

BIOGRAPHY OF THE RT REVD DR ALAN SMITH LORD BISHOP OF ST ALBANS



Alan Smith is the Bishop of St Albans. He studied at the universities of Birmingham and Bangor and trained for the priesthood at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. In 1997 he became the Archdeacon of Stoke-on-Trent and five years later was consecrated Bishop of Shrewsbury.

He was chair of the Shropshire Strategic Partnership from 2006-2009 and was a member of the Rural Bishops' Panel from 2006-2009. He was translated to the See of St Albans on 1 April 2009.

In 2013 Alan Smith entered the House of Lords. As a member of the Bench of Bishops he speaks on a wide range of subjects, including rural affairs, housing, welfare and the economy. He is President of the Rural Coalition, a grouping of twelve rural organisations, all of which are committed to a living and working countryside.

He has written *Growing up in Multi-faith Britain: Explorations in Youth, Ethnicity and Religion* (2007) and *God-Shaped Mission: A Perspective from the Rural Church* (2008), and co-authored *The Reflective Leader* (2011). He was joint editor of *Faith and the Future of the Countryside* (2012). In 2013 he wrote *Saints & Pilgrims in the Diocese of St Albans*.

Among his hobbies are theatre, gardening, walking and skiing.