



03 February 2021

Dear friends,

As you know, Bishop Keith will be retiring on the 7th March after serving us faithfully for the last 14 years as our Bishop of Birkenhead. We have so much to give thanks for as we bless Keith and Rosie into this next stage of their life and ministry. Bishops are called to love and serve the people of God, to be diligent in prayer, to seek out the lost, to be gentle and merciful, and to "pass on entire the faith that is entrusted to us." Bishop Keith has been such a gift in this and so much more and although we are sorry to see him leave, we are deeply grateful for his and Rosie's time with us.

There are three things I want to invite you to participate in as we prepare for Keith's retirement, if you would like to and are able to:

1. Bishop Keith's final service as Bishop of Birkenhead will be at 3pm on Sunday 7th March in the Cathedral. Due to COVID, attendance will be online, but please do plan to join us if you can. [Here is the link to the online service](#). We'll share this link with you again nearer the time via the E-Bulletin and it will be prominent on the Cathedral and diocesan website on the day of the service.

2. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, you may do via the following methods:

By cheque

Please make cheques payable to "Chester DBF" and send them to:

Accounts Department,
Church House,
5500 Daresbury Park,
Daresbury,
Warrington
WA4 4GE.

Please write on the back of the cheque: "Bishop Keith's collection".

By electronic bank transfer

Please include the reference "Bishop Keith's collection" in your transfer.

Account name: Chester Diocesan Board of Finance
Sort Code: 60-40-08
Account Number: 4193 0185

Please make your contribution by **Monday 1st March** to ensure it can be processed in time for the farewell service.

3. One of the many things that we will miss out on due to COVID is the first-hand sharing of memories. I would like to present Keith and Rosie with an 'album' made up of postcards of memories and thanksgivings from his time in the diocese. If you would be willing to contribute to this, then this is how you can:

a) Find a photograph or a postcard that reminds you of Bishop Keith or Rosie in some fun way. If he splashed too much water in a baptism you could use a picture of a waterfall. Or if he got hiccoughs at a chapter meeting you could send a picture of a frog. Or if you have walked with him you could send a picture of a landscape or whatever. In some ways the more fun the better, but there are no rules - just things that will express our thanks and love.

b) Make sure this is postcard style (ie picture on front and writing on back) so it will go into an album where you can see both sides - 'normal' cards don't work for this.

c) Write the memory on the back of the postcard - think postcard length rather than a whole letter, and then...

d) Send it to:

Bishop Keith Cards,
Bishop's House,
Abbey Square,
Chester
CH1 2JD.

Please send in your cards by **Monday 1st March** so we can make up the album in time for the farewell service.

Thank you for all of this.

† **Mark**