



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK



Hello, my name is Stephen and I am the 98th Archbishop of York.

My role as archbishop is to look after the church in the diocese of York and across the 12 dioceses of the Northern Province of the Church of England.

I wasn't brought up going to church. I became a follower of Jesus and a member of the Church when I was a teenager. Because of this, I have always cared a lot about sharing the story of Jesus with those who don't know him.

There are several things that you see a bishop and an archbishop wearing in church or carrying with them in their work. Knowing what these things are will help you understand my work.

- In church I wear a hat called a **mitre**. It is in the shape of a flame. It reminds us of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Church is God's work, not ours.
- I carry a **crozier**, which is like a shepherd's staff. It reminds me that the work of bishops and archbishops is to look after the flock of Jesus, which is the Church today. In the Bible we learn that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. So my job is to look after the 600 churches and 125 church schools in the diocese of York, and as an archbishop to look after the 12 dioceses of the Northern Province of the Church of England. With the Archbishop of Canterbury I also help lead the whole Church of England. But it is a team game. I have plenty of people to help me. In fact, every one of us is called to be part of God's work of bringing the love of Jesus to our world.
- I wear a **cross**. The cross is the badge of the Christian faith. It reminds me that first of all I am a follower of Jesus.

I am married to Rebecca, who is a potter. We have a dog called Alfie. We have three grown-up sons and one baby grandson.

I very much look forward to visiting the schools and churches in the York Diocese and getting to know you.

++Stephen