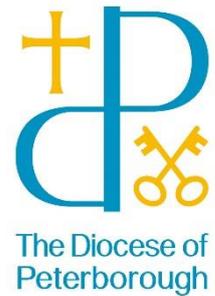


## **BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 28**

### **To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese**

**16 November 2020**



Dear friends

### **Planning for Christmas**

No, I haven't got any hot tips, inside news, or arcane information to share with you. None of us knows what the regulations and restrictions will be in the second half of December, certainly not those in authority. We know of the very difficult balance between lives and livelihoods in making these decisions. Not enough attention has been paid to mental health, to social needs, to people's resilience or expectations. And the scientists still don't know what the figures and the graphs will look like. Do pray for our government, national and local, as they try to get it right post-lockdown.

Realistically, assume that churches will be able to open for Christmas, but still with restrictions pretty much like today's. Assume that mixing and socialising will still be restricted apart from small family or household groups. Assume that late night services probably won't be allowed. Get hold of some good recordings of Christmas music (such as what is offered for free by our [Cathedral](#)). If possible, lay on some online worship as well as some in church buildings.

And pace yourself. Plan to take off a day or two extra before Christmas as well as a break afterwards. Your parish needs quality, not quantity. And please know that I appreciate very much all you are doing.

### **Sermons**

My Advent and Christmas sermons are now available. For Christmas Day I have chosen the Luke gospel, to give continuity with the Sundays before and after Christmas. If you would like to make use of any, as video or audio files, please request them from my Office Secretary, Rachel Lomas, by [email](#). My meditations on the Psalms will continue to appear on the diocesan [website](#) every Tuesday lunchtime.

Looking further ahead, I will continue to offer a sermon for each Sunday, and a weekly Psalm, into the new year and until further notice.

## Bishop John

As you know, John was badly affected by covid back in the spring. He now seems to be suffering the post-covid exhaustion which you will have read about, and possibly seen among your own parishioners. I doubt that he will be back at work until the new year. Please remember him in your prayers.

## Bishops' Office

I want to say a public **Thank You** to those who are helping with John's diary and in-tray while he is off, in particular John's PA Suzanne, my PA Joanne, and my chaplain Tim. They have each been so helpful in different ways, and I am grateful.

Although there is only one person present each day, the Bishops' Office is fully functional, with most working from home. If you need to make contact with us for any reason, please don't hesitate: we are here for you.

Tim Alban Jones	+Donald's Chaplain	<a href="#">email Tim</a>
Joanne Gibson	+Donald's PA	<a href="#">email Joanne</a>
Suzanne Carter	+John's PA	<a href="#">email Suzanne</a>
Rachel Lomas	Bishops' Office Secretary	<a href="#">email Rachel</a>
Bishop Donald		<a href="#">email Donald</a>
Telephone	all Bishops' Office team	01733 562492

## Next Monday

I am planning another of my occasional Bishop's Letters (*Ad Clerum* for those who like Latin and see it as still useful). Those have a wider circulation than these bulletins: it seems right to address the lay ministers, clergy with permission to officiate, and the diocesan staff, as well as the licensed clergy, in time for Advent and Christmas. That will replace the Bulletin next week.

With love in Christ

+ Donald