



My dear Sisters and Brothers

I hope that all of us were able to enjoy some time off during the summer as we recharged batteries for what often feels like the busiest time of the year. My prayers this month are particularly for our schools, colleges and universities as they begin a new academic year: children, students, staff and governors.

A. Guildford 100: Rejoice, Attempt & Expect

Next year is a significant milestone for the Diocese of Guildford. It was on 1 May 1927 that the Diocese of Guildford was founded. In a service at Winchester Cathedral on that day, Theodore Woods, Bishop of Winchester, sent out this new diocese with stirring words: *Winchester sends you forth: Rejoice in the greatness of your opportunity, rejoice in the grace of God which is with you. Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God.*

A centenary is a significant milestone to look back with thanks and to look forward with expectation. My invitation to each parish is to pray about one way in which it can attempt a great thing for God in 2027. I shall say a little more about this in my next ad clerum. Meanwhile, there are four 2027 'save the dates' that I invite and encourage you to put in your diary.

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| 29 March
2027 | <i>Easter Monday Pilgrimage to Guildford Cathedral</i>
A resurrection of the annual pilgrimage to Guildford Cathedral culminating with worship led by the Youth Catalyst Team. |
| 2 May
2027 | <i>Service in Winchester Cathedral at 3.30pm</i>
The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Winchester, will help us to look back with thanks and forward with expectation. |
| 5-6 June
2027 | <i>Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Diocese</i>
Archbishop Sarah will spend the weekend with us, culminating in an act of celebration in Guildford Cathedral on 6 June at 5.30pm. |
| 7-11 June
2027 | <i>Tent Week at Willow Grange</i>
This will have a particularly missional theme to it, with an emphasis on resourcing ministry to children and young people. |

B. Bishop's Prayer Network

I'm very encouraged that so many of you have signed up to my [Bishop's Prayer Network](#). This is an attempt to bring together people who have a particular heart to pray for mission in our diocese. It will consist of three elements:

- (a) Every two months an email with specific prayer requests from me.
- (b) In the intervening months, an online hour of prayer hosted by me.
- (c) two half nights of prayer, held in person, hosted by me.

If you'd like to join this network of prayer, please sign up [here](#). If there's anything you'd like it to pray for email niki.moore@cofeguildford.org.uk.

C. Pastoral Care of Clergy

The pastoral care of clergy is one of my greatest priorities. If you are unaware, the Diocese of Guildford offers four particular forms of support:

- (a) Spiritual Direction: Our College of Spiritual Directors is open to all people for support in discipleship. Contact: sd_enquiries@cofeguildford.org.uk.
- (b) Mentoring Scheme: This is designed to support incumbents in leadership and priestly ministry. Contact: danny.wignall@cofeguildford.org.uk.
- (c) Pastoral Supervision: This seeks to help clergy in the impact that ministry has on emotional wellbeing. Contact: danny.wignall@cofeguildford.org.uk.
- (d) Counselling: We use the [Churches Ministerial Counselling Service](#). All clergy can self refer. It is completely anonymous and free of charge. You simply tell them that you are an ordained minister in the Diocese of Guildford. In addition, Archdeacons Martin and Catharine and I are never too busy to help or support in any way we can. You know how to get hold of us!

D. Discipleship

During Lent of next year, I will be encouraging us all to focus particularly on vocation. As part of following Jesus, we are all called to serve - but in very different ways. We will be providing some resources to help people reflect on their vocation, and to explore the very many different opportunities there are to serve in the parishes of the Diocese of Guildford. Details to follow.

E. Children and Young People

2027 will see us focus in particular on our ministry to children and young people. All Bishop's Study Mornings will focus on this theme. Please do make a note in your diary of these dates:

- 24 Nov 2026 *Advent Retreat 9.30am - 12.45pm (Guildford Cathedral)*
Christ for all Generations - led by Melanie Cave (Roots)
- 3 Feb 2027 *Investing in Safeguarding - 9.30am - 12.45pm (location tbc)*
A morning of reflection led by our Safeguarding Team
- 11 May 2027 *What helps Children Grow in Faith - 9.30am - 12.45pm (location tbc)*
A morning with Carolyn Edwards, Ridley Hall Cambridge
- tbc Oct 2027 *Church Growth Conference - 9.30am - 3.00pm (location tbc)*
Growing Younger: Making Disciples in Every Generation
- 25 Nov 2027 *Advent Retreat 9.30am - 12.45pm (location tbc)*
Theme to be confirmed.

Youth Catalyst Project: I feel so blessed to work alongside our fabulous [Youth Catalyst Team](#). They are making such an impact across the Diocese in sharing the Gospel with young people and equipping parishes to do so. Please browse their [webpage](#) and see whether they could help you in any way. Do you have any young people (recently confirmed?) who may be interested in the worship events? Do you know someone who might enjoy the Ministry Experience Scheme? For more details contact Sophie.Blake@cofeguildford.org.uk

Launchpad: One of the resources that we're currently using to help churches engage with young people is Youthscape's [Launchpad](#). It's designed largely for parishes which have little or no youthwork taking place. I've been very impressed with this resource. We've now seen three cohorts of clergy through the six week course - all of whom speak really highly of the programme. If you'd like to come to supper at Dayspring and find out more about how it works and what it offers, please contact Sophie.Blake@cofeguildford.org.uk

Other Notices

F. Diocesan Links

Our Diocese has three links: the Church of Nigeria (1963); the Diocese of Viborg in the Lutheran Church of Denmark (1992); and the Diocese of Sialkot in the United Church of Pakistan (2016). The next few months will see fellowship with all three. This month friends from Viborg will be arriving in Guildford to walk the Pilgrim's Way from Winchester to Guildford. Next month, Dean Bob will be visiting Pakistan to join the Sialkot Convention. In November, I have been invited by the Primate of Nigeria to participate in their National Convocation. Your prayers would be welcome for all our links - and particularly for persecuted sisters and brothers in Nigeria and Sialkot.

G. Vacancy in See

Please continue to pray for the Vacancy in See Committee. Thank you to all who participated in the consultation which closed on 20 July. These responses will help to shape the Statement of Needs which is currently being prepared. Further information and resources for prayer can be found on our [website](#).

H. Bishop's Chaplain

The Revd Jo Winn-Smith has now finished as Bishop's Chaplain ahead of her institution as Rector of Esher on 30 September. Jo has been a superb chaplain to both +Andrew and me and I am immensely grateful to her. I will be announcing a new interim chaplain soon. In the meantime, please contact Andrea and Niki in the office who will do their best to help.

With love in Christ and prayers.

+Paul.

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