



13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear friends and colleagues

After 18 years among you as the Suffragan Bishop, I am writing today to let you know that I have now had permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Crown to announce my coming retirement on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Liz and I feel grateful and privileged to have shared so many years with you, our friends and colleagues, and to have played a part in all that God has been doing amongst us since 2005. I very much hope that you will be happy for us as we prepare for this next season of life as faithful followers of Jesus.

Bishop Viv and I are committed to ensuring an excellent outcome in the appointment of a new Suffragan Bishop, and we will provide you with details on next steps as soon as we are able.

Writing today inevitably conjures up a mix of emotions. Goodbyes are never easy when deep relationships have been formed and we have travelled together as companions for so many years.

God has been so good to us in this journey together. Liz and I look forward to the opportunity to say our farewells in the weeks ahead, giving thanks to God and celebrating our shared story, before we move on from the Diocese.

Yours in our Good Shepherd and Lord of new beginnings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee".

Rt Revd Dr Lee Rayfield  
Bishop of Swindon