

Press Release

Bishop Michael Colclough to retire as Canon Pastor of St Paul's

Monday, 18th February 2013

Bishop Michael Colclough, Canon Pastor of St Paul's Cathedral, has announced that he will retire with effect from 30th September 2013.

Bishop Michael is 68. He has spent most of his working life in the Diocese of London where he held a number of senior posts, most recently Bishop of Kensington, before being appointed as a Residentiary Canon of St Paul's in 2008.

As a member of the Chapter of the Cathedral he has shared in overall responsibility for the life of St Paul's, and among other duties has had pastoral oversight of staff, volunteers, worshippers and school. During his five years in office he has helped the Cathedral celebrate its 300th anniversary and the Diamond Jubilee, as well as being a stabilising leader through the difficult period of the Occupy encampment.

The Very Reverend David Ison, Dean of St Paul's said: "I have greatly valued Bishop Michael's experience, support and wisdom as I have begun my ministry at St Paul's. He is not only the longest-serving residentiary canon on Chapter at the moment, but has a deep knowledge of how St Paul's works, and a love for God and for people which is apparent to all who know him. He has helped the Cathedral and the Diocese in the process of working more closely together. He will be missed enormously, and all of us in the Cathedral community wish him and his wife Cynthia and their family every happiness and blessing as they prepare to move to a different way of life."

The Right Reverend Richard Chartres, Bishop of London said: "Michael has made an extraordinary contribution to the Diocese of London over the years as parish priest, Archdeacon, and Bishop of Kensington. I am delighted that Michael and Cynthia will be remaining in London and I am glad that he has accepted my invitation to join our remarkable company of Assistant Bishops in the Diocese".

Bishop Michael said: "In the 42 years since my ordination I have been very fortunate to be entrusted with a wide variety of ministries in the Church. My last five years at St Paul's, with its rich combination of the building and its worship, its community, its school, and its visitors has been a daily delight and has taken me back to the vocation to which I was first called: the care and nurturing of people into a deeper knowledge and sense of God's love. I shall leave here valuing the dedication and commitment of the lay and ordained colleagues with whom I have worked, worshipped and prayed in this holy place."

Bishop Michael and Cynthia will live in Chelsea after retirement.

ENDS

For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager, St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

www.stpauls.co.uk www.twitter.com/stpaulslondon www.facebook.com/stpaulscathedral