Appointment of our new Bishop

A press release from the Bishops' Conference was issued which read: Today, Wednesday 14th June 2023, His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed ***Rt. Rev. Stephen Wright*** as the Fifteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle said: "*I am delighted with the appointment of Bishop Stephen Wright as the new Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. As the former Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, Bishop Stephen brings pastoral experience and leadership skills to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Alongside Archbishop Bernard Longley, Bishop Stephen has played a senior role in safeguarding reviews in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. His time as Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop has prepared him for this challenging role and he will bring vitality to the diocese. Bishop Stephen has my full prayers and support as he starts his new journey.*"

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said on the news of Bishop Stephen's appointment: *"I welcome the appointment of Bishop Stephen Wright as Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This appointment is both timely and most fitting. Bishop Stephen brings a wealth of diocesan pastoral experience to his new role. He also brings a sharp awareness and knowledge of the legal frameworks, both canonical and civil, within which a Diocesan Church carries out its mission. With the publication of the CSSA Report, and with this appointment, the people, priests and religious of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle can look forward with hope and confidence. Please remember the new Bishop in your prayers."* Bishop Stephen will be installed as the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle at a Mass to be held at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, on Wednesday 19th July 2023. Further details will be provided in time.