

BISHOP OF TRURO TO RETIRE AT EASTER 2008



The Bishop made the following announcement to the Diocesan Synod on Saturday 12th May 2007

On 26th March next year I shall have my 66th birthday. It falls, by coincidence perhaps, in Easter week. I think 65 is a good age at which to retire, so Easter Day, next year, will be my last working day as Bishop of Truro and my actual retirement day will be on 30th April.

I have written to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to 10 Downing Street and told them of my decision and it has been accepted.

It is right that you should know all this, not least because, with the announcement of my retirement, the whole business of choosing a new Bishop can begin. All the necessary arrangements are in place for this to happen and it is important to realise that a great deal of time, and care, are taken over this both locally, and indeed, nationally. Detailed information about all this will be made available when a timetable has been drawn up.

I hope that the fact that we have loved living here has communicated itself to you. This year, 2007, is a very significant one for me personally. 40 years married, 40 years a priest, 20 years a Bishop and to be here in Cornwall celebrating all these things is something for which I am profoundly grateful and thankful. I would not want to be anywhere else.

I have been very fortunate to work with people both in the Bishop's Staff and in diocesan administration at Diocesan House and other places who are committed and dedicated and also very importantly have a sense of humour and therefore a sense of proportion.

Of course, there have been some high spots in these past 10 years but they have not been nearly as important and significant as the way in which week by week I have received encouragement, insight, and hope as I have shared in ordinary parish and, indeed, diocesan life.

Anyway I have said enough for now. I have written to all clergy serving and retired, to Readers and all Churchwardens and to others in various aspects of Cornish life telling them the news that I am sharing with you. The letters to them were posted today.

Meanwhile the task of sharing and celebrating the Good News continues and we shall do that together as we have always tried to do. I shall carry on working at the same pace until I retire. I want to work with others at the next stage of the People of God programme involving clergy, Readers, and of course congregations. It is not in my nature to ease up. There is much that I want to do.

Thank you for your continuing care, love and support.

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