

The Honorary Graduand: Right Reverend Vivienne Faull

Right Reverend Vivienne Faull is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.

The Right Reverend Vivienne Faull, consecrated in 2018, is the 56th Bishop of Bristol and covers an Anglican Diocese that includes North Wiltshire, Swindon, South Gloucestershire as well as the City of Bristol.

Her mother was a Bristolian whose life was transformed by the second world war, bombed out of two homes in Redcliffe, evacuated to Cornwall and eventually rehoused up in Sea Mills, her grandfather was an engineer at Hawker Siddley in Filton.

After studying History and teaching in Bihar North India and youth work in Everton, Bishop Viv trained for ministry at Saint Johns College, Nottingham and Nottingham University, served as a Deaconess in the Diocese of Liverpool from 1982 to 1985, moving to become Chaplain, later Fellow, of Clare College, Cambridge, being made Deacon in the Diocese of Ely in 1987. She began cathedral ministry in 1990 as Chaplain at Gloucester Cathedral where she was ordained priest when that became legal 1994. She then moved to become Canon Pastor, and later Vice Provost, at Coventry Cathedral working closely with colleagues in Dresden on the post war restoration of the Frauenkirche.

Viv became the first woman to lead a Church of England Cathedral as Provost and then Dean of Leicester in 2000. In 2012, just after the body of Richard 111 was re-discovered she was appointed Dean of York (which wanted her to bring King Richard with her). She oversaw the restoration of the stone and glass of the great Minster East Window, a vivid illustration (created by a 15th century Coventrian) inspired by the books of Genesis and Revelation of the beginning and end of all things. This was one part of a major development of the buildings and culture so the Minster could invite everyone to discover the love of God and rediscover the gift and joy of hospitality.

As Bishop of Bristol and learning from her experience in Liverpool, she has had as priorities leading the 200 churches in her care to greater community engagement through Food Banks, Warm Spaces and support for Feeding (the children of) Bristol. This work, predominantly volunteer led, grew considerably during the pandemic lock down during which her clergy and lay ministers supported the regional Intensive Care centres in being digitally alongside, 24/7, those who were critically ill and profoundly alone to comfort and, if wished, to pray with them as they died. Since 2021 she has encouraged each church community into transformation, and churches are now growing again.

The diocesan priorities include investing in work with children and young people in partnership with schools, increasing financial support for parishes where there is greatest social need, working to implement the national church commitment to Net Zero by 2030 (Bristol Diocese persuaded the national church to reduce the target from 2050) and facing up to the church's complicity in the sinful transatlantic trade in human beings as slaves. She is committed to enabling the church to recognise and work to eradicate the resulting deep and ongoing racial injustice evident around us.

Bishop Viv became a member of the House of Lords in October 2018 and has spoken in legislative debates against the last government's policies on refugees, including the Rwanda deportation

programme, and has been the Church of England's lead speaking out against Human Trafficking. She currently sits on the House of Lords Select Committee reviewing the Modern Slavery legislation.

By contrast, after years working to restore and develop fragile church buildings, in July 2021, she was appointed by the Archbishops as lead bishop (along with the Bishop of Ramsbury) for church and cathedral buildings.