bishop of Bedford from 1939)</i>	1974 David John Farmbrough
1942 Claud Thomas Thellusson Wood	1982 Edward Matheson
Norfolk	
<i>(also Bishop of Bedford from 1948)</i>	1987 Philip Bertram Davies
1951 Charles Shipley Cockbill	1999 Richard Ian Cheetham
1962 Basil Clark Snell	2003 Helen Margaret Cunliffe

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#### Archdeacons of Bedford

There is a record of the name of an Archdeacon of Bedford who was instituted about the year 1078 by Bishop Remigius of Lincoln, in which Diocese the Archdeaconry remained until 1837. Owing to the great distance from the Bishop's seat, this Archdeaconry was more independent than were most such jurisdictions; its Court was not subordinate to the Chancellor's Consistory Court at Lincoln, but exercised similar powers.

The last ten have been:

1935 William Aubrey Robins	1974 Robert Saville Brown
1946 Donald Bertram Harris	1979 Christopher John Mayfield
1956 Basil Tudor Guy	1986 Michael Gay

Bourke

1957 (*also Bishop of Bedford from 1957*)      1993 Malcolm Leslie

Lesiter

1958 Basil Clark Snell

2003 Paul Vernon Hughes

1962 John Tyrrell Holmes Hare

(*also Bishop of Bedford from 1968*)

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## **Archdeacon of Hertford**

The Archdeaconry of Hertford was founded by an Order in Council and came into existence on 1 January 1997, covering the eastern part of Hertfordshire and the part of Barnet which lies within the Diocese. The first Archdeacon to be appointed was: -

1997 Trevor Pryce Jones

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## HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL

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#### **The Cathedral and Abbey Church**

The church marks the site of the burial of the first Christian martyr in Britain. Alban, an inhabitant of Verulamium, was beheaded for his faith, probably in the second half of the third century. There is evidence that a church was built, outside the Roman city, soon afterwards, but no trace of it remains.

In 793 Offa, King of Mercia, founded or refounded a Benedictine monastery here and erected a new church. The only surviving stones from that building are a few pillars above the south transept. The church was entirely rebuilt by Paul de Caen, the first Norman abbot, and the core of the building, including the Great Tower, date from his time. Paul re-used Roman bricks from the abandoned Verulamium, and they can still be seen, particularly from the outside of the building.

There were two major rebuildings in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries at the west end and on the south side of the nave, and additions and alterations to the east end. The Saint's Chapel, behind the High Altar, contains the restored Shrine of St Alban, dating from 1302, on a site which has been a place of pilgrimage for nearly 1700 years. In the Nave and elsewhere is an unrivalled sequence of medieval wall paintings, ranging in date from the late twelfth to the sixteenth century.

The Benedictine Abbey was one of the great medieval religious foundations, given the title of England's Premier Abbey by Adrian IV (Nicholas Breakspeare, a local boy). Its mitred abbots had extensive powers and were exempt from episcopal jurisdiction. There were over 100 monks in the mid-fourteenth century, but only 38 by the time the Abbey was dissolved in December 1539. The extensive monastic buildings rapidly disappeared, and only the Great Gateway remains apart from the church. The church survived due to its purchase by the town from the Crown for £400 in 1550, for use as a parish church.

The Lady Chapel at the east end was soon turned into a school, and for the next three centuries the town struggled to maintain such an enormous building; it has the longest medieval nave in Europe. By the nineteenth century there was urgent need for repair. The third restoration was undertaken by Sir George Gilbert Scott, and much of the work was overseen, and paid for, by Lord Grimthorpe. He is



responsible for the remodelling of the West Front, and the ends of the transepts in particular.

The Chapter House was built in 1982, on the site of the medieval Chapter House.

The Bishopric of St Albans was established in 1877. At the start the Cathedral had no Dean, but in 1900 the Rector was made Dean. The Cathedral continues to be a parish church as well. The current Constitution and Statutes came into force in 2000, establishing the Chapter as the administrative body, the Abbey assembly which oversees the parochial life, and an advisory Council with wide representation from the diocese and the community.

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## **Deans of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban**

Walter Lawrance Archdeacon of St. Albans	1900 - 1914 1884 to 1909)	(previously Rector from 1868 and
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Wilfrid Blenkin	1914 - 1924
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Edward Henderson	1925 - 1936
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Cuthbert Thicknesse	1936 - 1955
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Kenneth Mathews	1955 - 1963
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Noel Kennaby	1964 - 1973
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Peter Moore	1973 - 1993
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Christopher Lewis	1994 - 2003
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Jeffrey John	2004 -
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