



THE MOST REVD DAVID CHILLINGWORTH

Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane
Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

8th February 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know that an announcement will be made later today that I shall retire from ministry at the end of July. I shall be working normally until the end of June.

The moment comes when it is clear that you have made your contribution and that it is time to make way for new leadership with fresh vision and energy. I know that I have reached that point. It is time for me to explore what life without the demands of office may bring.

I look back with thankfulness on two very different periods of ministry. In Northern Ireland, I felt called to a ministry of healing and reconciliation. My remarkable parishioners and I lived that vision in very difficult times. As the violent period of the conflict came to an end, I found myself called - completely unexpectedly - to a very different ministry in Scotland. The Scottish Episcopal Church seemed to be ready to explore a new kind of future - a more missional future for a more confident church in the developing story of Scotland. My vocation became a calling to leadership.

As a bishop in a small church, I have been able to live close to the daily realities of congregational life and the faithfulness of our people. As a community of clergy and people, we have shaped several versions of the Casting the Net initiative. I have also been able to share in the work of shaping the future direction of our church. I look back on the development of the Whole Church Mission and Ministry Policy and the revision of our training for ministry through the new Scottish Episcopal Institute. It has been an immense privilege to represent the Scottish Episcopal Church in many different contexts both in Scotland and internationally.

The interwoven ministries of bishop and Primus are set within the collegiality which is one of the charisms of the Scottish Episcopal Church. I am grateful to all with whom I have shared ministry in the diocese, the College of Bishops, the synodical bodies and the staff team at the GSO. I leave in the diocese what has in recent times become a team of clergy of remarkable capacity and commitment. My greatest encouragement is to see the future ministry and leadership of our church emerging in an increasing flow of ordinands, some of them younger, who will receive training of high quality to prepare them for the future.

My time in ministry in both Ireland and Scotland has been absorbing. Often there have been great demands on my family. Alison has been a constant presence, support and guide. I know that our congregations have valued her presence with me every Sunday. Ministry of this kind would not have been possible without her.

Scotland has been very kind to us - welcoming, affirming and trusting. It has become our home and we shall live in retirement near Edinburgh within easy reach of our three children and our four grandchildren. I'm looking forward to having time for the simple things.

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We shall mark the end of my ministry as bishop and Primus with a Eucharist in our Cathedral on Sunday, 25th June, at 6 pm. All are welcome. That service will also mark the 40th anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. In writing to you, I want to express my deep thanks to you all for your friendship, kindness and support. We have of course shared challenges and difficulty. But there have been many wonderful moments. Through it all, God's purpose is fulfilled.

As the process for the election of my successor begins - and as God's unfolding future for our church is revealed - I shall continue to hold this church in my prayers.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David" with a cross symbol to the left.

The Most Revd David Chillingworth
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