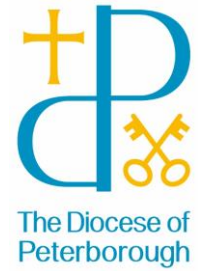


17 January 2023



Dear friends,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the farewell Evensong for Bishop Donald. It was a moving and fitting tribute to him and his service. As Bishop Donald himself would say however, the focus needs to remain on Jesus and the future and so we are looking ahead with a clear appreciation of the challenges and opportunities which are presented to us.

I have met with the Bishop's Leadership Team this week and we have started the process of putting together our strategy for the coming year. This, alongside the vacancy in see process will see input from all the parishes to help guide our vision. We will continue to provide updates of how the process continues as we hold further meetings.

During the meeting the leadership team ratified the appointment of The Revd Paula York to the enhanced role of Dean of Women's Ministry, alongside her existing parish post. I give her my full support in her ministry and thank her for being an encouragement for women in all types of ministry throughout the diocese.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon at one of our forthcoming events. Please do join me on Saturday 18 March in Northampton for the Bible Day where we will be joined by the brilliant Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, and on 2 May for our Rural Ministry Day. More details for the Bible day are available on the website, and information about the Rural Ministry Day will follow in due course.

With my prayers and best wishes



+John

On behalf of the Bishop's Leadership Team