



St Albans Cathedral

The Association of English Cathedrals (AEC) has announced that Jo Kelly-Moore, the Dean of St Albans, is its new chair, succeeding the Dean of Lichfield, Adrian Dorber, who stepped down last month at the end of the second National Cathedrals Conference.

Jo Kelly-Moore was installed as Dean of St Albans in 2021. She was the Archdeacon of Canterbury and a Residentiary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral from 2017 during which time she served on the Church of England's General Synod, contributing as a member of the steering committee for the 2021 Cathedrals Measure.

Before that she was the Dean of Auckland in the Anglican Church of New Zealand from 2010 to 2017 and, before ordination, she practised as a solicitor in both New Zealand and London.

Dean Jo said: "It is a joy and a privilege to have been appointed as Chair of the AEC. We are so grateful to Adrian for his leadership, demonstrated in all that AEC has brought to support cathedral ministry over these last 7 years.

"Globally, cathedrals remain a key part of the Church's mission. We have the ability to use our voices, and the story of our holy places, to proclaim the hope and the call for justice that brings peace which we know in Jesus Christ, both to the many visitors and pilgrims we welcome and also, beyond the walls, into our wider communities.

"So too we are called, and have the ability, to engage in partnerships and offer support across our dioceses to bring that hope, justice and peace to life. In our uncertain world, where so many are in need, our commitment to this is as important as ever.

"I hope that, together as the AEC, we can continue to support the cathedrals in this land to be best equipped for our ministry today".

The AEC was formed in 1990 to represent the interests of English Anglican Cathedrals in negotiations with English Heritage about a Cathedrals Grant Scheme. Over the years, its role expanded to includes many other aspects of better equipping cathedrals, including: promoting the role of cathedrals in national and church life, liaising with the Church of England central bodies, Government and other organisations, and providing support to personnel across the country.

She takes over from Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield, who became chair in 2015 succeeding the then Dean of York, now Bishop Vivienne Faull.

He said: "It's been an honour and a privilege to oversee the AEC. I am proud of what has been achieved and I should like to thank all the cathedrals and all those who have been part of this journey alongside me."

"We've had success with the Comms Project, getting our story out there, we've had success as a lobby group, we've made the best of the Cathedrals Measure to be better run and well-governed, and we've been banging the drum for better public funding.

“My prayer is that the more we are outward facing and meet the needs of those who visit us and those who turn to us and the more we are seen to be edgy and prophetic, the more we have a good story to tell; a visible, actively Christian story," he added.

Adrian welcomed the appointment of Jo Kelly-Moore and said she would bring fresh vision and passion to the role and that he looked forward to seeing it flourish under her leadership.

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