

# Listening & Discerning on the Way Together

A word from Bishop Rose

Dear sisters and brothers,

Consider this your invitation to a deeper spiritual conversation this Autumn. The Coronavirus has had a terrible effect on our communities, on our nation, our world and on those most vulnerable in our society. It has also brought into sharper focus God's call on his Church to be a beacon of hope in dark times.

This period has presented us with the opportunity - the necessity, in fact - to stop 'life as normal' and spend time intentionally seeking God as a diocesan family, asking for his guidance for the next stage of our life together. It has been a 'kairos moment'\* of learning for us in which we are seeing even more clearly than before, that the foundation of our life and ministry is God's loving and saving movement in the world.

We must not lose this moment. So I am inviting you - the individuals, young people, families and church communities of our diocese - to join me this Autumn in engaging people in a prayerful conversation around three questions:

- **What are we noticing...**  
of God's movement at this difficult time?
- **What are we learning...**  
as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?
- **What might we let go of or allow to die...**  
so that we may enter a new future with God?

I am hugely grateful to our wonderful Mission & Ministry, Communities & Partnerships and Children & Young people's Teams who have worked hard to produce a range of resources to help us all to consider these questions, listening to God and to one another. Please join the conversation, make use of the resources, be creative in how you engage with these questions. Most of all, please tell us what you are hearing, tell us what you are learning, so that together we can shape our future life as a diocesan family together. Thank you - be assured of my prayers for you all as we seek God afresh this Autumn,



**Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin**

Bishop of Dover

\*Kairos in the New Testament means 'the appointed time in the purpose of God' (New Dictionary of Christian Theology)