



Vacancy in
See



A Suite of
Prayers



Diocese of
Guildford 

Transforming **Church**
Transforming **Lives**

Introduction from Rev David Uffindell

“The sad and shocking circumstances in which the Vacancy in See has been convened has weighed heavily on us all. We give heartfelt thanks for the life of Bishop Andrew—his leadership, his ministry within the diocese and across the national and global Church, and his service in the House of Lords.

“The task before us now is to find a new Bishop of Guildford and our Vacancy in See Committee, comprising 21 members representing clergy and laity, has begun its work. This work will be underpinned by three working groups focusing on prayer, consultation, and communications, including drafting the Statement of Needs.

“As this process unfolds, we will provide regular updates to the diocese, including opportunities for you to share your views through the consultation.

“Sisters and brothers, while this is a complex and demanding process, it is also one of real opportunity. We ask for your prayers, that God will guide us on this journey and, in his good time, lead us to the person of his choosing.”

David

Chair of the Guildford Vacancy in See Committee



Diocesan Vacancy Prayer

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

God of our salvation,

as we journey through our centenary year of the Diocese of Guildford,

help us to look back with thanksgiving and forward with expectation.

Continue to renew our hearts through the work of your Holy Spirit,

as we seek to be ever more faithful in our discipleship

and effective in our work with children, young people and all our

communities.

Give grace to all involved in the discernment of a new diocesan bishop.

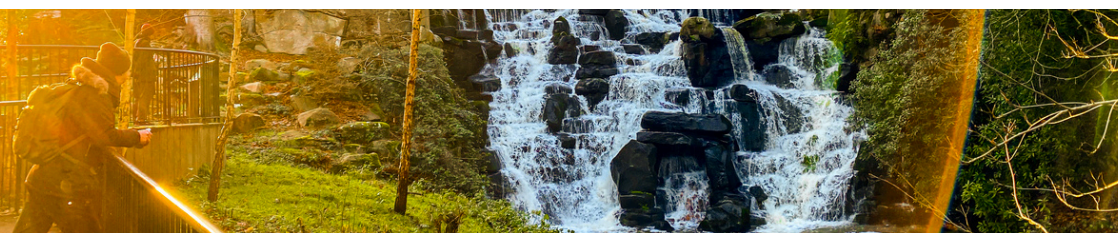
Bless them with the gifts of divine insight, unity and wisdom.

Raise up, we pray, a chief pastor who is rooted in your Word

and able to lead us in our mission of transforming church, transforming

lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



Suite of Prayers

For use during the vacancy of the See of Guildford



In addition to our Vacancy Prayer, please find below a Suite of Prayers.

Each of these highlight a different aspect of episcopal ministry.

They can be used in many ways, including in personal prayer, in small groups, and in church services during the vacancy period.

Two prayers for use by children and young people are also included.



A prayer for those leading our diocese during the Vacancy-in-See

*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)**

Lord God,

we thank you for Bishop Paul, the Bishop's Leadership Team, all who bear responsibility in this time of transition.

Strengthen them during this liminal season.

Give them grace to be intentional about the foci for this period:

Prayer, pastoral care, and our diocesan priorities - discipleship and children and your young people.

Keep the churches of this diocese united in faith, hope, and love, until the person you are calling as our next bishop is revealed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



A prayer for the ongoing Vacancy-in-See process

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. (Psalm 32:8)**

God of love and grace, we pray for the churches in our diocese in a time of transition.

Grant wisdom to those entrusted with leadership and patience to your people, that we may keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Guide all involved in the discernment and appointment of a new bishop, that your will may be done and your Church strengthened for the work of your Kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for our future Bishop of Guildford

*The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deut 31:8)**

Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,

prepare even now the person you are calling to be our bishop.

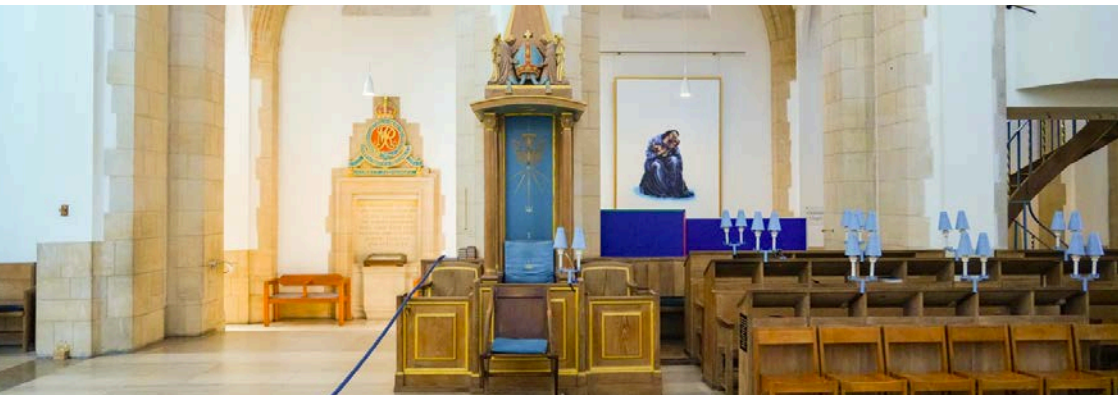
Deepen their life of faith with wisdom, courage, and holiness.

Grant that they may lead us in truth and love,

and faithfully proclaim your gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to be a person of prayer

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:4-5)**

Eternal God,

May our future bishop fully depend on you through a life of prayer.

