Generous God,

We thank you for leading Philip to be bishop of our diocese,

and for all who answer your call to be the Church in Cornwall.

May Philip and Ruth, and all who love them, find this new ministry a blessing.

Together may we witness to friendships   
that reach out beyond our differences

and reveal the love of God to all.

We pray that as Bishop Philip responds to your call   
and we welcome him to his new ministry,

you will strengthen Him by your Spirit   
to lead us in showing God's welcome to all.

As he finds his way around the diocese,

strengthen him to guide us in truth and peace.

As he learns about the ways of the diocese,

help him to teach us the ways of Christ in our world today.

As he embraces the challenges and privileges of his role,

may he encourage us all into greater generosity and service.

As he learns the shape of the diocese,   
inspire him to share with us how his faith has shaped his life.

As he treads in the footsteps of the missionary saints,

enable him to inspire our shared ministry of outreach and mission.

Make Bishop Philip a shepherd   
to the people you have entrusted to him,

ready to defend the weak, to work for justice,

to care and to love as extravagantly and recklessly as you did

in giving your Son who was born, lived and died among us

that we may know life in all its resurrected glory.

Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer by Vanda Perrett*