

The new Bishop of St Albans'

The tenth Bishop of St Albans is to be the Rt. Revd Dr Alan Smith, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Downing Street announced on Tuesday 13th January.



Dr Alan Smith (aged 51) was educated at Birmingham University and the University of Wales. He trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He served his curacy in the Diocese of Bradford at Pudsey St Lawrence from 1981 to 1984. From 1984 to 1990 he was Chaplain of the Lee Abbey Community. From 1990 to 1997 he was Team Vicar at St Matthew's Walsall, Lichfield Diocese, and also Diocesan Missioner. From 1997 to 2001 he was Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent and Honorary Canon of Lichfield Cathedral. Since 2001 he has been Area Bishop of Shrewsbury.

He served as a member of the General Synod from 1999 to 2001. Since 2006 he has been a member of the Rural Bishops' Panel and he chairs the group which is planning the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Archbishops' Commission on Rural Areas. He is chair of the Local Strategic Partnership for Shropshire. He has contributed chapters to "*Changing Rural Life*" (2004) and "*Celebrating Community: God's Gift for Today's World*" (2006). He has written "*Growing up in Multifaith Britain: Explorations in Youth, Ethnicity and Religion*" (2007) and "*God-Shaped Mission: A Perspective from the Rural Church*" (2007).

He is single. His interests include environmental and green issues including the work of the World Development Movement. He enjoys skiing, travelling, gardening and both playing and listening to music. He is a member of Amnesty International.

Bishop Alan is also the first Church of England bishop to announce his appointment through a three minute YouTube video which can be viewed at: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=UJJbi12BzNc> or on the Diocesan website at www.stalbans.anglican.org

For those without access, there follows a transcript of the Video.

Hello. I'm Alan Smith and today it's been announced that I'm going to be the next Bishop of St Albans.

I feel excited and daunted by what lies ahead, although sad to be leaving the people of Shropshire where I've had seven very happy years.

As we seek to engage with the world, one of the most profound challenges facing us is whether we are willing to go deeper into God.

That adventure of faith isn't without its cost. It means going deeper in prayer and worship; it means grappling with the Scriptures; being open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit; generously giving more and of course serving the communities in which we live.

I've tried to work that out in my own life over recent years, in a variety of different contexts.

Coming from a rural background in Wiltshire, I'm passionate about the countryside; about treasuring the environment; supporting the agricultural industry and strengthening our rural parishes.

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