

29 November 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to share the announcement that the next Suffragan Bishop in Europe is to be The Reverend Canon Andrew Norman.

Andrew is currently Director of Ministry and Mission for the Diocese of Leeds. He succeeds Bishop David Hamid, who retired in February.

Andrew has previously lived and worked in the Diocese in Europe. Prior to ordination he worked in Malta in a banknote-printing factory. After his ordination as priest in 1996, he served as curate of St Michael's Paris. Following his curacy he was appointed Associate Vicar at Christ Church, Clifton in the Diocese of Bristol. Andrew then worked with Archbishop Rowan Williams as Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International, Ecumenical and Anglican Communion Affairs. He was Principal of Ridley Hall theological college in Cambridge from 2008 to 2016, before moving to his current senior post in the newly formed Diocese of Leeds. He is the author of 'A Church Observed: being Anglican as times change'. Andrew has a great variety of experience and gifts in theology, ecumenical work and strategic development that are highly relevant to our diocese. I'm sure he will be a wise senior colleague and an encouraging pastor to our clergy and congregations.

Andrew is married to Amanda, who speaks French and rusty German, currently works for the Leprosy Mission and is a Licensed Lay Minister. They have two adult daughters.

The plans for Andrew's consecration in England and installation at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar are being finalised at present. These events are likely to be at the very end of February and the first weekend of March. The Suffragan Bishop will be based in the Bishops' Office in Brussels, where he will work alongside the Diocesan Bishop. As Suffragan Bishop, Andrew will Chair the Ministry Team of the diocese and will be Lead Bishop for Safeguarding alongside other responsibilities.

I invite you to watch an introductory conversation that I had with Andrew in Brussels recently which is posted on the diocesan website.

I very much look forward to Andrew joining us. He will get a little introduction to the diocese this weekend visiting the Community Kitchen project in Brussels today, meeting members of the youth group in Rotterdam this evening and then celebrating Advent Sunday in Malta. He will have opportunity to meet many of you in all parts of the diocese when he takes up his post in the Spring. Meanwhile, please join me in praying for Andrew and Amanda as they face this major time of transition.

Yours in Christ,

*+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe*

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