

Temporary Episcopal arrangements in the Diocese of Derby

The Bishop of Derby, the Rt Revd Libby Lane, is currently on sick leave. Our prayers and best wishes are with her at this time for a full recovery. Bishop Libby's episcopal responsibilities are delegated at the moment to the Bishop of Repton, the Rt Revd Malcolm Macnaughton.

Bishop Malcolm retires from ministry on Thursday 30 April, after which episcopal responsibilities in the Diocese of Derby will be delegated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Rt Revd Jackie Searle, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry, former Bishop of Crediton and previously acting Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Jackie has a connection with our diocese, having been vicar of Littleover from 2003 to 2012.

Speaking on this appointment, Bishop Jackie said: "I have been asked to be the Acting Bishop of Derby for this period and will be returning to a diocese that has a very special place in my heart. I will be pleased to support the diocese through this time. Meanwhile my prayers and best wishes are with Bishop Libby, and with Bishop Malcolm on his retirement."

Bishop Jackie will be part-time in this role, and will be working closely with the senior team. Throughout this period enquiries should continue to go through the Bishop of Derby's office as normal.

A warning about 'phishing' emails

Unfortunately, there are people who target churches and their members with so-called 'phishing' emails. These are scam emails

which pretend to be someone you know and ask for money. A number of our parishes have been targeted over the past year, and since it can be confusing and distressing I wanted to let everyone know what to look out for.

You might receive an email which looks like it's from me, because it has my name as the sender, but if you click on the address it's been sent from you will see it is a completely different email address. That is the first clue that it is a phishing email.

The first email you might receive would tell you that I am in a meeting, or that I have laryngitis and have lost my voice; it will say I am unable to call you and have to communicate by email. And then it will ask you if you use Amazon. If you reply, you will be given extra information, such as, I am wanting to get a present for someone and need your help, and it has to be secret. You will be asked to buy Amazon gift cards and send me the numbers on the cards. This is effectively handing over money to a scammer, because once they have the gift card numbers they can redeem them and the money is gone.

Please note that neither I nor anyone from any of our parishes will ever contact you and ask you for money.

If you receive such an email please ignore it, but if your parish has a WhatsApp group you might want to warn other parishioners. You don't need to tell me, because my email hasn't been hacked, the scammer has just created a random email address and put my name on it.