Dean Stephen, who is also a Church Commissioner and Lead Dean for Safeguarding, will succeed the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam who retired last July.

The appointment will be a return to his roots in the diocese. He grew up in Poole, held his curacy at Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and Lillington and was later Vicar of St Aldhelm’s, Branksome, Poole.

"It is such a privilege and a joy to be called back to the Diocese of Salisbury as Bishop," he said.

"To be able to serve in the places that formed me will be something rare and special."

Read the full announcement from the Diocese of Salisbury.

More information:

- More information on the appointment can be found on the Salisbury Diocese website.