

Our Ref: +MBW/pg

13th March 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Having not so long ago written to you inviting you to join us to welcome Bishop Ruth back home to Bath and Wells, I now find myself writing to invite you to join us to say farewell at her final service, which will be our Chrism Eucharist on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Ruth will soon be laying down her role as Bishop of Taunton and she steps out in faith once again, to bring her gifts of healing and reconciliation to the people of the Diocese of Liverpool.

When Ruth was seconded to be Acting Bishop of Coventry, we deliberately didn't make a big fuss - after all, we knew she would be back! It was wonderful to see so many people from all over our diocese in our cathedral on the Feast of Candlemas when we welcomed her back from Coventry, when Ruth reflected so powerfully and movingly about healing and reconciliation, about brokenness and sacrifice, and about challenge and change. What we didn't know then was that she was being called by God, and by the Church, sooner than any of us could have anticipated.

I am sure that many of you will want to join with me to ensure that Ruth receives a truly fitting, grateful and loving farewell from us here in Bath and Wells. We very much hope that you will be able to join us at our cathedral on Tuesday, 15 April at 10.00, to hear Bishop Ruth preach before we send her off with all our love, hope and blessings for all that is to come. Please do let us know that you are coming [by registering using our online booking form](#) so that we know that everyone will be well catered for.

Bishop Ruth's move is, of course, a cause of great sadness to many of us. She has been part of our diocese for almost ten years during which she has served faithfully as Bishop of Taunton, and as Acting Bishop of Bath and Wells during Bishop Peter Hancock's illness and the Vacancy in See. I know that many of you are extremely grateful to Ruth for the way in which she held our diocese for a number of years and are rightly very proud of her as she takes her considerable gifts to the people of Liverpool.

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The Rt Reverend Michael Beasley
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I know from my visits around our diocese just how much Ruth's ministry has been appreciated across our diocese. People speak to me with great affection about her great gift for pastoral care and for the love and the joy she has shared with so many.

At Ruth's final service we will be presenting her with gifts from us to take with her into the next chapter of her life; gifts to remind her of her time here and to help her as she steps out in faith to an uncertain future, thanking God for his faithfulness and singing of God's goodness. We will be thanking both Ruth and her husband Howard for all that they have been to us and all they have shared with us, and we will be praying for them and their family as they move on in faith. If you would like to make a contribution to a farewell gift for +Ruth. Contributions can be made electronically by BACS:

Account name: BISHOP B&W DISCRET
Account type: Business
Account number: 52161706
Sort code: 60 23 06
Reference: Bishop Ruth

or by post (cheques only please) to the Bishop's Office.

We would also be very pleased to receive farewell messages, memories and best wishes for Ruth. These can be provided on an [online noticeboard](#). Alternatively, the Bishops' Office would be pleased to receive cards, or anything else you would like to send for +Ruth. We do not have a great deal of time before Ruth leaves us, so we would greatly appreciate an early response so that we can work together to make sure that Ruth and Howard have a well-deserved and good send-off.

You will, of course, be hearing more very soon about the appointment process for the next Bishop of Taunton which we very much hope to conclude by the end of the year, but for now, this is about Ruth and about her farewell. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you in our cathedral to bid a heartfelt farewell and God speed to Ruth and Howard, along with our gratitude and love.

With every good wish,



Rt Revd Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath and Wells

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