



Dear Friends,

After 13 years as Chief Executive of the Diocese, Andrew Robinson has decided that he will leave office at the end of this month. I cannot begin to express how much Andrew has given to this diocese, professionally and personally. He has provided enthusiastic and incisive leadership of the Diocesan Office for well over a decade, modernising and improving our processes beyond recognition. His contribution to the life and breadth of the Diocese as a whole is incalculable, and he has helped steer us through the unprecedented challenges of the last two years. He will be sorely missed by us all, and leaves with our prayers and very best wishes for him, Lorraine, and their two daughters.

Following Andrew's departure, the trustees of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance will be making interim governance arrangements. A recruitment process for the next Chief Executive will begin later this year. Further information is [on the website](#).

Please join me in praying for Andrew, his family, and the future of the Diocese. I would also welcome everyone across the diocese to join me at Diocesan Prayer on Monday. Many of you have told me how valuable the diocesan prayer has been, giving an opportunity to meet people from other parishes and have time to reflect as a diocese at the beginning of each month. The prayer will be held on Zoom and details for how to join are below.

Last week, a reflection from Bishop David was featured on the BBC's Harvest service, which was broadcast to all 39 local BBC radio stations across the UK. Bishop David spoke about the opportunity to give thanks at harvest and the challenge of fulfilling the responsibility of sharing God's gifts fairly. You can listen to this service again [here](#).

Next weekend a Lay Ministries Celebration Service is being held in Winchester Cathedral, where we will be licensing and commissioning all those who have this year completed their training for lay ministry roles in their benefices. This is the second celebration we have held recently, following a similar service held in September which had been delayed due to the pandemic. Please join us by praying for all those who are being licensed and commissioned this autumn, and the important role lay ministry plays in parishes across the diocese.

In the next few weeks I will be visiting Launchpad:Boldre for the official opening of the pre-school's new bespoke yurt. Linked with the local parish or Church school, Launchpad pre-schools provide early-years education with a Christian ethos and a commitment to excellence. Launchpads offer an environment where children can explore, play, and learn with the support of caring and dedicated staff, and I am so excited about visiting the pre-school in the coming weeks and seeing all that has been achieved. Please join me in prayer for the staff and all the Winchester Social Enterprise team who have made this happen.

Finally, the voting for the 2021 General Synod elections has now opened so, for all those eligible to do so, please remember to vote. You can find further information, and the election

addresses of all the candidates, on the [website](#).

With best wishes,

Bishop Debbie

**Diocese of Winchester is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Topic: Diocesan Prayer - 4 October 2021

Time: Oct 4, 2021 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98855486740?pwd=TIJIa0FHOWR2aHl3NndETnc3WW9XQT09>

Meeting ID: 988 5548 6740

Passcode: 439007

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