

Chichester Cathedral cleric to be new Dean

THE bishop has announced that the new Dean of Portsmouth will be Canon Dr Anthony Cane, currently Chancellor at Chichester Cathedral.

Anthony, 57, has served there since 2007 and has led a transformation of its work in the areas of education, the arts, visitor engagement, and external partnerships. During his varied career, he has worked with the homeless and drug addicts, and served the Church along the south coast – in Brighton and Torquay, as well as Chichester.

His priorities as the new Dean of Portsmouth – the most senior cleric at our cathedral – will include securing its long-term sustainability, developing congregation numbers and sharpening its strategic focus.

He said: “I am thrilled to be joining the cathedral and diocese as Dean of Portsmouth. What a privilege to have the chance to live and pray at the heart of a vibrant, diverse city and diocese.

“I look forward to working closely with the bishop, cathedral staff, worshipping community and volunteers, in furthering the ministry of the cathedral as a sign of God’s deep compassion and grace for every corner of the city and diocese. While there are challenges to face, the cathedral is well placed to go from strength to strength, and I am excited to be arriving at this point in its history.”

Bishop Christopher said: “I am



Canon Anthony Cane at Portsmouth Cathedral

looking forward to welcoming Anthony to our diocese and cathedral. He is well equipped to lead the development of its ministry in the parish, the city and for the diocese, building on the many strengths of its congregation and staff.”

Although his parents are from Kent, Anthony was born and raised in Cape Town until he was 20, and studied at university there for his first degree. He left college an atheist, and his journey to faith started when he met the woman who would become his wife, Clare, and accompanied her to church.

He worked in three different jobs in London, on the frontline of engagement with vulnerable people – working with homeless people in Vauxhall, a centre for former drug addicts in Earl’s Court, and a church community project on the Kings Road.

After ordination training at Westcott House, Cambridge, he served a curacy in Birmingham,

then spent six years as senior chaplain at the multi-campus University of Brighton. He combined parish and diocesan jobs in the Diocese of Exeter, and was then adult education officer in Chichester diocese, developing courses for parishes, training Readers, and designing and running a new programme for curates.

As Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral, he has delivered an acclaimed annual series of public lectures, introduced five series of films with spiritual themes in a local cinema, and been a founder member of three charities. He has served as a governor of the University of Chichester, chaired the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust from its inception, and initiated a ‘Night Cathedral’ event for students.

Anthony is married to Clare, a teacher, and they have three grown-up children. He will be installed as Dean at a cathedral service on Saturday 16 March.