

VAT hopes for our new Archbishop

A summary of key points raised at the 22 November VAT forum

We hope for:

1. an archbishop who values diversity and inclusiveness; does not just tolerate it but embraces and encourages it. An archbishop who can rise above factionalism. Who will support and encourage women and laity.
2. a pastoral archbishop – encouraging, approachable, and relatable.
3. a team playing archbishop who would actively build a team culture in the diocese, and create a democratic culture in the synod and at the grass roots, creating a diocese prepared to face difficult issues, a more confident diocese.
4. a courageous archbishop, not afraid of conflict, prepared to call out bad behaviour, and resistant to bullying.
5. an archbishop with inner strength to cope with the loneliness and demands of the role.

In addition, we hope for:

6. an archbishop with a passion for social justice.
7. a media-skilled archbishop.
8. an archbishop who values liturgy.
9. an archbishop dedicated to good governance, administration, and financial accountability.
10. an archbishop with a deep spirituality and incarnational presence.
11. an archbishop who would actively bring people of diverse expressions of Anglicanism together in discussion and discernment.

We note that we cannot be too idealistic, as the pool of possible appointees is small. The gender of our new archbishop is not of importance to us. Her or his length of tenure must also be borne in mind.