



THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

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Bishop of Peterborough to take early retirement

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt Revd Ian Cundy, is to retire next July, nine months short of his 65th birthday.

Bishop Ian was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung cavity, a year ago, and is currently undergoing his second course of chemotherapy.

“I am naturally sorry to be leaving earlier than I expected,” he said this week, “but it is clear to me that even with the benefit of a further course of treatment I am unlikely to be able to meet the demands of a bishop’s ministry to my own satisfaction, and fulfil the needs and expectations of the diocese.

“Jo and I have enjoyed our time in Peterborough immensely. It has been a privilege to work with talented and dedicated clergy and lay people across the diocese during a period of significant change. I have seen a number of churches grow in strength, and several new ones planted strategically in new housing areas.

“Despite the financial constraints and changing patterns of church attendance, I believe the diocese is in good heart and that its churches are well placed to continue to present the Christian message in word and deed in the communities they serve.”

Bishop Ian came to the Peterborough diocese (which covers Northants, Rutland, and most of the city of Peterborough) in 1996.

He was ordained in 1969 and was curate of Christ Church New Malden, Surrey (1969-73), a tutor in church history and Christian doctrine at Oak Hill Theological College in London (1973-77), and Rector of Mortlake with East Sheen (1978-83). He was Warden of Cranmer Hall, a theological College, in Durham from 1983 until 1992, when he became Area Bishop of Lewes in Sussex.

He has held a number of national positions within the Church of England. He is a member of the House of Lords and a Church Commissioner, and until recently was Chair of the Council for Christian Unity, and co-chair of the Joint Implementation Commission of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant.

After their retirement, Bishop Ian and Jo, who have three grown-up children, will be living in the north-east of England.

Bishops in the Church of England are Crown appointments, and the process of appointing a successor will include extensive consultations within the diocese and wider church. The Diocesan Synod has a Vacancy in See Committee which will be asked to draw up a profile of the diocese to assist the process.

During the vacancy, and also while Bishop Ian is receiving chemotherapy between now and Christmas, the Rt Revd Frank White, Suffragan Bishop of Brixworth will assume Episcopal authority within the diocese, which also has the services of its Honorary Assistant Bishop, the Rt Revd John Flack, who is part-time Priest in charge of Nassington.

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