

Strictly embargoed until 10:05, Tuesday, 18 December 2018

Press release from the Diocese of Derby

Bishop Libby Lane named as next Bishop of Derby

The next Bishop of Derby will be the Right Reverend Libby Lane, Downing Street has announced.

Bishop Libby is currently the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport, in the Diocese of Chester – a post she has occupied since 2015.

Libby describes Derbyshire as ‘the place that holds my heart’. She grew up in Glossop in the north-west of the county and was selected for ordination while working in the parish of St Thomas Brampton, Chesterfield.

Bishop Libby said: “I am excited and privileged to have been called to serve as Bishop of Derby.

“I grew up here and my vocation was fostered here. Derbyshire nurtured me and brought me to faith and I want to love Derbyshire back.

“I want to lead a church in Derbyshire where people find hope because they know they are loved by God in Christ, and I pray that hope sets us free to live our lives in ways that bring change for good.”

On hearing the news, the Dean of Derby, the Very Reverend Dr Stephen Hance, said: “I am thrilled that Libby is coming to be our bishop. Her roots are here in Derbyshire, and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming her home and working with her in the months and years ahead.

“This announcement presents us with an opportunity to think afresh, about who we are and who we hope to be, about the opportunities and challenges that face us as we move forward.”

Bishop Libby is marking today’s announcement by visiting a number of communities in the Diocese. She started the day, with her husband, George, her two grown-up children, Connie and Benedict, in her childhood hometown of Glossop, where her parents still live.

From there, she travelled to Bolsover, a former mining town, in the north-east of Derbyshire, meeting children and staff at Bolsover C of E Junior School and taking part in their assembly. She invited the children to help her with a short talk about the Nativity.

Libby is also revisiting the church of St Thomas in Brampton, Chesterfield, where she will meet women in their Knit and Natter meeting and a men’s social group, known as Thom’s Blokes, who will be enjoying a special Christmas lunch.

Later, she will meet members of the farming and agricultural communities in Alderwasley, before a reception at Derby Cathedral, where she will meet local faith and community leaders. Libby will end her day joining Evening Prayers at the Cathedral from 17:15.

The service to install Bishop Libby in Derby Cathedral will take place after Easter.

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Notes for Editors

The Right Reverend Libby Lane (aged 52), trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Following her curacy in the Diocese of Blackburn (1993 to 1996) Bishop Libby served in the Diocese of York as a Hospital and Further Education Chaplain. From 2000 she served in the Diocese of Chester as a Social Responsibility Officer, an Assistant Director of Ordinands and Bishop's Selection Advisor, as well as a Parish Priest. From 2010 to 2015 she was Chester Diocesan Dean of Women in Ministry, and in 2013 was elected as Participant Observer in the House of Bishops.

She has been Suffragan Bishop of Stockport since 2015. Bishop Libby is an elected Suffragan for the Northern Province in the House of Bishops, and a Chair of General Synod. She is Chair of Cranmer Committee for the Council of St John's College, Durham, and Vice-Chair of Trustees of The Church of England Children's Society.

Bishop Libby was the first woman to be appointed a bishop in the Church of England when she became Bishop of Stockport

The Right Reverend Libby Lane is married to The Reverend George Lane, Coordinating Chaplain at Manchester Airport, and they have two grown-up children.

Her interests include supporting Manchester United, reading and doing cryptic crosswords.

You are welcome to send a reporter/photographer to the reception at Derby Cathedral. The reception begins at 15:30, however Bishop Libby will be available for 1-to-1 media interviews between 15:00 and 15:15.

For more information and recent images of Bishop Libby, please contact:
The Communications Office – communications@derby.anglican.org | 01332 388680

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