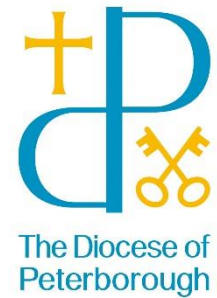


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 50

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

13 June 2021



Dear friends

Freedom Day

What a lot of nonsense the press talk. Turning a tentative, hopeful, best-case scenario into the strong expectation of “freedom day.” Tomorrow, we are told, all will be revealed for “freedom” a week later. It probably won’t. All the current leaks (and all common sense) suggest some at least of the current restrictions continuing a bit longer – apart from baptisms and weddings, where the rules have just been relaxed to match those for funerals. In any case, there is still no guidance from the government on face coverings and distancing in large indoor gatherings after “freedom day”. My expectation is that, even if most restrictions are lifted in a week’s time, many of those which apply to church services and meetings will remain in place for a while.

Ordinations

Sunday 27 June sees our annual ordination services in the Cathedral, with me ordaining the priests at 11am and Bishop John the deacons at 4pm. Sadly, these must be by invitation and ticket only. This year we are allowing each ordinand six family members or friends (last year we had to postpone the ordinations to September, and each candidate only had one guest present), but I’m afraid that is it. The services will be video-recorded, and live-streamed: details will be on the Cathedral website.

Please do pray for our new clergy.

To be priests: Simon Aley, Yvonne Desroches, Keir Dow, Nic Edwards, Michelle Frost, Angela Hammett, Kevin Montgomery, Kris Seward, Debbie Smith-Wilds, Josh Thorne, Ali Wagner.

To be deacons: George Frost, Clare Glover, Peter Heffron, Josh Jackson, Jonathan Lee, Sarah Lee, Shakeel Nurmahi, Lesley Tomalin.

Amendment to the Churchyard Regulations

New Churchyard Regulations have recently come into force, and the Diocesan Chancellor has asked that a note go out to all the clergy alerting them to this. The main change is the prohibition of coloured engravings, painted scenes and portraits on headstones. You can find the new regulations attached.

Immigration Law: Changes Affecting Marriage

You may already have received Clergy Newsletter Issue 12 (June 2021) from the Passport Office/ General Register Office. In case not, you will find it attached.

Sermons and Psalms

The take-up and viewing figures for my weekly recorded Sunday sermons and Tuesday psalm studies are still quite high, so I am scrapping my original intention of stopping them at the end of August. I'm happy to continue with them until further notice.

They will continue to appear on the diocesan website and on [my YouTube channel](#), and advance copies of the sermons are available from [Rachel Lomas](#) in my office.

Farewell to Gordon

I am sad to report that Gordon Steele will be retiring as Archdeacon of Oakham, and moving away from the diocese, in the autumn. His farewell service will be in the Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 31 October. More details will follow, but please make a note of the date and time.

Jubilee

This is the fiftieth of these, mainly weekly, clergy bulletins during our strange covid times. It was important for me to be in touch with you that often, almost in an emergency way, while things were moving so quickly. Over the last year or so I have also done a few extra editions of my normally thrice-yearly letters to a wider group including the clergy. I am planning another such letter in three weeks' time, the first Sunday of July, and I'm not currently intending to write again before then. So this may be the last of the bulletins, but I'm not making any promises!

With love in Christ

+ Donald