

On the occasion of the festival of Diwali/Deepawali, 30th October 2016

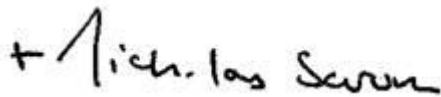
I send warm greetings to all Hindu people in this diocese of Salisbury and to your families all over the world, on the occasion of this year's festival of Diwali.

May it be for all a joyful time when all that is hopeful and positive is celebrated: the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. These are the foundational hopes that Christians and Hindus share and which we hold on to firmly in the midst of a world in which there is so much that encourages the darkness of despair in the face of so much hatred and suffering.

My hope is that through our different approaches to the divine we, Christians and Hindus, especially where we share together as neighbours in our towns and cities, may work together so that light may indeed triumph over darkness and good over evil.

May your celebrations deepen your family relationships and bring joy and peace to your homes and communities.

I wish a joyful Diwali celebration to you all.



**The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam
The Bishop of Salisbury**