

From Bishop Nicholas Reade

Dear Father Trevor,

Christine and I send greetings and the assurance of prayer and remembrance at Mass as you celebrate your Farewell Mass today. Doubtless afterwards there will be one of S. Martin's great parties with an abundance of white wine..... As today marks not only your taking leave of the pastoral care of the lovely folk at S. Martin's, but also today marks your retirement and we remember too with thanksgiving those others parishes you have served with love, wisdom and energy

I refer first to one of those parishes – S. Augustine's, Brighton. On the 2nd Sunday in Advent 2002, the day of the ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Ben King from this Diocese but serving at The Advent Boston, I walked into the Sacristy at S. Augustine's, and Bp. Eric, our Diocesan Bishop was the only other person there. Bishop Eric was not one given to emotion, but that day he appeared excited and, and before even saying *Good Morning* he said to me *I have just told Trevor I am making him a Canon of the Cathedral. I am sure you will agree this is right!* Now you dear Father have organized and been master of ceremonies at very many liturgies including ordinations, and know they are lengthy services. You always ensure everything is done very correctly, and if I may add you are always immaculately dressed. I was therefore rather surprised at the end of the service to see you still wearing black socks, for I imagined you would have sent someone out into the City to purchase a purple pair which, of course is part of the canon's dress!

The great majority of your ministry has been in your beloved Brighton so I was not flavour of the month when a year later as the Archdeacon I came to tell you the Bishop wanted you to think seriously about moving to be Parish Priest of All Saints', Sidley, in Bexhill, where you made many much needed changes and improvements and to this day your pastoral care and commitment to the people is still spoken about. Fifteen years ago you then returned to Brighton for your final appointment.

Back to the canon's socks! You and I and many others viewed Bishop Eric as a wise bishop with rare insight. The fact that so early in your ministry – and with still two major jobs ahead you became a Canon because you had established a reputation for being a first class parish priest. You had already proved yourself in three parishes to be a good all rounder with a fine track record, and at that stage the Bishop judged it right to acknowledge that work, but at the same time he knew you would go on to more challenging tasks in the future and address them wisely, with deep pastoral love and care and with enthusiasm.

While you are a very effective organizer and efficient administrator, you know that managerialism is not the way we co-operate with the Holy Spirit in bringing people to the Lord Christ through His Church. Your faithful ministry has shown what you believe, that the only way in which the Church can minister to people is to love them into the Kingdom – loving the People of GOD through offering the Mass, where we are united to the Sacrifice of Jesus – loving them in the pastoral care you give – loving them in the

schools with a very special care for children and young people. And your legendary pilgrimages not only to Walsingham where you have given so much, but to the Holy Land and other holy places. Because all Church of England priests belong to the family of the Diocese, you have had wider responsibilities also, including serving as Vicar of the Diocesan Society of the Holy Cross of which a large part of the work and ministry is the pastoral care of the clergy members.

GOD has blessed you with the spirit of joy, and so an important aspect of your pastoral love and care has been the ministry of hospitality, and what fun those occasions have been, for you are a GREAT cook! And that is all part of your ministry. For you and those with you on those happy meals know, as that great Anglo-Catholic former Warden of Keble College once said, *the man who is, as Christ in the Mass and in all the sacraments, is NEVER EVER just like anyone else. The priest always bears the stamp of Christ whatever he is doing because he is always a sort of Walking Sacrament, a token of Christ wherever he is.* That, my brother is what you have been to us all – and will continue to be for ever, but hopefully in retirement there will be more time to cruise the oceans, enjoy the occasional(?) glass of wine and relax and enjoy yourself.

With love, prayer and blessing,

+ Nicholas