



Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Expectations of Archdeacons

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Archdeacons share with the Bishop in pastoral oversight of the Diocese, with special responsibility for their Archdeaconries.

1 Personal and Parish Ministry

My first and most important expectation is that the lives and ministries of Archdeacons will be models and examples to others. This will include:

1.1 Personal Life

The Archdeacons' personal lives should be an example and inspiration to the clergy and other leaders of their Archdeaconries.

- ✦ Their lifestyle as Servant Leaders must bear witness to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.:

The Bishops of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa described the duty of all Anglican Christians of our church thus (see the Anglican Prayer Book p 434 No 82):

The Father expects all his people to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring others to a knowledge of him.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa shares in this call, and every baptized and confirmed member must share in God's mission to the world.

To this end your life-style as a Christian should include these responses to God's love for you; to:

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| ✦ Come to God in personal prayer every day | ✦ Uphold Christian standards in marriage |
| ✦ Read the Bible daily | ✦ Bring up children to love and serve the Lord |
| ✦ Receive Holy Communion frequently and in expectant faith | ✦ Give money to God's work and to consider the claims of tithing |
| ✦ Follow the example of Jesus in Daily life | ✦ Give personal service to the Church and to your neighbour |
| ✦ Speak about Jesus openly, as the Lord whom you know | ✦ Let your life be marked with self-denial and simplicity. |
| ✦ Work for justice and reconciliation | |
- ✦ They must spend quality and quantity time with their families, and also be disciplined about taking days off and holidays.
 - ✦ We expect them to practise integrity in all their relationships and actions.
 - ✦ They should be people of prayer, study the Bible, read theological books and show commitment to personal growth and development.

1.2 Parish Life and Ministry

In this Diocese we need to build up congregations into vibrant, active communities of faith. In such churches people are in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, are experiencing the power and love of the Holy Spirit and are growing as disciples. My prayer for Archdeacons is that they will be examples and models in these ways:

- ✦ People are being brought to faith in Christ
- ✦ There is a growing level of community as people meet for worship, fellowship, Bible study and prayer – using resources like Alpha, Rooted in Jesus and the Purpose Driven Church.
- ✦ Many people are discovering their spiritual gifts and being released to exercise them in and beyond the parish, so that there is a wide variety of ministries
- ✦ An increasing number of people feel called to serve as Lay Leaders, with training to fulfil these roles – including Churchwardens and Council members, Lay Ministers and leaders of organisations
- ✦ From among the Lay Leaders, some hear and respond to God's call to serve him in the ordained ministry – as Community Priests and Deacons, and as Stipendiary Diocesan Clergy.

All of this means that Archdeacons who are Rectors or Priests in Charge of parishes should give top priority to the parishes they serve. They should not become so busy with Archdeaconry duties that they are distracted from this primary calling.

2 Archdeaconry Ministry

2.1 Team Leader

The most important task with the Archdeaconry is to build up a strong team of clergy and parish leaders. In particular this requires:

- ✦ Regular meetings with the Rectors and Priests in Charge of the Archdeaconry – for fellowship, training, planning and mutual encouragement. This is central to our Diocesan Vision
- ✦ Several (three to four) Archdeaconry Council meetings each year, to address issues of mutual importance or concern to the parishes and congregations of the Archdeaconry, as well as Diocesan issues like the annual budget presentation
- ✦ Admission of Parish Councils in the Archdeaconry after the Annual Vestry Meetings. When necessary this can be delegated to another priest.

From time to time there will also be other needs:

- ✦ By default the Archdeacon becomes Priest in Charge of a parish in the Archdeaconry if it is vacant, unless the Bishop appoints someone else to that post
- ✦ Archdeacons assist the Bishop in the process of appointing new Rectors in the parishes of the Archdeaconry
- ✦ Conflict resolution or dealing with other problems in parishes and chapelries of the Archdeaconry.

2.2 Delegation

A number of roles traditionally fulfilled by the Archdeacon can (or should) be delegated to others who are better qualified than they are, for example:

- ✦ Inspection of parish buildings
- ✦ Inspection of parish finances, service registers, etc.

3 Diocesan Ministry

3.1 Regular Meetings

The Archdeacons meet with other Diocesan leaders to consider important issues in the life of the Diocese. They serve on the following bodies, most of which meet 3 or 4 times each year:

- ✦ **Diocesan Chapter** meets with the Bishop for fellowship and to advise him on personal and pastoral matters such as clergy appointments, the care of clergy, the training of ordination candidates and discipline
- ✦ **Diocesan Trustees** are responsible for the capital (investments and property) of the Diocese.
- ✦ **Diocesan Finance Board** (a sub-committee of DSC) meets to oversee and monitor the day-to-day finances of the Diocese, and to help prepare the Diocesan budget each year.
- ✦ The **Archdeacons' Forum**, which the Dean convenes, meets to support and encourage one another in mission and ministry.

Because of rapid changes in Information Technology, Archdeacons should do their best to become computer literate so that they can participate fully in Diocesan communications.

3.2 General

From time to time the Bishop may request an Archdeacon, as one of the senior priests of the Diocese, to represent him at an event, or to take on a specific responsibility.

4 Conclusion

In all these things it is only possible to succeed in the power of the Holy Spirit! But it is wonderful to know that:

- ✦ God is there to give us strength and wisdom when we need it
- ✦ We are part of a fellowship of Diocesan leaders who are there to support and encourage one another
- ✦ When we fail God is always ready to forgive us as we turn to Jesus.

Being an Archdeacon is also a great opportunity – to be exposed to many situations and styles of ministry and to grow as a result. Archdeacons can also involve their parishes in these experiences so that they also have opportunities for wider ministry and growth in faith and service.