**NEW BISHOP OF HORSHAM**

10 Downing Street has today announced that **The Revd Ruth Bushyager, Vicar of St Paul’s Dorking** in the Diocese of **Guildford,** is to be the new **Bishop of Horsham** in the Diocese of Chichester.

The announcement was made via videolink in her new Diocese this morning alongside the appointment of her new episcopal colleague, The Revd Will Hazlewood from the Diocese of Exeter, who is to serve as the new Bishop of Lewes, also in the Chichester diocese.

Welcoming Ruth’s appointment the **Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner,** said today : “Ruth brings to the diocese the personal qualities of spiritual depth, a heart for mission and the pastoral needs of those she serves in a vibrant, socially diverse parish. She is also known for inspirational teaching that is widely appreciated by those who know her ministry at New Wine.

“Her primary ministry will be to serve the people in the archdeaconries of Horsham and Chichester but she will also have a wider ministry across the diocese, using her gifts and experience to enrich the life of the whole of this household of faith.

“We welcome her and her family and assure them of our prayers as they move to Sussex in challenging circumstances. We look forward to an opportunity to celebrate their arrival and ministry with us, once the restrictions are lifted.”

Ruth was ordained priest in 2006 and after serving in the Southwell & Nottingham and Oxford dioceses she became Area Missioner for the Kensington Area of the Diocese of London in 2010. She has served as Vicar of St Paul’s, Dorking in 2014 and was recently made Area Dean of Dorking.

St Paul’s is a large church in Dorking with three thriving congregations and a Resource Church Ministry. <https://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/>

**The Bishop of Guildford, Rt. Revd Andrew Watson,** issued this statement today: ‘Chichester Diocese are hugely blessed to have Ruth as one of their two new suffragan bishops. Ruth is a remarkable teacher of the faith, who combines a deep love for Jesus with a real creativity and enthusiasm as a church leader and missioner. She has witnessed significant church growth during her time as Vicar of St. Paul’s Dorking, and has made her mark in the wider life of the town, deanery and diocese, as well as nationally and beyond. She will leave a large hole behind her, but I am thrilled that Chichester, and the Church of England more generally, will now be able to benefit from her insight and energy.”.

**Ruth** said today she feels both humbled and excited by the appointed:

“As Bishop of Horsham I will be part of Bishop Martin’s senior team and serve with them to help further the vision of the diocese – for all to know, love and follow Jesus. I have a passion to see churches growing through fruitful evangelism and discipleship.I am really looking forward to getting to know the churches, chaplaincies and schools of the diocese and seeing how I can help to encourage and serve their mission.”

She is married to Ron, a psychotherapist, and they have two young daughters. When not working Ruth enjoys cross country running with her dog Maisie. As a family they love holidays in Devon and walking in the French Alps.

A date for her consecration as bishop has yet to be announced.

*Ends*

**Background notes.**

**CLICK HERE** to watch the launch media event where further quotes and information are available.

* The Church of England Diocese of Chichester stretches over East and West Sussex from Hastings in the east to Chichester in the west. The Diocese is rural in character but it has significant urban centres with the largest centres of population being Brighton and Hove along with Horsham, Crawley and East Grinstead.
* There are 365 parishes in the diocese consisting of over 500 churches. Parishes are divided into benefices and deaneries. As well as Bishop of Chichester and his two newly appointed suffragans there are four archdeacons who support local rural deans.
* There are 157 Church of England schools in the Diocese.
* Chichester Cathedral is the cathedral church of the Diocese served by the Dean and Chapter.
* Ruth succeeds The Right Revered Mark Sowerby who is now Principal of the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.