Sustain them by your Spirit,

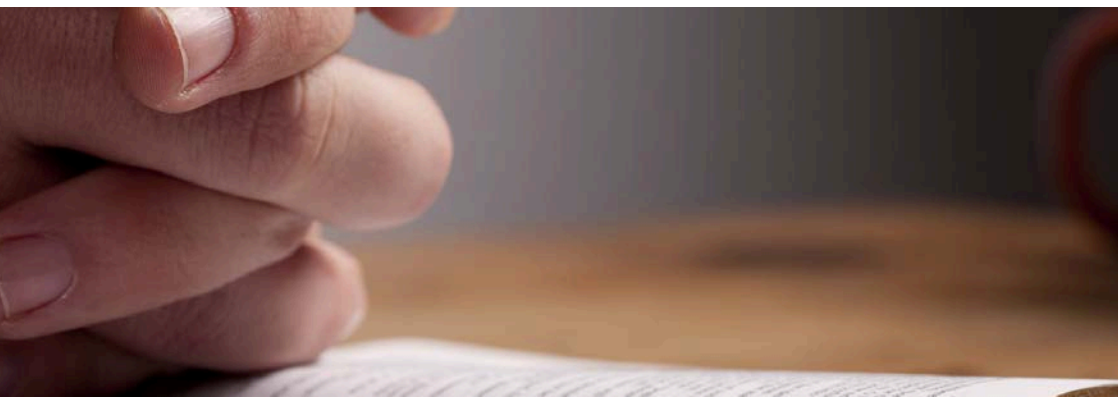
strengthen them in times of weariness,

and keep them close to Christ.

We ask that their whole ministry may flow from abiding in your presence.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to teach the faith

*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Tim 4:2)**

Lord Jesus Christ, teacher and guide of your Church,

grant that our future bishop may proclaim your gospel with wisdom,

clarity, and conviction.

Give them grace to teach the faith faithfully, to encourage the doubtful,

and to help all people grow in the knowledge and love of you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to lead us in mission

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

God of mission and mercy,

raise up among us a bishop who will inspire your Church

to share the good news of Christ with courage and joy

so that we might see churches and lives transformed.

Grant our bishop vision for the future, wisdom in times of change,

and a heart for those who do not yet know your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to pursue unity

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:3-6)**

Holy Spirit, source of peace and fellowship,

Grant us a bishop who will build bridges where there is division,

nurture mutual understanding,

and draw together the rich diversity of your people

in the service of your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to have a pastoral heart

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)**

Good Shepherd of your people,

we pray for the one whom you are calling to be our bishop.

Grant our bishop to have a pastor's heart, attentive to the joys and sorrows of all,

compassionate toward the vulnerable,

faithful in prayer, and steadfast in love.

May your servant gather your people and lead us in the way of Christ.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to be an encourager of people

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)**

Gracious God,

bless the person you are preparing to serve as our bishop.

Give them wisdom in leadership, humility in service,

and delight in the gifts of all your people.

May they encourage clergy and laity alike

to use their talents faithfully for the building up of your Church.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.



A prayer for our next bishop to seek justice and show compassion

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)**

God of righteousness and truth,

grant that our future bishop will have the courage to speak up for justice,

to defend the dignity of every person,

and show Christ's compassion to those in need.

May their life and ministry reflect your love for the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



A prayer for use by children

Father God,

We thank you that you are God of every generation.

Be with our churches, communities and schools

as we pray for the next Bishop of Guildford.

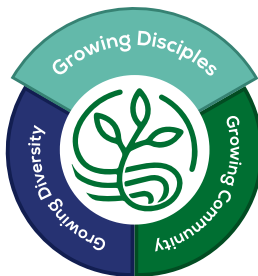
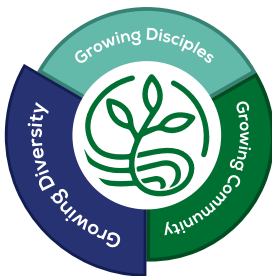
Please guide everyone making decisions.

We ask you to fill us with hope for the future.

Help us to follow Jesus together with joy, faith and love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Intergenerational worship is part of our priority of Growing Disciples, as we seek to come together in all sorts of contexts for Christian encouragement, friendship and support.

A prayer for use in schools

Father God,

We thank you for everyone who cares for our churches, schools and communities.

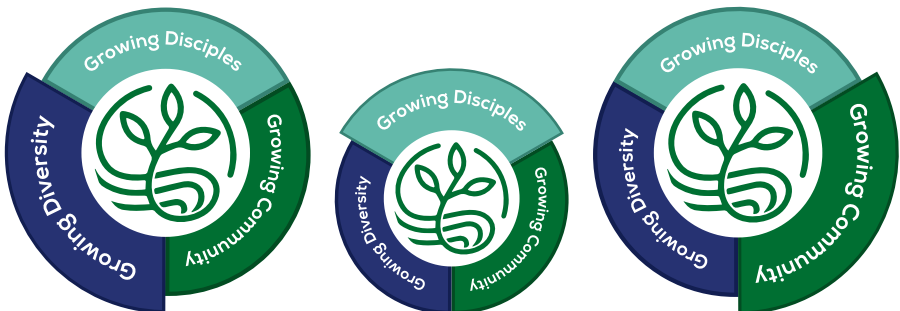
As we look ahead to welcoming a new bishop,
please help those making decisions.

In the meantime, encourage those who lead and teach us, and help us all
to keep growing together in faith, hope and love.

May your presence guide us and your joy inspire us each day.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Schools are a big part of our priorities of Growing Diversity and Growing Community, as we pray more young people know God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

*"Rejoice
always, pray
continually,
give thanks in
all
circumstances;
for this is
God's will for
you in Christ
Jesus"*

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