



The Bishop of Chichester
The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner

Advent 2022

The Year of the Old Testament

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are just three things I wish to bring to your attention as we begin a new liturgical year

- ❖ The Year of the Old Testament
- ❖ Deanery celebrations of baptism and confirmation in 2023
- ❖ Staffing at the Palace

1. The Year of the Old Testament

Welcome to the Year of the Old Testament, the first step in ***Celebrating the Mystery of Faith***. It will be followed in 2024 by the Year of the New Testament and in 2025, the Year of Faith, when we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Creed.

Look out for the 2023 Lent Course, *Who then is this?* which is soon to be published. Follow the Archdeacon of Hastings and others from the diocese as they go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land (6 – 13 February, 2023). Take part in introductory Bible studies on some of the books that we might be unfamiliar with: details to follow on the diocesan website.

Perhaps one of the best ways to celebrate the Year of the Old Testament is to make sure that you include an OT reading in Sunday worship, and preach from that text whenever you can.

2. Deanery Celebrations of Baptism and Confirmation, 2023

The Covid pandemic inevitably interrupted our pattern of Deanery celebrations of baptism and confirmation. We plan to restore the deanery arrangements in 2023 and would ask that you request baptism and confirmation in the parish only for very serious pastoral reasons. If the date of your deanery celebration is not convenient for you and your candidates, please check on the dates of celebrations in neighbouring deaneries and join them, if that is possible.

The deanery confirmation makes an important point about baptism and confirmation as that moment of decision which initiates us as Christians into the Church of God, belonging to a company of people that is always greater than its expression in our local parish community.

The list below indicates which bishops will be celebrating the rites of baptism and confirmation in your deanery next year. The rural dean will be responsible for liaising with the bishop's office to fix time, date and location of the deanery celebration, and to book two celebrations, if needed. The letters after the name of the deanery indicate the archdeaconry.

Deanery celebrations of baptism and confirmation, 2023

The Bishop of Horsham

Chichester (C)
Eastbourne (Ha)
East Grinstead (H)
Hove (B&L)
Petworth (C)
Rye (Ha)
Storrington (H)
Westbourne (C)
Worthing (C)

The Bishop of Lewes

Battle & Bexhill (Ha)
Brighton (B&L)
Cuckfield (H)
Dallington (Ha)
Hastings (Ha)
Horsham (H)
Hurst (H)
Lewes & Seaford (B&L)
Uckfield (Ha)

The Bishop of Chichester

Arundel & Bognor (C)

Midhurst (H)

Rotherfield (Ha)

As bishops, we urge you to ensure that adult candidates are baptised within the celebration of confirmation. This makes a powerful statement about the significance of turning to Christ in baptism and being anointed with the Holy Spirit in confirmation. Canon B24 reminds us that if adults are baptised in their own church, confirmation by the bishop is to follow soon afterwards.

Handing on the Christian faith in its richness is part of the weighty responsibility of presenting candidates for baptism and confirmation. It is primary evangelism. As bishops we also commend the diocesan resources for preparing candidates for baptism and confirmation. These contemporary resources provide a means of proclaiming afresh in this generation what is expected of us as teachers of the faith in Canon B27.

3. Staff at the Palace

I mentioned in my October Ad clerum that we were in the process of rethinking staff roles at the Palace. This process has now concluded, and the result is a clearer division of responsibilities, which we hope will be more transparent for all the many people with whom we deal.

In overall charge of the office is **Howard Cattermole** (howard.cattermole@chichester.anglican.org), who becomes **Chief of Staff**, responsible for oversight of the Palace estate and finances, line management and staff development, and liaison with suffragan bishops, archdeacons and the diocesan staff at Church House Hove, including attendance at the Bishop's Staff Meeting. Howard will also take the lead on administration around CDM cases and other disciplinary matters, and more generally on liaison with the Diocesan Registry.

Please contact Howard for:

- Any discipline or legal matter related to the bishop's ministry
- The bishop's role in the life of the diocese
- Episcopal engagement with local issues in East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, and national issues

Fr Robert Norbury (robert.norbury@chichester.anglican.org) becomes **Bishop's Chaplain**, overseeing the team of liturgical chaplains and arrangements for all forms of licensing, baptism and confirmation, and consecrations of churches and churchyards, as well as ordinations, arrangements for the Chrism Eucharists, and the Order of St Richard. In addition, and alongside his parish role as Vicar of Durrington, Fr Robert is taking on the post of Deputy Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Please contact Fr Robert for:

- Liturgical arrangements for licensing, baptism and confirmation, consecration of churches and churchyards undertaken by the bishop or a suffragan bishop
- Arrangements for ordinations
- Arrangements for the Chrism Eucharists
- The Order of St Richard

Imogen Robins (imogen.robins@chichester.anglican.org) becomes **Bishop's PA & Appointments Secretary**, responsible for parish appointment processes, working closely with the Diocesan Registry and the suffragan bishops' and archdeacons' offices, and for safer recruitment and other clergy HR matters around vacancies. Imogen is also taking over management of the Bishop's diary, to include support around all meetings, visits, and national responsibilities including House of Lords duties.

Please contact Imogen for:

- Making an arrangement to see the bishop
- Requesting a visit by the bishop
- Enquiries about vacancies and appointments

The reconfigured role of **Palace Administrator** (palaceadmin@chichester.anglican.org) brings together bookings, logistics and hospitality for external meetings and events at the Palace, with day to day facilities management and financial administration. Emily Badham, who will be filling this role until the end of the year, will then be moving on to another role outside the Church. **We offer Emily our thanks for all she has contributed** over her 18 months at the Palace and wish her every success in her future career. We will be looking to recruit a successor to start as soon as possible.

Please use the palaceadmin@chichester.anglican.org email address for:

- Booking the use of the Palace (Sherborne Room, Chapel, and garden)

We also hope to recruit shortly to a new part-time role of **Palace Assistant**, responsible for PTO administration, routine clergy HR support including filing, and more general support within the office.

Fr Andy Birks has done excellent work in streamlining the complex administration of PTO applications. We are greatly indebted to him for the clarity of his organisation and for devising material that makes the application process more accessible. He will conclude this responsibility in January 2023. **We also thank Fr Andy for his cheerful and robust ministry in this area.**

Please use pto@chichester.anglican.org for:

- PTO renewals, new requests and all other PTO enquiries

Yours in Christ,

+Martin