

ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

8 March 2025

Instrument of Delegation - Explanatory note

Under section 13 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, diocesan bishops are permitted to delegate some or all of their functions to suffragan or assistant bishops in the diocese, having first obtained the approval of the Diocesan Synod or its standing committee.

In its October 2023 session, the Diocesan Synod approved wide-ranging deeds of delegation to both suffragan bishops in the Diocese. Although the Diocese does not operate an area scheme, it has been the practice in the Diocese to provide suffragan bishops with this delegated authority so that, should the diocesan bishop be unable for any reason to carry out a function, that function may be carried out by a suffragan bishop without the need for legal formalities to be completed urgently. This proved useful during the convalescence of Bishop Alan after medical treatment last year.

The previous deeds of delegation were not drawn up with the purpose of providing cover for a vacancy in the office of Bishop of St Albans. It is normally the case that a retiring diocesan bishop will delegate functions to one or more suffragan bishops so that episcopal functions may be carried out during the vacancy. The alternative, if such a delegation is not made, is for the archbishop to make an appointment.

Accordingly, a new instrument has been prepared for this purpose.

The single instrument provides for both the Bishop of Bedford and the Bishop of Hertford to receive the wide-ranging delegated authority that is currently in place, allowing either bishop to carry out episcopal functions as required.

As the senior suffragan bishop, the Bishop of Bedford is appointed to co-ordinate the episcopal functions in the Diocese and to attend meetings of the House of Bishops as a non-voting 'Acting Bishop of St Albans'. The Bishop of Bedford is also tasked with making appointments to those offices in the patronage of the Bishop of St Albans. These appointments will be made on behalf of His Majesty, to whom patronage rights formally return during vacancies.

The Bishop of Hertford is appointed to carry out these duties if the Bishop of Bedford is unable to do so.

Under section 13(9) of the Measure, the delegation will continue whilst the relevant suffragan bishop remains in office and will come to an end six months after the appointment of a new diocesan bishop (at which point the new Bishop of St Albans will have to return to the Diocesan Synod to propose whatever delegation arrangements he or she considers appropriate). Of course, the particular roles given to the Bishop of Bedford as "acting diocesan bishop" will end when the vacancy is filled.

Jon Baldwin
Diocesan Registrar

Dated _____

2025

Diocese of St Albans

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

of Episcopal Functions to
the Right Reverend the Bishop of Bedford
and
the Right Reverend the Bishop of Hertford

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION DIOCESES, PASTORAL AND MISSION MEASURE 2007

WE **ALAN GREGORY CLAYTON** by Divine Permission **LORD BISHOP OF ST ALBANS** having in mind Our forthcoming retirement from Our Diocesan Bishopric and acting under the provisions of Section 13 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 and with the consent of Our Diocesan Synod of St Albans **ORDER** as follows:

1. Subject to the following provisions of this Instrument, We **DELEGATE** to Our Right Reverend Brother in Christ **RICHARD WILLIAM BRYANT ATKINSON BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF BEDFORD** and to Our Right Reverend Sister in Christ **JANE FRANCES MAINWARING BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF HERTFORD** all Our functions within Our Diocese of St Albans, revoking all previous delegations to those persons.
2. We **APPOINT** the **BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF BEDFORD** to serve as acting diocesan bishop following Our retirement until such time as the election of a person to the See of St Albans is confirmed **INTENDING** that the said Bishop of Bedford shall co-ordinate the exercise of Episcopal functions in the Diocese of St Albans and participate in the business of the House of Bishops of General Synod in the manner permitted of acting diocesan bishops.
3. We **APPOINT** the **BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF BEDFORD** to be the “relevant bishop” for the purpose of Section 2 of the Vacancies in Suffragan Sees and Other Ecclesiastical Offices Measure 2010 and thus to exercise on behalf of His Majesty the right of presentation to vacant ecclesiastical offices that would be exercisable by Us but for Our retirement until such time as the temporalities of the See of St Albans have been received from His Majesty by a new diocesan bishop.
4. Should the said Bishop of Bedford vacate his See or be suspended from the performance of his functions or otherwise be unable through illness or absence to

perform the appointments made by paragraphs 3 and 4 above, we **APPOINT** the **BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF HERTFORD** to perform those appointments in his stead.

5. The functions delegated by this Instrument shall not include the power to make further delegations under Sections 13 or 14 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 but, for the avoidance of doubt, this shall not prevent the co-ordination of the performance of Episcopal functions amongst bishops (whether under this or any other instrument) to whom such functions have been delegated by Us.
6. This Instrument shall take effect on the day after the date below and shall continue in effect in respect of each Suffragan Bishop until the date provided in Section 13(9) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007.
7. We **SAVE** to Us and Our Successors full power to revoke this Instrument and all other Our Episcopal rights.

AS WITNESS Our hand this _____ day of _____ in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-five and in the [Sixteenth / Seventeenth] year of Our Translation

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The Rt Revd Alan Smith
Lord Bishop of St Albans