



## The Acting Bishop of Lincoln

July 2023

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy year which for many there have been exams or preparing for exams that have required a lot of hard work. 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. 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 Acting Bishop of Lincoln on top of my job as Bishop of Grimsby. 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, the cost of living crisis and climate change. Older adults sometimes forget that you care about these things and wonder about the world you will inherit. I have great faith in young people's ability to meet the challenges ahead. 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.

With best wishes,

The Rt Revd Dr David Court  
Bishop of Grimsby

Acting Bishop of Lincoln