



*Press Release for July 1<sup>st</sup>*

BEGINS

**Exciting Vision for a New Theological College in the North West of England**

All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry welcomes the announcement of the Bishops' plans for a new theological college in the North West of England.

The Venerable Dr John Applegate, Principal of All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry and a former Archdeacon of Bolton, said, "This is an exciting vision for Theological Education in the North West. It has the potential to release the current three providers from structures which prevent us all from reaching our full potential to serve the mission of the North West dioceses. The widening vision to be genuinely inclusive of lay training and of historically and socially disadvantaged groups is music to my ears."

Dr Applegate said that, "I thank God for the amazing people training with us. We have assured students that their rights to complete their courses will be respected and that All Saints will ensure a smooth transition to any new arrangements. Staff have demonstrated immense flexibility and resilience in response to the pandemic – key skills that will be needed in this transition."

"A new structure for Theological Education and the potential savings of scale could help overcome some of the challenges the churches face in the North West, but that is far from the whole story. My real prayer is that the Gospel and values of the kingdom will be at the heart of this venture and help generate a genuine surge in vocations to lay and ordained ministries, and a renewal of mission across this exciting and challenging region."

The Revd Canon David Felix, Chair of All Saints' Board of Trustees, said, "I welcome this vision for renewing Theological Education in the North West."

Canon Felix, a former solicitor and a member of the General Synod noted, "It is well-known that I step-down as Chair of the Board at the end of this year as my term of office comes to a close. I have overseen All Saints' successful development during the last six years and I look forward to working in co-operation with the bishops on implementing this new vision in a spirit of open consultation and collaboration."

Dr Applegate noted, "All Saints is a partnership between dioceses, staff and students that is committed to providing excellent, locally accessible training and formation for lay and ordained ministries. We trust that the new college will build on that founding vision of collaboration."

ENDS

## **INFORMATION ABOUT ALL SAINTS CENTRE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY**

All Saints grew out of a shared vision of the Dioceses of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester, our ecumenical partners and the ecumenical colleges at Luther King House, Manchester. The Diocese of Blackburn became a member of All Saints in 2016, and we have worked with the Diocese of Sodor and Man since 2009.

Founded originally as the Southern North-West Training Partnership, All Saints' precursor began teaching in 2007. In 2011 All Saints became a fully Anglican regional course and in 2012 changed its name to All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry to reflect its priorities of inclusion and mission.

All Saints has grown to be the largest regional course in the Church of England, establishing a further partnership with the diocese of Derby.

The Venerable Dr John Applegate has been Principal since 2008.

Contacts:      John Applegate, Principal: All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry  
[john.applegate@allsaintcentre.org](mailto:john.applegate@allsaintcentre.org)

David Felix, Chair of Trustees  
[david.felix@allsaintscentre.org](mailto:david.felix@allsaintscentre.org)