

## The Archbishop of York



The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell became the 98<sup>th</sup> 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](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: [The Diocesan Family - Diocese of York](#)

## Suffragan Bishops in the Diocese of York

We have 4 suffragan Bishops in the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Whitby – The Right Reverend Barry Hill

The Bishop of Selby – The Right Reverend Flora Winfield

The Bishop of Hull – The Right Reverend Dr Eleanor Sanderson

The Bishop of Beverley – The Right Reverend Stephen Race



You can find out more about them here: [Our Bishops - Diocese of York](#)

## 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 in the North East of England by a jeweller called Andrew. It is made from Zirconium and has vines and branches wrapped around it, telling in a picture Jesus' teaching recorded in John's Gospel (chapter 15). Inside is engraved some of Jesus' words 'You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit'. Christians believe God invites each of us to live close to him (like branches on a tree or vine being fed and nourished by the root) so that we can know who we are and make a difference in the world. God has chosen us to change the world. In York Diocese we call this invitation 'Living Christ's Story'



## 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

The cross I wear is by an Italian sculpture and tells the story of the lost sheep, which is recorded in Luke's Gospel, chapter 15. In it Jesus shares the extraordinary lengths God has gone to so that we might know we are loved and know we are God's children. God risked everything so we could know God. Amazing!



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.

## The Bishop of Whitby's crozier

My crozier is designed to look like a shepherd's crook and to be used for walking not just ceremonially. It is inlaid with Whitby Jet, which is 180m years old and reminds me of the awesomeness of God's creating.



## 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.