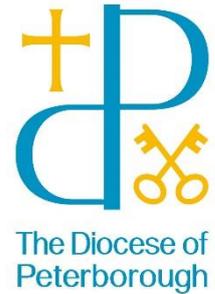


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 42

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

21 March 2021



Dear friends

Greetings to you, and especially to those with Permission to Officiate (PTO). This week I am sending the bulletin to you too, because I want you to know about both the reaffirmation of ordination vows and the new marriage registration rules.

National Day of Reflection – this Tuesday

I mentioned this a few weeks ago, and you will doubtless have heard about it on the news. There are resources to help you mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown, if you wish, on [the Church of England website](#).

Ordination Vows – Maundy Thursday

Once again this year we will have the opportunity to reaffirm our ordination vows. We will hold three zoom services on the morning of 1 April: 10am for the licensed clergy of Northampton Archdeaconry, 11am for Oakham Archdeaconry, 12 noon for those with PTO. If you can't manage the appropriate time, feel free to go to one of the other services: they will be very much the same. The Order of Service is attached to this bulletin so you can print it out or have it up on another screen. The zoom links are:

10.00 (Northampton) [Zoom Link](#) (Meeting ID: 827 0581 5013; Passcode: 389298)

11.00 (Oakham) [Zoom Link](#) (Meeting ID: 858 5450 1157; Passcode: 856649)

12.00 (Clergy with PTO) [Zoom Link](#) (Meeting ID: 829 6310 9607; Passcode: 350893)

Or dial in using meeting ID and Passcodes as above:

0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 / 0203 901 7895

Please don't share these codes with anyone (except fellow-clergy who have lost theirs!) We are very close to our maximum limit of 100 people per service.

Easter Communion by Extension

A reminder that I have given blanket permission for any parish in the diocese to use the provisions of Communion by Extension at Easter (and Christmas). At present there are restrictions on the use of wine, but the usual general rules apply: the prescribed form of service should be used (available [here](#)), the elements must come from a service held earlier that day or overnight, the service must be led by a deacon or a Reader.

New Marriage Registration System

You should by now have received details of the online training portal for the new system. I am aware that what is offered is less than ideal, and I am unhappy about that. This material is not produced by the Church, and may not be entirely church-friendly. Our Registrar and Archdeacons are working on this, as is the Life Events Team at Church House Westminster, and you can expect to hear from them. In the meantime, please look at what is available: it might be enough to answer your questions and prepare you.

Bishop's Marriage Order

I'm getting a lot of requests to allow banns to be read, or marriages to take place, at an alternative parish in the benefice where someone has a right or qualifying connection to be married. I can sign a Bishop's Marriage Order, which makes it legal to publish banns and celebrate marriages in any parish in the benefice indefinitely into the future. It might help to know in advance that I need evidence that every PCC in the benefice has agreed. You could save yourself time by letting me have (via [Joanne Gibson](#)) copies of the relevant PCC minutes when you ask for a Bishop's Marriage Order.

Self-care and mutual care

Ministry can be lonely. I am aware that some of us don't have any sort of support group. I rejoice that those on freehold or common tenure are not employees and don't have line management, and I will continue to resist changing that: we are grown-ups and leaders, and should be free to work out how we go about ministry, how we balance the joys, responsibilities, and burdens of our whole-life vocations. However, it is not good to be alone, and I do commend getting together with others for mutual support. Prayer triplets, reading groups, meeting in the pub or coffee shop or online to moan about the bishop or archdeacon, saying the daily office with others (online is ok), cell groups with like-minded (or different-minded) people ... there are lots of possibilities. If you need help on this, [Tim Alban Jones](#) or [Chrys Tremththamor](#) would be happy to hear from you.

Ministers' Conference

Following the cancellation of our conference this year, we have now booked Yarnfield Park for next year. We plan to be there Monday 7 November to Thursday 10 November 2022. Please make a note of that. We will still aim to hold a clergy day for each archdeaconry, almost certainly online, between 9 and 11 November this year.

Mixed-mode church after lockdown

I am hearing good ideas and deep thinking about how our church lives might look in the future. I will write more about that in coming weeks, but please let me know (as usual, [via Joanne Gibson](#)) what you are thinking, or any questions or concerns you have.

With love in Christ

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