



**From Bishop Donald    To the Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers**

cc    *Bishop's Council, Diocesan and Cathedral Staff, Diocesan Registrar,  
Diocesan and Deanery Lay Chairs, Yaxley Deanery Clergy and Lay Chair*

***Dear friends***

Advent greetings. Apologies if this feels like one too many additions to your inbox at this time of year. By all means just glance through it now, and return to it with more focus and with your diary open after you have taken a post-Christmas break.

There is so much going on in our diocese, in the wider church, and of course in the world. Our country is facing an unclear and potentially complicated future. In the midst of busyness, confusion, and even panic, the key truths remain clear. God has taken flesh and come into this world. Christ lived, died, and rose again for us. He lives for evermore, and in him we have eternal life and the promise of an everlasting kingdom of justice and peace. We hold onto these truths, and we proclaim them.

**Archbishop's Visit**

Archbishop Justin will be visiting the Diocese from Monday 8 April to Wednesday 10 April. Further details will be released as soon as we have them, but there will be an open Question and Answer session with the Archbishop for clergy and lay ministers on the evening of Tuesday April in Northampton.

**Attachments**

If the technology works, you should find two embedded documents: one from the Anti-Terrorism Police, offering support for places of worship with concerns about their safety; the other from our Diocesan Registrar, outlining which of her services are paid for by the diocese, and which are chargeable to parishes.



NEWS RELEASE -  
faith leaders.docx



Diocesan Registrar  
- Professional Service

**Bishop John**

John will be away on sabbatical leave from 8 January until 8 April. His PA Suzanne Carter will continue at work, dealing with diary matters for his return, and passing other messages to whoever needs to see or deal with them. In his absence Archdeacon Richard will be Acting Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education.

**Bishop's Charity**

Donations and confirmation collections next year will go to The Leprosy Mission. Those booking confirmations should receive a note which can be included in the service booklet.

**Celebration of Lay Ministry (September), and Clergy Day (November)**

It was good to see many of you at these two days recently. Please make sure the dates for 2019 are in your diary: the Celebration of Lay Ministry will be on Saturday 28 September, and the Clergy Day on Thursday 14 November, both in the Cathedral.

### **Clergy Permission to Officiate**

After retirement, most clergy seek Permission to Officiate, and this is gladly given. We very much appreciate the continued service of retired clergy. In this diocese, the register and the system for PTO are administered by Bishop John and his PA. A new system for PTO is coming in next year, with a national register of PTO clergy, and a requirement for ongoing safeguarding training as well as DBS checks. Please be patient with the longer application forms, and the more complicated process: these are necessary as part of our commitment to good safeguarding.

When retired clergy are ministering mainly in the parish where they regularly worship, a role as Assistant Priest could be more appropriate than Permission to Officiate. This gives a place on the PCC, and invitations to the Ministers' Conference, the Maundy Thursday lunch, and other events. If retired clergy or their incumbents want to discuss that, please contact me, Bishop John, or your Archdeacon.

### **Confirmations**

A reminder that Bishops John, Ed, and I are happy to visit parishes to confirm, even for a small number of candidates. My preference is to do this in the main Sunday service. Please contact my office, who will be happy to arrange a date.

As usual, I shall preside at an Easter Eve Confirmation in the Cathedral, as part of the 8pm Vigil Service. Clergy from any parishes or chaplaincies, including parishes in the Yaxley Deanery, are welcome to bring candidates to this. The date for 2019 is 20 April: please let my Chaplain have details of numbers by Monday 1 April.

### **Holy Land Pilgrimage**

The trip I led last spring was over-subscribed, but for the 50 of us who travelled, it turned out to be a very special time of blessing. I had planned another three years later, but have decided to shorten that gap to 18 months. So I will lead another pilgrimage to the lands Jesus knew, 13-21 October 2019. I am well aware of parish and other visits on a smaller scale, often of around 15-20 people. Those have great value, and I would not want to compete with them. A group of 50 makes for a very different experience.

Brochures are or will be available from my office, the Cathedral, and Bouverie Court, or you can find all the details online at the Lightline website: [www.lightline.org.uk](http://www.lightline.org.uk) Select Holy Land then 2019, and find a selection of pilgrimages, any of which could be a life-changing event for you or your people.

### **Lambeth Conference**

Archbishop Justin is inviting all bishops of the Anglican Communion to the next Lambeth conference in the summer of 2020. Immediately before, those bishops coming from overseas, will be offered hospitality by the English diocese (home stays, and a look at what we do in our area). Nearer the time we will be looking for volunteers to host an overseas bishop, possibly with spouse, for a week or two in July 2020. There will also be an appeal to help with travel and accommodation costs for those coming from the poorer parts of the world. Please be aware of this now, and ready to help when the time comes.

### **Mission and Development Team**

Liz Holdsworth, our longest-serving staff member at Bouverie Court, is retiring towards the end of January. In recent years Liz has served as Director of Training; she is currently Director of Mission and Development. She also heads up our work in conflict transformation. Liz and Ian (who is also retiring as Vicar of Far Cotton) will be moving to Bridlington. They will be much missed, but go with our thanks and very best wishes.

We are looking to appoint a new Director of Mission, who will lead the Mission and Development Team as well as taking the main role in supporting and helping parishes in mission. Advertisements and details should be out early in the New Year.

Linnet Smith is also retiring from her part-time role in the Mission and Development Team. She has done great work, mainly in running our one-year Certificate Courses. She will continue to live in the diocese and help in her local parish. We wish her well. Sadly, the state of diocesan finances means that we cannot replace her with a paid post for the time being: we will look to continue as much of her work as possible, but it will be done by volunteers.

### **Mission Opportunities**

The Mission and Development Team has put in place two significant opportunities for evangelism in this coming year, one jointly with the Cathedral. Please consider using one or both in your parish or chaplaincy.

*Sharing Faith* consists of three straightforward group sessions of 90 minutes each, and will give participants skills and confidence to talk about their faith in informal contexts. Materials are freely available from Bouverie Court. Highly recommended.

*The Word One2One* is a simple but excellent initiative. The idea is to encourage Christians to read through John's Gospel with a non-Christian friend. There are three evening events planned and I encourage you and your church to get involved.

Mission training for clergy & lay leaders (Northampton – Monday 4 March)  
Mission training for church members (Cathedral – Wednesday 8 May or Northampton – Tuesday 21 May)  
Outreach event for inviting friends to (Cathedral – Monday 10 June)

Places need to be booked in advance. Sarah Brown [canon.missioner@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:canon.missioner@peterborough-cathedral.org.uk) is the lead person and contact.

### **Parish Share**

I regret to report that parish share receipts, with 2018 nearing its close, are disappointing. We are very unlikely even to reach 90% of what we asked for. Please do all you can to ensure payment, even if it reaches us in January rather than December. It is very likely that we will have to make some very tough decisions in the next few months.

Once again, please do all you can to teach committed and sacrificial giving (as part of our discipleship, our response to God's love in Christ). And do feel free to contact your Archdeacon or the Stewardship Team at Bouverie Court if you need help in this.

With much gratitude for our fellowship together in ministry,  
and with every blessing for Christmas.



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