

BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 53

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

31 October 2021

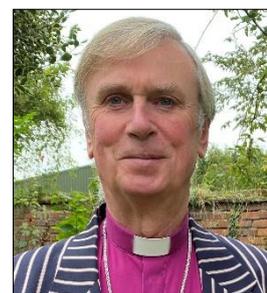


Dear friends

Warm greetings as we move towards our Remembrance and Kingdom season. November provides much food for thought and many opportunities for ministry. Let's be sure to keep each other in prayer in these confusing times.

Appointments

Following a period with no honorary assistant bishops, I am happy to report that we now have three. Bishop **Jonathan Meyrick**, formerly Bishop of Lynn (suffragan in Norwich), has retired to just outside our diocese. He will see most of his retirement ministry in Oxford Diocese, but is very willing to help out in south Northants. He joins Bishop Ed Condry and Bishop Andrew Proud in our team.



I am pleased to report that **Paula York**, Incumbent of Wellingborough All Hallows and All Saints, has agreed to follow Sarah Brown serve as our next Adviser in Women's Ministry. In that capacity Paula will join the Bishop's Management Group, and be well placed to help us be aware of and think through the issues particularly affecting women in ordained ministry.

One more appointment: **Jackie Buck**, Incumbent of Great Doddington, Wilby and Ecton, is taking over from Chrys Tremththanmor as our Sabbaticals Officer. More about that below.

My thanks to all three, willing to serve us in these ways in addition to their substantive roles.

Clergy Days

A reminder of our clergy days for this autumn, on Zoom. We have two very similar sessions:

Oakham Archdeaconry: Tuesday 9 November, 2pm-4pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81781990211?pwd=bnZ2NjYrcFMMyTE1RYWJlSTBZQzZlNQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 8199 0211 Passcode: 349641

Dial in: +44 203 481 5240 or +44 208 080 6591

Northampton Archdeaconry: Thursday 11 November, 2pm-4pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661193313?pwd=YnpreXMOV2VIYmQ5b0Z5WEhsdTJHZZ09>

Meeting ID: 826 6119 3313 Passcode: 169518

Dial in: +44 203 481 5237 or +44 208 080 6591

Following opening prayers, I will be introducing Archdeacon-designate Alison Booker to Oakham Archdeaconry, and licensing Bishop Jonathan Meyrick in the Northampton Archdeaconry meeting. Then, at both sessions, Paul Adams will speak, followed by another address by me. I hope to see as many of you as possible at one event or the other.

Sustainable churches

With Cop-26 in the news, it is worth noting that Canon Dr Pete Brotherton, who is my Environment Adviser as well as being Director of Science and Climate Change at Natural England, is willing to offer advice to parishes wanting to reduce their carbon footprint.

Christmas is coming ...

I have been asked if I am pre-recording any Christmas sermons this year. Yes, my Sunday sermons continue through November and December, with an additional one for Christmas. These are available now, from [Rachel Lomas](#). A Psalm meditation will also continue to appear on our [diocesan website](#) every Tuesday. Sermons and meditations will all be on my [YouTube channel](#).

I remind you (and, for clergy new to the diocese, inform you) of my general permission for Communion by Extension on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – this year also Sunday 26 December, to ensure that parishes can have Holy Communion without driving clergy into the ground. The usual rules apply: the elements must come from a service held over the festival, and the minister must be a deacon or Reader with my licence or permission.

With Christmas Day falling on a Saturday, some will ask about services on St Stephen's Day, 26 December. You have my permission to reduce your normal pattern to just one service in each benefice on that day if that is helpful, at the discretion of the Incumbent.

Sabbaticals

Many thanks to Chrys Tremththanmor for her work supporting sabbaticals in recent years. Jackie Buck has now taken on this role, and writes:

"I have the details of those already in the process of planning a sabbatical and I am happy to be contacted by anyone wanting to explore a sabbatical in the future.

"The following guidance may be helpful for those considering a sabbatical.

- The overall purpose of a sabbatical is to give the opportunity for 'rest, renewal and re-creation', usually over a period of three consecutive months.
- Sabbaticals may be applied for by licensed clergy, diocesan officers (where specified in their contract) and Church Army Officers.
- Applicants need to have completed 10 years of service, and usually to have served for 5 years in the current post. A minimum of 7 years must have elapsed since the last such period of sabbatical leave.
- Application to take a sabbatical should be made to me at least **2 years** before the proposed sabbatical: jackiebuck@hotmail.co.uk or 01933 631232."

Conference

A reminder of our ministers' conference, 7-10 November next year, at Yarnfield Park. I am looking forward to being physically together with our clergy and lay ministers once again. Please make sure that is in your 2022 diary.

With love in Christ

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