



The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam
Bishop of Salisbury

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on the relationship of the Channel Islands to the wider Church of England has published its final report, including a recommendation for episcopal oversight of the Islands to be transferred to the Bishop of Salisbury.

The Commission has made recommendations which will allow the continued flourishing of parishes on the Channel Islands within the wider life of the Church of England. The report offers a thoughtful and constructive way forward. I warmly welcome its recommendations, particularly that the episcopal oversight of the Islands be transferred to the Bishop of Salisbury.

The report is available on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/channel-islands-commission-publishes-recommendations>

On 16th November our Diocesan Synod will have an opportunity to discuss the Commission's report. I hope that Synod will join me in welcoming its recommendations which we expect to be cost neutral to the Diocese and have no impact on our 'fairer share'.

In late November and early December it will be discussed by the Deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey and by the Archbishops' Council. If there is a willingness to proceed, we will begin to build relationships and work on the detailed practicalities. Nothing formal can happen without the recommended Measure being approved by General Synod. It is hoped this will happen at the Synod in February and July 2020 and then it will need to be forwarded by the Islands States to the Privy Council for approval.

Salisbury is a Diocese that benefits from a variety of strong partnerships which illumine and strengthen our Christian life. I know we will do all we can to further the mission and ministry of Christ in this new partnership.

Once the various parties have indicated their willingness to accept the Commission's proposals, I very much look forward to getting to know the people of the Channel Islands so that we will be able to welcome them into our Diocese when the time comes and find ways for the Church to flourish in their own particular contexts. Together we will explore the opportunities this new relationship brings. A new chapter is opening in our shared life in Christ.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Holtam".

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam
The Bishop of Salisbury