

Bishop's vision clear from his installation



Bishop Jonathan leaves the cathedral with Christina and Areen after his installation

Bishop Jonathan insisted on major roles for children and young people as he was installed, as an indication of his top priorities

IN the moments before Bishop Jonathan strode into our cathedral as the tenth Bishop of Portsmouth, 15-year-old Christina Barnard whispered some comforting words to him.

It was an apt illustration of Bishop Jonathan's vision that God can use this emerging generation to help lead more mature Christians deeper into faith. It was a point that was reinforced throughout his installation service and to which he returned in his sermon.

Around 500 churchgoers, civic dignitaries, community representatives and guests packed our cathedral for this special service, at which the Rt Rev Jonathan Frost was formally welcomed to our diocese. He was officially placed in his 'seat' in the cathedral, dressed in his bishop's robes, mitre and cross, and handed the bishop's crozier that had been placed on the

cathedral altar by his predecessor Bishop Christopher.

Bishop Jonathan had chosen children and young people to play major roles throughout the service. Young singers from Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, our pioneering Choir Church project, and the Cathedral Sing school workshops sang beforehand and throughout.

'This has been the biggest honour of my life – a once-in-a-lifetime thing'

And Charter Academy students Christina Barnard and Areen Saeed processed in and out of the cathedral alongside him, and helped him to robe. Christina read a responsive Psalm, and Areen spoke the words reminding Bishop

Jonathan that he was first and foremost a child of God.

"It was magical," said Christina afterwards. "It was such an important day, and it was great to be able to talk to Bishop Jonathan beforehand and to tell him that this was the Lord's day, and we should rejoice in it. I was so happy and honoured to experience this beside him."

Areen, who is 14, said: "This has been the biggest honour of my life. It is a once-in-a-lifetime thing to be involved. I've never felt as spiritual in my life, and God was guiding us through this ceremony."

The installation service began with Bishop Jonathan outside the cathedral's west doors in a simple white robe, with Christina, Areen and representatives from his previous role in York Minster. As Bishop Jonathan walked in



Top: Bishop Jonathan enters the cathedral with Christina and Areen, flanked by young singers; below: lighted candles for the gospel reading

with Christina and Areen to be presented to the Dean, some of the singers lined the aisle. Bishop Jonathan then declared his Christian beliefs and made vows.

Christina and Areen brought him his bishop's cross, his robes and his mitre. He was then taken to the bishop's seat and placed in it by the acting Archdeacon of Canterbury, on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Children held lit candles as the Rev Rajiv Sidhu, curate at St Mary's Church, Fratton, read the gospel. Christina and Areen then led the bishop outside through the west doors, where the young singers were lined up to sing ahead of the final blessing.

In the weeks after his installation service, Bishop Jonathan toured

all seven of our deaneries, listening to people's concerns and distilling what he thought was the most significant issue we face as a diocese.

He told our Diocesan Synod in April that he believes the most significant issue we face is a lack of trust in each other and in Jesus. The bishop has condensed his presidential address from that day into his column on page 3.

Bishop Jonathan also presented a 'roadmap' for the rest of 2022, asking our deaneries to look again at their plans for mission and ministry with two additional proposals. One is that we should create Anna Chaplains to support older people in every parish of the diocese. The other is to deliberately prioritise our work with children, young people and young adults to

UPFRONT: LATEST NEWS

ROADMAP FOR 2022

Bishop Jonathan's roadmap for the rest of 2022 includes these staging points:

APRIL/MAY: Seven separate meetings with the bishop, archdeacon, diocesan secretary and deputy diocesan secretary, and the lay chair and area dean of each deanery – to tweak deanery plans in the light of the bishop's two priorities

MAY/JUNE: Conversation in deaneries about the revised deanery plans

25 JUNE: Update at Diocesan Synod

JULY: Gathering of deanery plans into draft plan for the diocese, plus a chance for our Bishop's Council to translate that plan into a draft budget

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER: First draft of overall diocesan plan circulated to deaneries. Deanery events online and in person to share vision and explore draft strategic plan and its accompanying budget. Deaneries asked to affirm, develop or revise.

19 OCTOBER: Bishop's Council considers feedback and produces final strategy, budget for 2023 and financial plans for 2024-25

5 NOVEMBER: Diocesan Synod votes on strategy, budget and financial plans.

bring the gospel to the emerging generation.

"The vision I want to offer is a diocese where everyone belongs, older and younger, but in which we have made a commitment to offer life-enhancing encounters with Jesus Christ to children, young people and young adults," he said.

"Anna Chaplaincy is a beautiful, growing movement to develop the spirituality of older people. It helps us to show the value of the older generation, and gives lay pastors authority to visit people in their own homes and minister to them."

For more details, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/strategy

● **Engaging with young people:** see pages 10-14
● **Anna Chaplaincy:** see page 23