

Dean John Dobson



The Very Reverend John Dobson was appointed Dean of Ripon in June 2014 following 25 years of ministry in the Diocese of Durham serving as a parish priest, Area Dean, Chair of the diocesan House of Clergy, and member of The Board of Finance, Diocesan Synod and many other diocesan committees.

Dean John is delighted to be ministering in his native Yorkshire at a Cathedral that has been important to him since his childhood and which serves a vast rural area as well as the whole of West Yorkshire – all within the Diocese of Leeds.

While at Ripon, he has led the Cathedral community in an envisioning process that has resulted in the strategy, 'Growing God's Kingdom'. This is shaping the growing and nurturing of the congregation, the development of the Cathedral as a centre of heritage, pilgrimage and tourism, and the mission extended through the Cathedral to the people and communities of the region. In 2018, the Cathedral created the Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum under the Dean's chairmanship: from 2019-2021 Dean John chaired the North Yorkshire Rural Commission. In 2019 Dean John became a deputy lieutenant for the County of North Yorkshire. In 2022, the Cathedral celebrated its 1350th anniversary.

Ripon Together was created following a number of public meetings chaired by Dean John which explored how the city could work better together. He has been the Chair of the Board since the organisation began.