

The Role of the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham



The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham provides leadership and oversight of the Anglican Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. It consists of 556 Parishes with over 300 churches served by around 145 paid clergy and actively supported by many able lay ministers. The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural.

The diocesan bishop works with his assistant colleague, the suffragan bishop of Sherwood, to give vision and shape to the life of the churches in his care in faithfulness to the teaching of Jesus Christ.



As bishop and chief pastor in the diocese, the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham holds many roles:

- To direct the vision and strategy for mission, ministry and church growth in the diocese with a particular focus on Growing Disciples, reaching **wider** in every community, connecting with **younger** generations, and nurturing **deeper** roots of faith.
- To cultivate and uphold a culture of revitalising prayer and deepening spirituality in worshipping communities throughout the diocese.
- To manage the Church's structures and resources, and to ensure that clergy and lay people are effectively equipped and trained to lead local churches.
- To ensure that all those in ministry, lay and ordained, are provided with the necessary care and support, to undertake their roles and responsibilities and in line with requisite safeguarding practice.
- To lead and develop a Bishop's Core senior staff team to work together effectively and nurture fruitful relationships between parishes, the diocesan staff and the cathedral.
- To model compelling, clear and compassionate communication across all channels, including written correspondence, video and digital media.
- To enable and encourage creative examples and models of mission and ministry particularly in its work with children, young people and schools.
- To be a visible presence and credible voice in the public square and civic setting, thereby strengthening the public profile of the church in society.
- To foster community engagement and foster partnerships across a broad diversity of denominations and faiths in matters of common concern, inclusion and social justice.
- To model and promote unity within a diverse diocese.
- To be an active member of the House of Bishops and be ready to take on particular responsibilities at a time of significant change in the national Church.
- The diocesan bishop is also a member of the House of Lords and thereby exercises his episcopal ministry on a broader, national platform.

The bishops' support staff (each bishop has a personal assistant, and the diocesan bishop is supported additionally by a chaplain and the bishop's office administrator) resource and enable the diocesan bishop to fulfil his responsibilities efficiently, effectively and courteously. As part of a renewed strategy for growth, the bishops and diocesan leadership aspire to be purposeful and imaginative in welcoming new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church; commissioning younger leaders (16-30) inspired and equipped to serve God's purposes in the world; and serving as 1 church united in contending for the gospel. Within this compelling vision we also aspire to plant new worshipping communities and to grow resource churches to serve major populations centres across the diocese. We long to welcome new and younger disciples in every community across the diocese, aligning our energies and resources around this quest.

To find out more about the role of the bishop and the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham visit [our website](#).

