

# PRESS RELEASE

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Housing Justice

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Housing Justice Chair Right Reverend James Langstaff appointed Bishop of Rochester

The new Church of England Bishop of Rochester will be the Right Reverend James Langstaff, currently the Suffragan Bishop of Lynn in the Diocese of Norwich. In addition, he is now the Bishop designate of Rochester.

Bishop James (53) will become the 107th Bishop of Rochester later this year. He succeeds the Right Reverend Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, who retired in September 2009.

Following a media facility, Bishop James will spend the day touring the diocese to visit some of his future colleagues and parishioners. His day will begin at Bishop Justus school in the London borough of Bromley, which is part of the Diocese of Rochester. Here, he will be introduced to staff and pupils before moving on to meet members of his clergy at Chevening. After lunch and a further media facility, Bishop James will meet his staff at Bishops court and the Diocesan Office in Rochester. His day will conclude at Rochester Cathedral where he will meet Cathedral staff prior to joining future colleagues and members of the public for Evensong.

Bishop James is looking forward to joining the Diocese, but will not actually take up the role until he is officially installed as Bishop of Rochester at a special service in Rochester Cathedral later this year, at a date to be announced. He said, "Being appointed Bishop of Rochester is a huge privilege and also a weighty responsibility. I greatly look forward to sharing in the mission and ministry of the Church in the diocese, getting to know the wider communities and their people and seeing the things of God's Kingdom grow."

The Right Reverend Dr Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge said, "I am delighted that Bishop James is to be the next Bishop of Rochester. He brings with him a rich and varied parish experience and the wisdom and insights to lead the diocese into the future to which God is calling us. I look forward to working with him. Both Bishop James, Bridget and their family can be assured of a warm welcome as they move into the diocese.'

The Venerable Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge, said, "I am delighted at the appointment of Bishop James. His pastoral and leadership gifts, his concern for people and communities, and his rich experience of ministry and mission in urban and rural settings will all be greatly appreciated. We much look forward to welcoming him and to working with him in Christ's name."