



A Farewell Invitation

Clergy and lay friends of the Revd Canon Thomas Woodhouse are being invited to a special farewell service being held in Dorchester later this month.

Thomas, who has been Team Rector of Dorchester and The Winterbournes since 2014 and also served as the Chair of the House of Clergy at Diocesan Synod, also has given his thanks "for the many friendships I have built up over the last 14 years."

On October 1st Thomas will become the Chaplain of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy.

In an open letter to colleagues and friends in the Diocese he says:

"Since it was announced that I am moving to become Chaplain of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, the supportive and encouraging comments of friends and colleagues in the diocese have been a blessing that makes packing that bit easier and the prospect of London that little less daunting.

"I have enjoyed making my contribution to our diocesan life as Chair of the House of Clergy and as a member of the Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral and General Synod. It has always seemed important to try to add something back into the life of a diocese and it has been a privilege to have been entrusted with these particular tasks. Thank you.

"As a parish priest in (Royal) Wootton Bassett and in Dorchester and The Winterbournes I have had some great colleagues and joyful worshipping communities. In my new role I will continue to be part of a worshipping community, albeit in a very different setting, and I look forward to undertaking a rich variety of new tasks.

"A hymn that has journeyed with me these last few months begins 'Christ is made the sure foundation' and it will be sung in The Queen's Chapel on the 30th September. It is Our Lord Jesus Christ who leads us and I am excited and confident for us! I go with wisdom gained from many conversations and some extraordinary experiences in the Diocese of Salisbury.

"A service to conclude my ministry in Dorchester takes place in St Mary's Church, Dorchester on Saturday 14th September at 6pm, to which you are warmly invited. In the meantime I am pleased to be given this opportunity to express my thanks for the many friendships I have built up over the last 14 years and to wish you well."

The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy is a 'free' chapel or 'peculiar' which has belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster since it was built in 1512. Located at the heart of the historic 'manor of the Savoy' it is today the last surviving building of a hospital founded by Henry VII for the poor, needy and homeless. It became a Chapel Royal by Royal Command in 2016.