**Suggestions for Prayer around the time of**

**Philip Mounstephen’s ordination/consecration as bishop at St Paul’s Cathedral (30.11.2018)**

**and/or**

**Philip’s welcome/installation at Truro Cathedral as 16th Bishop of Truro (12.1.2019)**

This is obviously a very significant time of transition and of new beginnings for Bishop Philip and for us all in Truro Diocese, and in the words of Psalm 133,

How good and pleasant it is

when God’s people live *[AND PRAY!]* together in unity!

For those living in or within easy reach of Truro, individuals or groups from congregations or deaneries may wish to join the Cathedral community for Evensong on the eve or day of Philip’s consecration or welcome service.

Alternatively, members of individual congregations, benefices or deaneries may like to consider coming together locally for a special time of prayer.

For those who would like to organise something locally, we include a few ideas and suggestions that you may wish to make use of.

There is also a ‘sample service’ available that could be used/adapted around the time of Philip’s consecration. (Another sample service will be produced nearer the time of his welcome service at Truro Cathedral.)

You may or may not want something structured, but a very simple Prayer Vigil *could* include:

* Welcome and opening prayer
* A hymn, worship song or perhaps a Taizé chant
* A psalm, perhaps read congregationally
* A reading –

Possibly one or both readings for St Andrew’s Day:
Romans 10.12-18; Matthew 4.18-22

or perhaps one of the following:

John 21: 15-17; John 20: 19-23; Matthew 28:18-20

* A second hymn, song or chant
* A time of prayer:

This could be a time of open prayer if people are comfortable with that, either in twos and threes or as a whole group.

It could be a time when people are invited to write their own prayers for Bishop Philip and our shared life, ministry and mission as a diocese – perhaps they might bring them up to a central point (or to the altar if you are in a church building) to be gathered together in a bowl or basket and ‘offered up’ to God by the leader.
(Some quiet music might be played during this time.)
These prayers could be sent to Bishop Philip after the service.

Perhaps people might be invited to light a candle and to pray aloud or in silence as they do so.

It could be a more formal time of intercession, when perhaps a few people are invited to lead everybody else in prayer. (You may wish to use or adapt some of the Common Worship ‘bishop-related’ prayers and other prayers listed separately.)

* Perhaps a final hymn, song or chant
* Sending out, possibly with congregational blessing or prayer like,