

**A CHARGE
TO THE RT REVD PETER HANCOCK
CONFIRMED BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

To our well-beloved brother in Christ, Peter, now Bishop of Bath and Wells

Recalling God's mission entrusted by Christ to His Church to proclaim God's Kingdom, to heal the sick and to make disciples of all nations, I now set before you the key tasks identified for you by the Crown Nominations Commission, to guide you as you prepare to take up your new office and ministry

- To share the gospel across the diocese of Bath and Wells and to nurture the confidence of others to do likewise; to foster spiritual and numerical growth in parishes, benefices and communities encouraging aspirations for a growing and flourishing Church.
- To develop the diocesan vision of “Changing lives, changing churches for changing communities” and to lead its implementation across the diocese; to direct the provision of support and resources to ensure its delivery.
- To encourage the shared ministry of the Bishops’ office, the Diocesan Office and the Cathedral and to ensure effective partnership and communication across the wider diocese.
- To establish positive relationships with community leaders and to contribute to the partnerships building social capital at county and local level; to speak out for rural communities and others on the margins in a time of need.
- To ensure high quality educational provision in schools and to utilise the opportunities for mission they provide.
- To re-imagine ministries to ensure that they are shaped for mission; to encourage parish clergy in re-shaping local ministry within parishes and deaneries and with them to recognise, support and empower the laity, and to re-awaken in all a sense of the responsibilities of discipleship
- As a member of the House of Bishops to exercise collegial leadership of the Church of England, leading the whole Church in mission, and maintaining and promoting its unity.

So may the Lord of heaven, who gives you the will to undertake these things, give you also the strength to perform them, and by his divine providence may his holy angels succour and defend you on earth; and may his Grace and Blessing be with you at all times. Amen

The Archbishop of Canterbury

4th March 2014