

The Archbishop of York



The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell became the 98th Archbishop of York in July 2020. The Archbishop of York was chosen by the Prime Minister and approved of by the Queen.

When an Archbishop is chosen there is a process of legal paperwork and a service called 'Confirmation of Election' This would normally take place at York Minster but everything was adapted because of Covid-19 and the service was online.

You can see the service here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/confirmation-election-98th-archbishop-york>

After the service the Archbishop of York took up the historic Braganza Crozier – his staff of office in a private ceremony in York Minster. The Archbishop knocked on the closed west doors of York Minster with the Crozier. The doors were then opened to symbolise the Archbishop being let out in to the world to serve God in our world.



You can watch a video clip of this here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BTy_eJ_qr4&feature=youtu.be

You can find out more about the Archbishop here <https://www.archbishopofyork.org/archbishop-york/stephen-cottrells-biography>

You can also watch a welcome video here: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/the-year-of-the-diocese/discover/>

Suffragan Bishops in the Diocese of York

We have 4 suffragan Bishops in the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Whitby – The Right Reverend Paul Ferguson

The Bishop of Selby – The Right Reverend Dr John Thomson

The Bishop of Beverley – The Right Reverend Glyn Webster

The Bishop of Hull – The Right Reverend Alison White



You can find out more about them here: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/about-us/whos-who/archbishops-staff/>

You can watch a video from each Bishop here: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/the-year-of-the-diocese/discover/>

The role of a Bishop

A Bishop is ordained to be the **Shepherd of Christ's flock**,
to be a **guardian of the Faith**,
to **proclaim** the Gospel
and to lead the people in **worship**.

To love, pray and build up the **body of Christ**.

To **lead by example** following in the footsteps of the Servant King our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What does a Bishop (and Archbishop) wear?

A Bishop wears a number of symbolic items of dress which help us to understand something of their role in the Church:

Purple

Bishops may wear purple clerical shirts, or a purple sash / waistband over a white cassock. The colour purple has been used from ancient times to symbolise a ruler or leader of the people.

The Bishop's ring

The Bishop's ring is normally made of an amethyst, which is also purple. Though some Bishops wear a different ring. It symbolises faithfulness and truth and is worn on the fourth finger of the right hand.

The Bishop of Whitby's ring

My bishop's ring was made specially by a silversmith called Caroline Lang, who lives near Kirkbymoorside. Can you see the gold cross? In the middle is a little silver model of an ammonite, which is the emblem of St Hilda. She was a very strong and courageous leader in Whitby a very long time ago (more than 1400 years ago).



A Pectoral Cross

The Bishop wears a pectoral cross (from the Latin pectoralis, of the chest), which is usually large and suspended from the neck by a cord or chain. Most pectoral crosses are made of precious metals (platinum, gold or silver) and some contain precious or semi-precious gems. You will also see Bishops with simple wooden examples. This large, visible, cross shows how God is close to a Bishop's heart.

The Bishop of Whitby's Pectoral Cross



My cross is made out of steel, unlike most bishops' crosses which are made of silver or wood. I wanted a steel cross made on Teesside, because iron and steel have been a very important part of industry here. There is still some specialised steel-making, but sadly the big steelworks have closed.

From a distance, my cross can look quite shiny and bright, but up close you can see some rusty spots and marks in the metal. That reminds me that the love of God shines out to us, but when Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, it wasn't pretty – it was hard and painful. When we reflect the light of God's love in our lives, it can be costly for us too, but as a bishop I wear the sign of God's love near my heart.



On formal occasions such as church services, a Bishop may wear:



A Mitre

The head covering worn by Bishops is called a mitre, (from the Greek "mitra" 'headband'). It is made with two triangular pieces of stiffened material which are sewn together at the sides with an opening at the base for the head. The shape represents the Holy Spirit which according to the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2 verse 3 rested on the apostles in the shape of tongues of fire.

The two strips of material (lappets) which hang from the back of the mitre are often seen as representing the Bishop's dual role in Church and State. In their present form they are actually a reminder of the original mitra /headband which after it had been tied around the head would have also have had lengths of cloth falling down the back.

A Cope

The cope (from the Latin cappa 'cape') is a liturgical vestment, which is a very long cloak, open in front and fastened at the breast with a band or clasp. The often highly ornamented clasp is called a morse. A cope may be worn by any rank of clergy. If worn by a Bishop it should be accompanied by a mitre (see above).

There is a special set of Cathedral vestments particular to the Diocese and used particularly at ordinations.

The Bishop also carries:

A Crook or Crozier

The crozier is the symbol of the governing office of the Bishop. A Bishop carries this staff to show that he is a "shepherd of the flock of God", (the community under his care). All Bishops use a crozier when in procession, and at certain key points in services such as blessing the people. The crozier is given to the Bishop during their ordination as a Bishop.

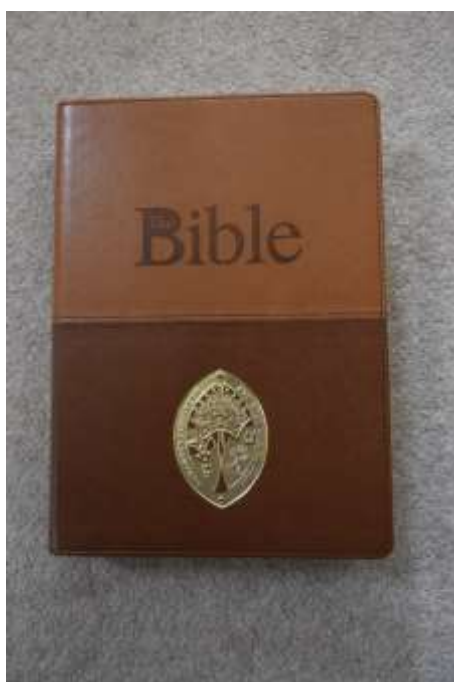
The distinctive shape of the crozier is also symbolic: the top of the staff is curved to remind the Bishop of the shepherd's crook and of the pastoral care of the people entrusted to them. Croziers may be made of a variety of materials: Some Bishops favour a simple wooden staff like a shepherd's crook while diocesan Bishops may have inherited extremely ornate croziers created for their predecessors in the office.

A Bible

At their consecration the Bishop receives a Bible which gives them authority to preach the word of God to the world.

You will also see Anglican Bishops wearing rochets and chimeres over their cassocks. The rochet is a long white tunic, nearly as long as the cassock, which is gathered at the wrists. The chimere is worn over the rochet and is a long gown, with slits for arms, which is usually coloured red (it could also be black). It is accompanied by a black scarf and sometimes by an academic hood.

The Bishop of Whitby's Bible



This is the Bible that Archbishop Sentamu gave me when I was made a bishop. Can you see the writing on his special gold crest that he had stamped on the front? It says 'Unworthy servant of the most worthy Lord', and that is how Archbishop Sentamu thinks of himself and how he was called to serve God and the people he loves.

On the inside page it says 'Philippians 1.9-11'. That's the reference to a short piece in the Bible that says 'And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.'