

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for parishes

Whilst we are all mindful of the risk of COVID-19 (and the flu) at the moment, the latest guidance from Public Health England (17 Feb) suggests we should not be alarmed:

Whilst in places of worship there is no need to avoid other people who are well. Take usual infection prevention precautions including washing your hands (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) or using hand sanitiser (containing at least 60% alcohol) after using the toilet facilities; before eating food or snacks or if you are in close contact with someone who is unwell. This is particularly important after taking public transport.

Churches should already be following best-hygiene practices that include advising parishioners with coughs and sneezes to refrain from handshaking during The Peace and to receive Communion in one kind only. At present, there is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended. It is also best practice for churches to have hand-sanitisers available for parishioners to use.

In addition, priests presiding at the Eucharist, communion administrators and servers should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based (minimum 60%) hand-sanitiser. Intinction (practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread into the consecrated wine before consumption by the communicant) is not recommended (even by celebrants or communion administrators) as this represents an infection transmission route.

Best hygiene practice should continue to be observed in all pastoral contacts.

Learning in Faith

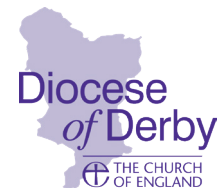
Would you like to learn more about Instagram or Twitter? Or how to encourage families and children into your church? Have you ever thought about your vocation and what God is calling you to do?

Learning in Faith is The Diocese of Derby's programme of FREE courses to help you develop your faith, learn new skills and support your church to pray, learn, tell and serve together.

Why not take a moment to explore the courses on offer either online at www.derby.anglican.org/training or in the booklet (available from your PCC). Booking is easy - either via the website or by calling 01332 388687.

Our Diocese

March 2020



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Bishop Jan writes...



"So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu," so sing the children in The Sound of Music.

Surely one of the toughest aspects of being a priest or bishop is that from time to time you have to uproot, leave behind the people and places you have grown to love so much, and move to pastures new. As you say your farewells you're reminded of the privilege of having been a part of so many people's lives, often sharing the sorrows as well as the joys, and knowing the stories behind the smiles.

For me, the most important symbol of my ministry is my pastoral staff. Not a beautifully decorated, bejewelled work of art in precious metal, but a real wooden shepherd's crook. It's a reminder that Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd and calls his priests and bishops to tend his flock. When I arrived in Derbyshire as a shiny new bishop in 2016, I carried a shiny new shepherd's staff. Recently I said to my husband that I ought to give it a good polish as its beginning to look very scratched and battered. Andrew wisely said no, and reminded me that every scratch and imperfection is a reminder of a pastoral encounter.

Baptisms, confirmations, licensings; sermons preached from lofty pulpits and lowly steps; the Lord's Supper celebrated in cathedral and front room; joys and sorrows, confidences shared; stories received of the very many ways in which God is working in people's lives; I have loved it all.

Thank you for the cards and heartfelt messages received following the announcement of our departure. We will miss you all very much indeed. So many expressions of farewell invoke God's blessing; from goodbye (Godbye - God be with you) to adieu (short for 'I commend you to God'). May God bless you all in all that lies ahead.

And pray for us, as we will surely pray for you.

*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane
Bishop of Repton*

Read more about Bishop Jan's new role over the page.

Dates for your diary

March

- Wed 4: Together Magazine issue 8 published
- Sat 7: Diocesan Synod
- Mon 9: Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)
- Wed 25: Peak Deanery Synod

April

- Sun 5: Palm Sunday
- Thu 9: Maundy Thursday
- Fri 10: Good Friday
- Sat 11: Holy Saturday
- Sun 12: Easter Sunday
- Mon 27: Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)

2020 Flower Festivals

Tell us about your
flower festival before
31 March 2020
to be included in our
2020 Flower Festival
guide

Email:
[communications@
derby.anglican.org](mailto:communications@derby.anglican.org)

Online:
bit.ly/parisheventform

www.derby.anglican.org | @DioceseofDerby

Bishop Jan to move to a new role in Lichfield

The Bishop of Repton is moving on from the Diocese of Derby to become Residentiary Canon (House for Duty) at Lichfield Cathedral and Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield.

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane will move to Lichfield with her husband Andrew and take on her new role in April, after almost four years as Bishop of Repton.

It will be a return to Diocese of Lichfield for Bishop Jan who was born in Stoke-on-Trent and began parish ministry in Stafford following her ordination as a priest in 1994. From there she served in Ely and Norwich dioceses before becoming the Bishop of Repton in 2016.

Bishop Jan said: "Andrew and I will be very sorry to leave the beautiful county of Derbyshire where we have been so happy. I feel blessed to have worked with some excellent colleagues and wonderful congregations. I came to the diocese knowing there would be a vacancy-in-see to cover. The completion of that task has coincided with the silver anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, and much reflection during my recent sabbatical on the past 26 years since I was ordained at Lichfield Cathedral.

