

My dear Sisters and Brothers

11 March 2026

**Funeral of the late Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford**

Last Tuesday, I announced the deeply sad and untimely death of our beloved Bishop Andrew. I promised that I would update you with arrangements for his funeral as soon as they had been made.

I can now confirm that Bishop Andrew's funeral will take place in Guildford Cathedral on Monday 23 March at 12 noon. According to his wishes, his commendation will take place in the context of a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, for which he has chosen the readings, hymns and music. Following the service at the Cathedral, there will be a private committal for family members only.

In the past week, both the family and the leadership team in the Diocese have been overwhelmed with expressions of grief on the loss of a much-loved friend and bishop, and tributes to one who inspired and touched the lives of so many people. Many people have asked for details of the funeral, and it's become clear that our large Cathedral will be too small for this occasion.

For that reason, we've had to think carefully about how we enable everyone to be part of this act of worship and thanksgiving for the life of Bishop Andrew. With the help of Area Deans, we've identified a church in each deanery which will live stream the service to enable people to worship with the congregation in the Cathedral – albeit remotely. A list of these churches is on the diocesan website.

In the Cathedral itself, priority will be given to the family and friends of Bishop Andrew; bishops with whom he served in the Church of England and further afield; clergy of the Diocese with whom he shared the cure of souls; representatives of different ministries within the Diocese and Nation; and representatives of the wider life of our part of Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex and Greater London.

We will subsequently allocate a number of seats to each deanery – asking each Area Dean and Lay Chair to attempt to enable a representation from each parish in the diocese. I apologise that it will be impossible for us to all gather in the Cathedral – but I hope that the gift of technology will enable the next best thing as we gather for fellowship in deaneries - as satellites of the Cathedral service.

I'm enormously grateful to Dean Bob and the chapter and staff of the Cathedral who are managing much of the organisation of this service. The Cathedral will be in touch directly in the days ahead with those to whom seats will be allocated and Area Deans and Lay Chairs. We do ask that those who are allocated seats reply as promptly as possible to confirm whether they are able to attend or not.

Bishop Andrew has requested that donations in his memory might be for the mission and ministry of our Cathedral. Should you wish to donate, you may do so through [this link](#) . Alternatively, cheques can be made payable to Guildford Cathedral and sent to Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford, GU2 7UP.

Please do continue to hold Beverly, Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and the whole family in your prayers at this time.

With love in Christ and prayers,

