

To all Headteachers of Church of England Schools
26 July 2023

Archdeacon of Surrey
The Venerable Paul Davies

Dear Headteachers,

It has been announced this morning, by 10 Downing Street, that the King has approved my nomination as the next Bishop of Dorking. I feel honoured and humbled (and just a little daunted!) to succeed Bishop Jo in this role, and so privileged to be given a second calling to serve in a diocese I have grown to love deeply.

One of the new roles that the Bishop of Dorking will be assuming is that of 'champion' for children and young people. This is a slightly different role from the one that Bishop Jo inhabited. Unlike +Jo, I will not be chairing the DBE. Rather, my focus will be on being present in parishes more, and building relationships with schools. One of my favourite aspects of being a vicar was the relationship with schools. Sadly, this does not feature strongly in an archdeacon's ministry. I am, therefore, thrilled at the prospect of working more closely with our amazing Church Schools and, whilst I won't be able to visit you all in the first fortnight, I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the fulness of time, and to supporting you in every way I can.

It's been strange living with the knowledge of this nomination for the past 8 weeks. It's even more strange to lay down my ministry as Archdeacon of Surrey just four days after the announcement. I have, however, been working hard over the past 8 weeks to tie things together for my successor. I will be taking the month of August to have a break between roles, before preparing for my new ministry in September. I shall be ordained as a bishop on the morning of 29 September in Westminster Abbey, and welcomed on 8 October at 6.00pm in Guildford Cathedral. Should you like to join me for either or both occasions, you would be extremely welcome. Details to follow. Meanwhile, I'd be grateful for your prayers as I shall be praying for you over coming months.

*As ever,
Paul.*

✉ Archdeacon's House, Lime Grove, West Clandon, Guildford, GU4 7UT
☎ 01483 790366 | 01483 212663
📧 archdeacon.surrey@cofeguildford.org.uk