



13th November 2024

Yesterday we received the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury has announced his resignation, a decision taken in recognition of the Church's profound responsibility towards those who have suffered abuse.

The Makin Review has laid bare the horrific and lasting impact of the abuse inflicted by John Smyth and the failure of the Church to act with sufficient urgency and care. It is thanks to the courage and resilience of survivors that the full scope of this tragedy has been brought to light. To all those who have come forward, I extend my deepest respect, and I urge anyone who has suffered abuse to report it, so we may listen, learn, and act to protect others.

As the Bishop of St Albans, I am wholly committed to ensuring that our churches are places of welcome, safety, compassion, and accountability. We must continue the work to transform our structures and practices, and we must create an environment in which all feel welcome, secure, and valued.

May we work together in faith so that our Church may truly become a place of welcome, security, and compassion—a place where we are watchful yet caring, trusting yet ready to question. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that all who come to worship may do so in safety and in the knowledge of God's enduring love.

+Alan, Bishop of St Albans

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**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

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