



My dear Sisters and Brothers

A. Summer Reflections

Over the past 8 weeks, it's been a deep joy to visit each of our 12 deaneries for the Bishop's Gatherings: to worship together; to celebrate the activity of God in each community; and to pray for each other. I was very encouraged by the attendance at each one and am so grateful to you for your presence and your support in deepening our life of prayer. If you've not done so already, may I encourage you to consider joining the [Bishop's Prayer Network](#).

Equally joyful has been the large number of people who have begun new ministries in this period. It was astonishing to ordain 15 deacons and 22 priests this Pentecost; to celebrate the graduation of over 40 members of our Foundations in Ministry (FIM) cohort and 15 members of our FIM (Mondays) programme; and to admit a new reader and re-license eight diocesan readers. Please continue to pray for them as they commence their new ministries.

All this gives me hope as I reflect upon the life of the wider world. The [Palestine and Israel](#) conversation at General Synod was a painful reminder of the devastating situations in so many parts of our world. It was also a reminder of the abhorrent rise of anti-semitism in our country, and the divisions that seem to be deepening around us. As those who share in our cure of souls, I ask you to join me in fervent prayer and commitment to serve those who are victims of hatred and injustice, especially within our parishes and diocese.

As I prepare my sermon for a confirmation in Epsom next Sunday - before a fortnight's annual leave - the text is Mark 6:30-34. I sense there's a very personal message in this for me - and perhaps for all of us. Jesus' call to rest is such a very important reminder of the way in which God intends us to live. The last six months have been especially demanding for me and for so many of us in the Diocese of Guildford. I do hope that you will also carve out time to rest properly at some stage during these months ahead.

B. New Ministries



Ordination of Deacons 2026



Ordination in Loxwood 2026



Ordination of Priests 2026



FiM (Monday) Graduates 2026



Some FiM Graduates 2026



Licensing of Readers 2026

New Ministries in
CofEGuildford 2026

The work of the Vacancy in See Committee continues apace, co-ordinated by the Revd David Uffindell, chairman. The sub-groups are working hard. The Prayer Sub Group is praying regularly and producing material to help the diocese to pray. The Consultation Sub Group has co-ordinated the diocesan consultation which is now nearing its end. The Drafting Sub Group is working on the Statement of Needs. We are delighted to have elected the six diocesan representatives who will sit on the Crown Nominations Commission: The Ven Catharine Mabuza, the Revd Dr Peter Nevins, the Revd Dr Pelumi Adeyemi, Carolyn Graham, Stephen Hofmeyr KC, and Amanda Neill. Please see our [Vacancy in See](#) page on the website for further information.

D. Visiting Clergy

Church of England clergy from other dioceses may, from time to time, be invited or request to lead worship or preach in the Diocese of Guildford. It has become custom for temporary permission to officiate to be sought from the Bishop. Under canon law, however, the requisite permission does not lie with the Bishop, but rather responsibility for ensuring the visiting minister is able to undertake such duties lies with the incumbent of the receiving parish. Canon C8.2.a.i, says that the incumbent (or person(s) with that authority in a vacancy, or in the case of a cathedral or chapel) may invite a cleric on a temporary basis (of not more than seven days in 3 months), to officiate without recourse to the Bishop, provided they know the person has authority to minister and is of good standing. In the Diocese of Guildford, I advise:

- i. that authority to minister can be ascertained by checking if the individual is on the Church of England's [National Register of Clergy](#)
- ii. that further confidence should be gained by ascertaining a cleric's safeguarding status. This should be done by seeking confirmation of their training from their Parish Safeguarding Officer (or equivalent).
- iii. that a visiting minister should not be left in sole charge, and specifically not of children or vulnerable adults, and therefore a representative of the parish should be present to oversee and assist at all times.

If, as a Guildford incumbent, you have any difficulty in verifying the status of a person whom you have invited, please contact the Bishop's Office.

Other Notices

E. Safeguarding: INEQE and DBS Checks

When our Parish Safeguarding Officers gathered in Dayspring on 9 July, I spoke about the way in which the ordinal reminds me of the reason that safeguarding is central to our mission: 'remember with thanksgiving that the treasure now entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross'. I'm always deeply moved by these words.

In 2023, INEQE Safeguarding Group was appointed to carry out the next round of independent external audits of Church of England dioceses and cathedrals. The purpose of these audits is to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. Guildford's external audit will happen in March 2027. I am, therefore, using the preparation for this as an opportunity to review our safeguarding culture and practice and I suggest that you might do likewise!

Please may I remind you that all clergy and church officers requiring a DBS check must ensure it is renewed every three years. This is an essential part of our shared commitment to safeguarding and a requirement of the Church of England Safeguarding policy. I've recently needed to ask several clergy to step back from frontline ministry because their DBS had expired and a new certificate had not been received. Please can I urge you to check the expiry date of your current DBS certificate. Depending on volume, some checks can be quite delayed. To avoid any interruption to your role, our Safeguarding Team advise that you apply for your renewed DBS 8 weeks prior to the expiry.

It remains a deep privilege to share ministry with you.

With love in Christ and prayers.

+Paul.

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