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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to let you know that I have decided to retire at the end of January 2025.

It has been the privilege of my life to be the Bishop of Crediton for the last six years, and to have been appointed Acting Diocesan Bishop for the last year. From the time of my interview onwards I fell in love with the Diocese of Exeter and its wonderful people. We are blessed with fantastic church communities and congregations, schools, chaplaincies, clergy and laity; followers of Jesus who live out day by day the diocesan vision to pray, grow and serve the people of Devon with joy. This vision grabbed me from the start and has been my personal priority throughout – I have found great joy in the people of God here, and in my own ministry. There has been particular joy in working with such a gifted staff team, old deanery colleagues, and support staff – where relationships are strong and supportive. And the greatest joy of seeing God at work in people's lives and communities. I will miss everyone here deeply. I am incredibly thankful for God's calling and faithfulness and for all who have been, in any way, a part of this journey.

I have been ordained over 32 years and celebrated the 30th anniversary of my ordination as priest this year – along with other women who were the first to be ordained priest in the Church of England in 1994. The lovely event this Summer when nearly 100 female clergy met in the Palace Garden to celebrate together, will stay with me for ever. My ministry has been hugely varied, with seasons as a curate, in theological education, as an incumbent, as Dean of Women's Ministry, on General Synod, as Archdeacon of Gloucester and Residentiary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral, before being made Bishop of Crediton in 2018.

My husband, the Revd David Runcorn, and I were married soon after my ordination as a deacon in 1992, and we have two children who bring us great joy, both of whom have married in the last two years. Ministry in the Church of England has been extremely varied, fulfilling, joyful, challenging and more than I could have ever imagined. It is though time now for a different rhythm of life with David and our family, recognising that everything has a time and a season. We look forward to seeing where and how God leads us.

Meanwhile, we have the Autumn term ahead and I would like to make the most of this time. I am looking forward to welcoming Bishop Mike to his new role in November, and to working with him during his first few months. I will be watching on with a sense of hope once I leave, knowing that the diocese is in excellent hands. There will come a time for goodbyes and details of a farewell service in January will follow.

This comes with my love and thanks, and with every blessing,

+Jackie