



Wycombe Deanery

27th November 2024

Dear Deanery family,

Today it is being announced that I have been nominated to be the next Bishop of Buckingham, succeeding Bishop Alan who so tragically died earlier this year. This means that my time as your Area Dean is coming to an end and my family and I are preparing to leave Marlow. I will begin my work as bishop at the end of February.

Leading Wycombe Deanery has been an incredibly fulfilling adventure with you and Jesus. This amazing family of churches has been a never-ending source of encouragement and inspiration. I truly believe the Lord is doing something wonderful here.

My last day as Area Dean will be Sunday 19th January. I will be consecrated as a bishop on 27th February – probably in Canterbury Cathedral – which is a service to which you are all invited! This will be followed by a series of welcome services in Bucks as I commence my new role, including one in High Wycombe on Sat 1st March.

It has been an exciting and humbling process to discover that Jesus is calling me to take this next step in my journey of following Him. Many of you have played very important parts in this process of discernment, whether you realise it or not! One of the most significant factors in deciding to leave is the recognition that the Deanery leadership teams are full of gifted, wise and faith-filled people. Our Lay Chairs Caroline Sants and Nick Gallant and our Associate Area Deans Keith Johnson, Wendy Bull and Simon Dust are more than capable of leading the Deanery forward into the future that Jesus has in store for our churches. With other leaders such as Charlotte Lawson (village churches), Mark Humphries (Youth & Children), Debbie Leach (Administrator) and Nigel Peach (Treasurer), plus a wonderful Chapter and Synod, I believe the Deanery can face the future confident that the Lord has blessed us. Indeed, after 8 years with the same Area Dean, I think it is better for you all that I leave at this point to enable this new generation of outstanding leaders to flourish and grow.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of being your Area Dean. Your love, prayers and encouragement have made the role a joy. Thank you more than I can say for all the support you have given me. In the future, I look forward to seeing – and being a strong supporter of – the growth of God's kingdom in the Deanery. Initially, I will still be living in the Deanery as my family and I will be moving to Bourne End, before a permanent move to Milton Keynes in 2027. The appointment of my successor will be announced in the springtime. I look forward to seeing how the Lord leads you by his Holy Spirit and will be praying for you all as I look forward to continuing my association with this parish by serving you as your bishop.

This comes as ever with my love and with my prayers,

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