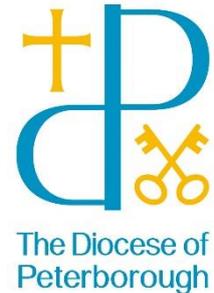


BISHOP'S LETTER No 43 3 July 2022

From Bishop Donald

To: Licensed Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Clergy with PTO, Bishop's Council, Diocesan and Cathedral Staff, Diocesan Registrar, Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Lay Chairs, final-year Ordinands, final-year Lay Ministry students; copied for information to Yaxley Clergy and Lay Chair



Dear friends

Warm greetings to you all.

Bishop's Retirement

With a mixture of emotions, I announce today that I shall be retiring as Bishop of Peterborough at the start of next year. My final day at work, Sunday 8 January, will include an afternoon farewell service in the Cathedral. Details of this will doubtless be circulated nearer the time.

This is not the time for retrospectives, or for crystal-ball gazing. There is a process for appointing a new diocesan bishop, and we have a Vacancy-in-See Committee which will play its part in that. Leadership of the diocese during the episcopal vacancy will be decided and announced, probably in the autumn.

Those who know me well will know that I have no intention of stopping ministry, but in the next stage it will almost certainly be part-time, and by a wise but painful convention it will be well away from Peterborough Diocese.

At this point I simply repeat what I have often said since I came here in 2010, that being your bishop continues to be a great privilege and (mainly) a great joy. I look forward to six more months of that.

New Clergy

One of the greatest joys and privileges of being bishop is ordaining new clergy each year. Please pray for those ordained last Sunday.

Deacons: Holly Horspole, Andrew Maud, Kim McCloughry, Evie McNally, Tracy Pegram, Mel Stanley, Shilo Varughese, Rebecca Yates.

Priests: George Frost, Clare Glover, Peter Heffron, Jonathan Lee, Sarah Lee, Shakeel Nurmahi, Lesley Tomalin.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: 17-25 September

The coming pilgrimage will obviously be the last one I lead as Bishop of Peterborough. I thought it would be helpful to do a reconnaissance as so much was reported to have changed during lockdown. I was able to get to Jerusalem for a short stay last month, and am delighted to report that there are now no covid-linked restrictions at all on entering and exiting Israel. All was very straightforward, and in fact getting in and through immigration was easier than it has ever been. The easyJet flights to and from Luton were also straightforward, with no hints of cancellations or other such problems. The hotel we use in Jerusalem has recently opened up after a difficult two years, but they were well organised and staffed. I am looking forward very much to our time there and in Galilee.

We still have places available: in fact we are slightly below the number we need to make the trip viable. We will have to close the list or cancel the trip in early August, as we need to confirm final numbers for the flight a full month ahead. Full details are [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Joanne Gibson](#) my PA. If you decide to book, please make sure you reserve the morning of Saturday 20 August for a pilgrimage briefing, and let [Joanne](#) know so we can keep you up to date with plans.

Welcome Directory

The clergy have already seen this, but I think it worth reminding them, and making it more widely known. The Welcome Directory is a way of pointing people who are about to leave prison to churches that will welcome them. Sadly, very few Anglican churches have signed up yet. I am keen that we as a diocese might start to put that right. Further details are on our website: [here](#).

With my heartfelt thanks for our continued shared ministry

+ Donald