The Church of England

Diocese of Chichester

**MEDIA INFORMATION (1)**

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

23 May 2025

**New Archdeacon of Chichester appointed**

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner has appointed The Reverend Dr Tom Carpenter, Parish Priest of Holy Trinity & St Luke's Southport, as the next Archdeacon of Chichester.

Dr Carpenter studied theology in Oxford and trained for ordination at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.  He was a curate in his home diocese of Sheffield.

He is presently a vicar in Southport, where he faced the outpouring of grief and violence that followed the murder of three young girls at their dance class.

He was recently appointed Rural Dean of North Meols, taking responsibility for supporting his neighbours as the Diocese of Liverpool addresses the serious challenges of finance and mission that face large parts of the Church of England.

In response to his appointment, Dr Carpenter asked for the prayers of the priests and people of the archdeaconry, “that I will have the grace to be a good servant'.

He also asks for prayers for his wife Judith, who works for the Church Army, and their two-week-old baby son, Joseph, “whose interests are eating, sleeping and nocturnal squealing”.

He succeeds Luke Irvine-Capel who was recently appointed as Bishop of Richborough.

**Dr Warner said today:** “I am delighted that Fr Tom Carpenter has accepted the invitation to serve as the next Archdeacon of Chichester.  He brings pastoral experience drawn from areas of deprivation in the north of England.  But the existence of poverty and disadvantage also demands attention in our own coastal towns and rural communities.

“He also brings a stable spiritual life, shaped by the monastic community at Mirfield.  He combines a northern sense of humour with the gift of making readily accessible a profound grasp of Christian thought that spans the centuries.

**The Bishop of Horsham, The Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager**, with whom the new archdeacon will work closely, said today: “I am so looking forward to working with Tom as we serve the churches and communities of the Chichester Archdeaconry and Diocese.”

A date for licensing and installation will be announced later.