



Consultation on the Episcopal See of Ramsbury

5 March 2018

Dear Colleague

VACANCY IN THE SEE OF RAMSBURY

I am writing at the request of the Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, to seek your views on the future of the Episcopal See of Ramsbury.

You will have heard that The Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry has announced that he will be retiring at the end of April. It is with both sadness and thanksgiving that we wish him well as he prepares to move.

As his post becomes vacant the Diocesan Bishop is required to consider whether he should appoint a new Bishop of Ramsbury and to assist him in making that judgement, I have been asked to lead a consultation that aims to give both the diocesan and civic communities an opportunity to give this question their serious consideration.

If your view is that the Bishop of Salisbury should appoint a new Bishop of Ramsbury, then I also invite you to consider the nature of the ministry that you would hope that new bishop might exercise, and where the emphases should be placed in drawing up a role description. In order to assist you in this you will find on the reverse of this letter a brief summary of the current role.

I will need to have your written response either by email to enquiries@salisbury.anglican.org or by letter to the Diocesan Secretary, Church House, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2QB by **20th March 2018**.

I look forward to receiving your response. The information will be shared with a small group, brought together for that purpose, and which will report to Bishop Nicholas.

Thank you for your assistance with a piece of work which is of great importance to the future life of the diocese.

Yours sincerely



The Rt Revd Karen Gorham

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The Bishop of Ramsbury's role

Sharing in leading the Diocese The Bishop of Ramsbury acts as an episcopal colleague to the Bishop (of Salisbury) and to the Bishop of Sherborne and plays a full and active part in the leadership and development of the diocese. The Bishop of Ramsbury exercises particular leadership in the 2/3 of Wiltshire that lies in the Diocese. There are 205 parishes and 261 churches serving a population of 380,000 in this part of the Diocese.

A leader in mission, working with colleagues, particularly in Wiltshire, to enable the church to flourish at a local level. This includes deploying resources, and encouraging and developing clergy, schools and parishes in growth and mission.

Children and Young People are a major part of our life and work in the Diocese which has 195 church schools and academies educating and developing 41,000 children. There are also 18 independent schools, most having Church of England foundations and most with resident chaplains. In just about every parish we also have strong links with state schools. Bishops through their work with schools, fulfil an invaluable in engagement with young people on matters of faith, values and social justice.

Appointing and supporting our clergy The Bishop of Ramsbury shares leadership with the bishop of the diocese in making good clergy appointments, and with the assistance of the archdeacons, in giving pastoral care and support for clergy and their families.

The role of bishop includes teaching, conducting inauguration services for new ministers, confirmations, Ministerial Development Reviews, clergy discipline, and representative duties.

The demands on the bishops and archdeacons of this diocese through new legislation and complex processes are considerable and obligatory. Fewer stipendiary clergy but a greater number of lay leaders at a time of transition for the Church means more support from bishops is required, not less.

Visibility/Presence Whilst the presence of church leaders to mark civic occasions is valued, bishops are also a visible focus for the Church in public life and exert real influence to build stronger communities by working amongst the Church's ecumenical partners and with those in the civic, voluntary, business and charity sector. They have the ability to create space for people to meet and network together to good effect. For example, the current Bishop of Ramsbury has championed our rural churches and communities.

Supporting the Diocesan Bishop The Bishop of Salisbury is a member of the House of Lords and the lead Bishop in the Church of England on the environment. With these significant additional demands on his time, the Diocesan Bishop has an even greater need for two suffragan bishops to share the spiritual leadership of the diocese; to play a key role in the appointment and review of clergy; to communicate the vision and culture of the diocese and to encourage others in their plans for mission and growth.

Funding The Church Commissioners fund the costs of Bishops in the Church of England. This includes stipends, pensions, secretarial support and expenses and, in the case of diocesan bishops, housing. Dioceses provide housing for suffragan bishops such as the Bishop of Ramsbury.