

## **PROTOCOL WHEN VISITING ANOTHER DIOCESE**

Ordination gives us the authority and responsibility residual within our order of ministry. Licence provides us with the authority and accountability of a particular ministry. While we have the privilege of membership in the world wide Anglican Communion, we do not have the right of ministry beyond the boundaries of our own licence.

It is therefore a matter of common courtesy that we seek permission if exercising some form of ministry in another Diocese. Advice about this can best be sought in the first instance from the clergy of the Parish or Chaplaincy where the ministry is to be offered, but permission must be given by the Bishop. This will almost always be granted, with an understanding that the traditions and customs of that Diocese or local ministry will be observed.

I would be quite embarrassed if a clergy person licensed in this Diocese took it upon himself or herself to exercise a ministry in another Diocese without first seeking the appropriate authority.

The same applies at home. We gladly welcome clergy (and lay people) licensed in another Diocese to exercise a ministry in our midst, but this should not be presumed. I would be glad of a letter indicating your intention to invite a person not licensed in this Diocese to exercise a ministry in your Parish or chaplaincy.

One of the lovely features of Anglicanism is that we hold communion with one another through a common desire and choice to do so. It is not a good thing to trample upon such freedom through a lack of courtesy.

It is in the same spirit that we would not “plant” a church or congregation in another area or jurisdiction without the welcome, encouragement and authority of that Diocese. In this Diocese we gladly welcome Anglicans from a variety of backgrounds and traditions to work and serve in our midst. I have three guidelines that undergird this hospitality.

1. That the tradition being offered is faithful in both word and sacrament to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church.
2. That what is offered is the best possible example of that tradition.
3. That the clergy (and Lay people) licensed will be totally loyal to the Diocese and will act in full communion and fellowship with all the other clergy and congregations of the Diocese.