"In addition, following five years of hospital visits I have been formally declared in remission from cancer. All of this together has led to a desire to live life at a different pace. I look forward to being able to carve out time for writing and to return to the rhythm of preaching, praying, presiding and pastoring for which I was first ordained. I'm much looking forward to returning to my home county and diocese, journeying from Repton to Lichfield quite literally in the footsteps of St Chad."

Bishop Jan will have a formal farewell at the meeting of the Derby Diocesan Synod on Saturday 7 March. She will preach at Evensong at Derby Cathedral on Sunday 8 March at 6pm and hopes to be able to say a less formal farewell after that service, to which everyone is welcome.

The Bishop of Derby, the Rt Revd Libby Lane, said: "Bishop Jan has been a rich blessing for the Diocese of Derby. With compassion and courage she has offered both care and challenge in a time of transition. She is a good friend, and has been a generous colleague - especially for me as I



arrived in the diocese. She is greatly valued and appreciated, and her ministry has been a gift to us: we thank God for her. We recognise the cost of the past few years, and honour her integrity as she moves to this new ministry in Lichfield. She will be greatly missed, but travels in the steps of St Chad with our love and prayers for her and Andrew."

Bishop Jan will be installed as Residentiary Canon (House for Duty) at Lichfield Cathedral on Friday 3 April during Choral Evensong. She will be welcomed as Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield at Chrism Eucharist at the cathedral on Maundy Thursday, 9 April.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, said: "It is a joy to welcome Bishop Jan back to the Diocese of Lichfield, where she was born, baptised, and ordained as a deacon and a priest. I am very pleased that she has agreed to assist in an honorary capacity with episcopal ministry, and I know that we will be greatly enriched by her wisdom, teaching and pastoral gifts. It is fitting that she will be commissioned during the Chrism Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, an occasion on which we pray for all who exercise ordained and licensed ministries."

The Very Revd Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield Cathedral, said: "Lichfield Cathedral is honoured and delighted to receive Bishop Jan as our new Canon Custos. Her role will be primarily pastoral helping develop our links and concern for all associated with the Cathedral. We look forward to benefitting from her wisdom and experience and having her as a valued colleague. Her arrival will be a bit of a homecoming and we hope she and Andrew will enjoy this return to Jan's roots."

St Mary's Church, Wirksworth secures National Lottery grant

St Mary's Church, Wirksworth will be making essential roof repairs this Spring, thanks to a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £120,000. Alongside the repairs, people will be given the chance to find out about the work, tour the tower and try their hand at heritage crafts found in the church.

The Grade I listed church was put on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register in 2019, because of the 'poor' condition of the roof.

St Mary's sits at the heart of the historic market town and is an important part of its identity. It's also the first point of call for many visitors, so a new exhibition will help people understand more about St Mary's unique heritage and connections to the town's lead mining history.

With the town's main annual celebrations stemming from the church traditions of Well Dressing and Clypping, the project will encourage the wider

community to connect with the church's heritage.



More repair work will be needed in future to make sure St Mary's is no longer 'at risk', so building the support of the whole town will be vital.

Commenting on the award, the rector, Canon David Truby said: "We are delighted to have received support from National Lottery players for this important project, which will restore the nave roof for generations to come. We also want to make the wonderful heritage of St Mary's more accessible to the wider community and visitors alike."

Anne Jenkins, Director, England, Midlands & East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, added: "Thanks to National Lottery Players, we are delighted to award St Mary's Church, Wirksworth with a grant that not only carries out urgent repairs, but will also welcome new visitors, meaning this important heritage will resonate with the community for years to come."

Bishop Jan consecrates cemetery

"What have you been doing at school today?"
"We've been resurrecting dead bodies."

Actually the children of Crich Church of England Infants School had been helping Bishop Jan consecrate the new graveyard below the church. On a perfect February afternoon with a pure blue sky and low winter sunlight pouring down the hill, the gathering of children and adults had witnessed an ancient rite which none had seen before nor were likely to see again.

Bishop Jan in her full regalia complete with Doc Martens first fielded such questions as 'Why are you dressed like that?' and 'Why are your eyes orange?' Once such matters had been cleared up she explained the nature of the ritual, held her crook aloft and announced she was chief shepherd. The children were encouraged to answer with a few bleats but from then on they were drawn into the beauty and the sacredness of the proceedings. Bishop Jan led the procession along the hedgerows reciting psalms and pausing at each corner to mark a solemn cross in the wet grass. Where the gas



main bisected the burial ground the gathering was informed that this stretch could not be consecrated, because it might be necessary one day to disturb the pipeline. The children, silent and respectful, carefully picked their way around the unhallowed plot. At the conclusion the Registrar in her wig and gown read the declaration and Bishop Jan told the children that this was now a place where the villagers could lie safe and at rest in Jesus. And for a few minutes the children and all the gathering stood quietly in that glorious winter sunlight and thought about the past and the present and the future and the eternal rest that Jesus gives.

Then Bishop Jan led her flock up the lane and into the church for drinks and cake.