

 **APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR**

The Bishop of Hereford is seeking to appoint a new Diocesan Chancellor with effect from the autumn of 2021.

**DIOCESE OF HEREFORD**

The Diocese of Hereford covers the whole of Herefordshire, the southern half of Shropshire and a few parishes in Powys and Monmouthshire. It has a population of 326,000. It is predominantly a rural Diocese. Its origins date back to 676.

The Diocese is led by the Bishop of Hereford, the Right Reverend Richard Jackson, who was appointed to the position in spring 2020. He is supported by two Archdeacons, the Venerable Derek Chedzey, who is Archdeacon of Hereford, and the Venerable Fiona Gibson, who is the newly-appointed Archdeacon of Ludlow. The Diocesan Registrar is Jeremy Wilding, a local solicitor based in Hereford, who took up office in the summer of 2020.

The Diocese has approximately 86 Benefices and 340 Parishes. Of our 403 church buildings 85% are Grade I or II\*/ II. We have developed a National reputation for the creative use of our church buildings.

Further information can be found in the attached Diocesan profile or alternatively online at [www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org).

The Diocesan Registry has its own website at [www.hereforddiocesanregistry.co.uk](http://www.hereforddiocesanregistry.co.uk)

**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 Judges, Legal Officers and Others (Fees) Order 2020. The retainer for this work is laid down in the Order and for 2021 this is £12,264. 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 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 Bishop, senior diocesan staff and to the Diocesan Registrar

 (e) Be able to deliver to timescales

 (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, Mr Jeremy Wilding of Gabbs Solicitors, 14 Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9AP or email jwilding@gabbs.biz

**HOW TO APPLY**

* Closing date is **5pm on Friday 11th June 2021**
* Completed application forms should be sent to the Kerry Preedy, HR & Office Manager, The Diocesan Office, The Palace, Hereford, HR4 9BL or submitted by email to HR@hereford.anglican.org
* Interviews will be held on 28th June 2021