



My dear Sisters and Brothers

It was a great joy to be with many of you at our Triennial Conference last week. In addition to the worship and teaching, it was a gift to spend time together - and to be reminded of how blessed I am to serve in CofE Guildford! It was very moving to have over 200 of you pray for me. Thank you so much.

A New Chapter

In our final Eucharist at the conference (on Ascension Day), I reflected on the closing of one chapter and the opening of another. This was inspired by our readings at that service which included the closing verses of Luke's Gospel and the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles. I was particularly struck on this occasion by the posture adopted by the disciples in this time in between the Ascension and Pentecost - joy (in the midst of grief); prayer (as they waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit); and anticipation and expectation in what lay ahead. I'm inviting us, as we stand between chapters in the Diocese of Guildford, to adopt these postures of joy, prayer, anticipation and expectation. I do love that excellent prayer of Dag Hammarskjöld which expresses this beautifully: 'for all that has been, thanks; for all that will be, Yes!'

In my Easter *ad clerum*, I shared my three foci for this time ahead: prayer, pastoral care and the priorities of discipleship & children / young people. As part of the first two priorities, I am holding a *Bishop's Gathering* in each deanery. I intend to meet with clergy (as part of my pastoral care for you) and then preside over a time of prayer, worship, celebration of what God is doing in each parish, and reflection on our next steps. Please do extend a warm invitation to all.



B. Bishop's Gatherings

Deanery of Surrey Heath: St Barbara's Church Deepcut, GU16 6SJ
Wednesday 27 May 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Dorking: St Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UT
Wednesday 3 June 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Guildford: Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, GU2 9SJ
Wednesday 10 June 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Leatherhead: St George's Church, Ashted, KT21 2DA
Sunday 14 June 1800 - 1930 (clergy at 1700; refreshments for all at 1730)

Deanery of Aldershot: Christ Church, Cove, GU14 0EX
Monday 15 June 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Farnham: St Andrew's Church, Farnham, GU9 7PR
Thursday 18 June 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Cranleigh: St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh, GU6 8AR
Monday 29 June 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Woking: Christ Church, Woking, GU21 6YG
Wednesday 1 July 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Runnymede: St John's Church, Egham, TW20 9HE
Sunday 5 July 1800 - 1930 (clergy at 1700; refreshments for all at 1730)

Deanery of Epsom: St Paul's Church, Howell Hill, SM2 7HS
Monday 6 July 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Emly: Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, KT10 0JP
Tuesday 14 July 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Deanery of Godalming: St Peter and St Paul's Church, Godalming, GU7 1EW
Thursday 16 July 1930 - 2100 (clergy at 1830; refreshments for all at 1900)

Promotional materials, with invitations for people, are available on our [website](#)

At Petertide this year, I shall be delighted to ordain 22 priests and 15 deacons. We praise God for these women and men who have responded to God's call on their lives and will be beginning new ministries throughout our diocese. Please do remember them in your prayers as they prepare for their ordinations; join us for the services in our Cathedral if you are able, and give them (deacons especially) a warm welcome into the family of CofE Guildford.

To be ordained Priest on Saturday 27 June at 10.30am in Guildford Cathedral:

Tony Andrews (Cove); Tori Biutanaseva (Virginia Water); Gill Christie (Capel and Ockley); Lori Cook (Wonersh & Blackheath); Jan Durrant (Wonersh & Blackheath); Kirsty Evans (Walton on Thames); Philomena Evans (Egham); Ros Fox (Church Crookham); Linnet Frederick Prasad (Cobham); David Huggins (Guildford Emmanuel, St Francis & St Clare); Sue Langwade (West Molesey); Hannah Mayo (Westcott); Kelly Morris (Cobham); Sarah Murphy (Oakwood and Forest Green); Miranda Ransi (Weston); Matt Regan (Ashted); Jon Ruddock (Dorking St Paul); Sue Tresman (Cranleigh); Simon Ward (Howell Hill with Epsom St Barnabas); Tom Wilcox (Farnborough Good Shepherd); Janet Williams (Stoke-next-Guildford).

To be made Deacon on Sunday 28 June at 10.30am in Guildford Cathedral:

David Boothby (Oxshott); Philip Burns (Ash & Tongham); Rebecca Catterall (Epsom Christ Church and Epsom College); Patrick Corley (Epsom Christ Church); Cassie Cowan (Guildford Emmanuel, St Francis & St Clare); Chris Garner (Godalming Minster); Michael Hiller (Guildford St Saviour); Emily Lissaman (Wisley with Pyrford); Emily-Grace Sainsbury (Knaphill with Brookwood); Tristan Stone (Hersham); Charlie Thompson (East Horsley); Sarah Vullo (Ottershaw); James Wakefield (Howell Hill and Epsom St Barnabas; and Tattenham Corner); Andy Wells (Guildford, All Saints).

To be made Deacon on Sunday 5 July at 10.00am in Loxwood Parish Church

Andrew Beattie (Alfold & Loxwood).

Other Notices

D. Funeral Ministry

I have been approached by several clergy asking for clarity on the position concerning lay people officiating at funerals. Canon law is clear that funerals should be conducted by clergy or Readers/LLMs* or licensed lay workers* (*with an additional permission for this purpose and who have been properly trained for the task). It is of great importance that the public ministry of the church is conducted by those who are trained and licensed. I request that we observe this practice which seeks to both facilitate and protect our ministry.

E. Wellbeing - Clergy & Church Communities

At the Triennial Conference, it was a blessing to welcome Dr Liz Graveling Fox and the Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls to help us reflect on wellbeing. The care of clergy (and LLMs, churchwardens and everyone in our diocese) is something I take very seriously. Whilst Archdeacon Catharine is now responsible for this portfolio in the diocese, please may I encourage you to be in contact with archdeacons, me, or area deans if you would value our support in any way.

F. Vacancy in See

The Vacancy in See Committee has now begun its work. The 21 members have divided themselves into three working groups which will focus on prayer; drafting the statement of needs; and consultation and communication. Please do pray for them as they begin this process.

Praying that you would all know the power of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost.

*With love in Christ and prayers,
+Paul.*

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