



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford  
Bishops Court, Main Road, Margaretting, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0HD  
t: 01277 352001 f: 01277 355374 [bishops court@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:bishops court@chelmsford.anglican.org)

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Dear friends in Christ,

Downing Street announced this morning that I am to be the next Archbishop of York. I am humbled and excited to be called to this position of leadership and service in our Church, but I will also be sad at leaving the diocese where I was born and grew up. Being the Bishop of Chelmsford will always be one of the greatest honours of my life.

Please pray for me and for Rebecca as we prepare for this move. Please pray for the Diocese of York and for Archbishop Sentamu as he prepares for his retirement in June. Please pray for the dioceses and communities of the Northern Province and for Archbishop Justin and the whole Church of England.

I don't know exactly when I will be laying down my responsibilities as your bishop, but I will write again in the New Year with the details of what will be happening.

I love and will always love the diocese of Chelmsford. I love its diversity. I love its creativity. I love its possibility. I will continue to pray for the churches and people of East London and Essex and all who live and serve here; and I give thanks for all the joys I have shared with you these past nine years.

Thank you for the trust you have put in me. As we look forward to Christmas, may the song of peace that the angels sang echo in our hearts and lives and fill us with joy.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell  
Bishop of Chelmsford



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