



The Acting Bishop of Lincoln

July 2022

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy year which has involved SATs for some and public exams for others of you. We still have the challenge of Covid which has still been affecting school life. At the same time, you have been learning through books, online as well as on the sports field, in the gym and through the clubs and societies you belong to. It's all a lot to take in when you are also growing and developing as people, some of you on the cusp of adulthood. For some of you, school is great and for some it's more of a struggle; but we are all learners in our unique way as the wonderful person whom God has made and loves. We have talents, even if they emerge at different rates in different people.

Like many of you in and out of school, I have been stretched this year by being given more responsibility, in my case as temporary Bishop of Lincoln on top of my job as Bishop of Ely. I've had to think about my priorities, not just for learning and action but also about who I want to be in the future and with whom.

All this is in the context of political turbulence at home, war in Ukraine, fear about making ends meet and the challenge of climate change. Older adults sometimes forget that you care about these things and wonder about the world you will inherit. The summer break is a time when I draw breath to reflect on my place in God's creation and how I can be a person of peace and hope among the people I know. I shall also be finding time to spend with special friends who I perhaps have neglected while I have been focussing on immediate things, in your case things like exam revision or the cricket season or your prom.

With those friends I hope to do stuff and have fun adventures just for the joy of it. And enjoy a good lie-in. Have a rich, thoughtful and happy break.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, give us even a painful hope for the future of the planet and the joy of human relationship. Help us remember those young people near us or far away who are hungry or afraid. Help us to be thankful for what we have and for the loved ones and friends who help us to enjoy what we receive. Help us to make the best of the different rhythm of the summer holidays. We pray for any of our teachers or fellow students who are moving on this summer, that their future will be fruitful. Whether we go away or stay at home, give us happy surprises of unexpected laughter and unexpected but joyful encounters with old and new friends. Amen.

Yours ever in Christ,

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Ely
Acting Bishop of Lincoln