

historical extracts from **Local priests given historic honorary Cathedral role**
Diocese of Lichfield Press Release: 3 February, 2011

The Cathedral has 30 Prebendal Seats which are thought to originally date back to the 9th Century; before being founded or re-founded by Roger de Clinton in 1129.

Lichfield is one of 13 English Cathedrals known as Secular Cathedrals – which means it was not attached to a Monastery. In order to ensure sufficient clergy were available to lead the daily routine of worship, a number of Prebendaries were appointed: these were clergy who derived their income (or prebend) from parish estates but who had responsibilities to the Cathedral in addition to their parishes.

The Diocese of Lichfield has shrunk considerably over the centuries as neighbouring dioceses have been formed; but it remains one of the largest in the Church of England. As a result some of the Prebendal Seats are from areas which are no longer within the Diocese of Lichfield.

Prebendaries today have no responsibilities for the areas their Prebendal Seats represent. Prebendaries continue to hold their existing roles in addition to their new Cathedral responsibilities.

Most cathedral and collegiate church prebends were abolished by Henry VIII along with the monasteries; and just a handful remain, including Exeter, Hereford, Lincoln and St Paul's Cathedrals. Today, the property and income from the Prebends are part of the Church Commissioners' Assets; but the Prebendal Seats remain.

A Prebendary is part of the Greater Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral and will be summoned by The Queen to vote for a new Diocesan Bishop whenever there is a vacancy. In addition they have a say in the governance of the cathedral and are invited by the Dean and Chapter to take a share in the cathedral's ministry and mission, including preaching and leading worship and taking part in important services.

from <http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news&newsID=792>