

“Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God”

As you read this, the diocese will be in the process of saying “Goodbye”, literally “God Bless You” to Bishop Donald after almost 13 years as Bishop of Peterborough. I hope many of you will be able to share in the special service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Sunday 8th when there will be opportunity to express our gratitude for his ministry among us.

I’m thrilled and deeply honoured to have been invited to serve you as Acting Bishop of Peterborough until Bishop Donald’s successor arrives. We have a superb team of senior clergy, excellent diocesan officers, brilliant office staff and three wise retired bishops to guide us through this year. Our clergy, lay ministers and lay leaders are wonderful servants of Christ and I have every confidence that God will guide us and be good to us. Within that great team, my job is to help you to do your jobs in serving Jesus and your communities, or as one of our amazing Gen2 Youth team prayed for me recently; “to help everyone in the diocese realise their dreams”.

One of Bishop Donald’s special gifts is as a teacher and I’m delighted to announce that for the Bishop’s Bible Day this year we have attracted one of the leading Bible teachers in the country. The Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, a former Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the author of last year’s powerful Lent Book “Embracing Justice” will give the two keynote addresses on Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd”

and Psalm 137 “By the rivers of Babylon”. There will also be the usual range of workshops and an opportunity to “grill the bishop”.

Saturday 18th March,
Northampton High School. Details available soon.



At a recent service in Westminster Abbey, I was delighted to discover that the lectern in front of the high altar was a gift in memory of the great Northamptonshire Christian William Carey (1761-1834). He persuaded British Christians to share the good news of Jesus with the wider world, translated the Bible into six languages and served as a pioneer missionary in India. Carey’s great motto “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God” is inscribed on the lectern and has been an encouragement to many for 200 years. Perhaps their reassurance and challenge might be an inspiration to us this year.

With my love, prayers and best wishes,

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+John
Bishop of Brixworth

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