

Romans 15 v13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit.'

Dear Colleagues

I hope you had a refreshing half term break and managed to find time away from school and the demands of leadership. The next half term is a busy but hopefully, joyous time for school communities but it will still be demanding for headteachers, staff and governors. So I urge you to pace and look after yourselves as you immerse yourself in the excitement of this time of year.

It was lovely to see so many of you on our Diocesan Briefing Webinar just before half term. The attendance was very encouraging and we have also been delighted with so many positive comments. It isn't always easy to get the content and timings perfect in these situations. There will always be people who would like to have heard more from various team members but we also think it is essential to keep the timeframe manageable. We will continue to listen to your advice and try to tailor these events to your needs as much as possible. We anticipate doing a similar briefing in February. This online format seems to suit many headteachers and governors and we find it enables us to share a message more widely and consistently. Thank you for your ongoing support.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Simmonds as our new School Governance Officer. Mike joins us after a long and successful time as a consultant on church school governance through his organisation Go Ministries. Mike has served widely as a Governor, Chair of Governors, a Trustee and as a Chair of a MAT. He has worked with a number of dioceses and has also partnered with Liverpool Hope University on governor training materials. We are really pleased to be able to appoint somebody with such wide experience and we believe he will be a great asset to our team, offering you wise and knowledgeable advice to help you face the challenges ahead. We are going to give Mike a few weeks to settle in and then we will formally introduce you to him as the new year approaches. Mike begins work on 10 November so feel free to make contact with him via his email mike.simmonds@chichester.anglican.org. Welcome to the diocese Mike.

Just before half term we were informed that Worth Abbey are having roof renovations carried out during the time our Leavers' Celebrations were scheduled to be held there. We have therefore had to cancel this booking. However, we have been very fortunate to have secured the use of Christ's Hospital chapel in Horsham. Christ's Hospital is one of our Associate Schools and I have no doubt that this will prove an inspiring and welcoming venue this year. The dates and times of these services will be exactly the same as they were for Worth Abbey. If you are prepared to transfer from Worth Abbey to Christ's Hospital, please contact [Vanessa Vollebregt](#) as soon as possible. Similarly, many of our venues and time slots are beginning to fill up. We would therefore urge any schools that have not booked their service slot to do so as soon as possible in order to have the chance to attend where and when you would most choose. It has been very encouraging to receive such a strong response so quickly regarding these services. We really look forward to bringing our schools together as a diocesan family.

I would like to remind you that you are all very much in our prayers as this term continues. As ever please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or worries

With best wishes

Trevor Cristin
November 2021