**New Associate Archdeacon appointed**

**The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, has today announced the appointment of The Reverend Emma Ham-Riche, Priest-in-charge of St John's Preston and Rural Dean of Brighton, to the new additional post of non-stipendiary Associate Archdeacon for Diversity and Inclusion.**

Dr Warner today explained the background to this new and exciting appointment:

“Together with episcopal and archidiaconal colleagues, I am delighted to announce the establishment of a new, non-stipendiary post of Associate Archdeacon for Diversity and Inclusion, and to announce the appointment to that post of the Reverend Emma Ham-Riche, Vicar of St John's Preston and Rural Dean of Brighton.

“This Associate Archdeacon will assist the bishops and archdeacons in monitoring the concerns of those who have particular needs and often feel themselves to be unrepresented in the decision-making forums of this diocese.

“Bishops and archdeacons will share with the Associate Archdeacon, by formal delegation, their responsibility for identifying and addressing these concerns but they cannot and will not abandon it.

“As a member of the Bishop's Staff Meeting (BSM) the Associate Archdeacon will be expected to report and to invite others to report on the matters that are the focus of this post.  But the pastoral and missional concern for the inclusion and dignity of all God's children remains an obligation that is intrinsic to every form of ordained ministry.

“At present diocesan officers focus on race, LGBTIQ+ needs, and disability which includes recognition of neuro-diverse needs.  The Dean of Women’s Ministry, the work of Youth leaders, and our Education team would also inform the oversight of this Associate Archdeacon.

“As a member of the BSM, the Associate Archdeacon will participate fully in the overview of diocesan life, its governance and its vision.  She will also be able to facilitate reporting by diocesan officers for any form of need and, if appropriate, those they represent, to the BSM, and to other decision-making meetings, such as the Bishop's Council.”

**The Bishop added:**

“Emma Ham-Riche knows the Diocese of Chichester well.  It is the household in which her faith has been nourished, and her ordained ministry is finding fruition.  She is outstandingly well-placed to undertake this new work of oversight, and we are very blessed by her willingness to embrace this role.

“Emma's pastoral instincts and the professional application of them as a parish priest will equip her for an unusual form of archidiaconal ministry.  Being still rooted in a parish and deanery will also continue to inform BSM discussion of the priority of our parishes, their needs, the communities they serve, and the worship of God from which all our endeavours must flow.

**Emma said today:** “Diversity and inclusion involves ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness within the church community. This means actively working to eliminate discrimination in all forms and widen participation, both within the church and in the broader society.

“The creation of this new role represents the Diocese of Chichester’s intention to embed diversity and inclusion within the life of the Diocese. Working alongside the Diocesan Disability Advisers, the Racial Justice Officer and the Bishop’s Adviser for LGBTQI+, my hope is that together we can raise awareness of not just how to do this, but why, as Christians, we should, so that all can belong.”

The date for the formal inauguration of the ministry of this Associate Archdeacon will be announced in due course.