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I am delighted that you are considering God's call at this time and in this season to become the next Rector of St Leonard's. St Leonard's is a significant evangelical church in the heart of Exeter. It has a wonderful history and a thriving ministry to its local community and the wider city.

As the newly appointed Bishop of Exeter, I want to affirm the place of St Leonard's and its tradition in the strategic future of the City and Diocese. There is an honoured and respected place for all traditions across the breadth of the Church of England. As Diocesan Bishop, I want to be a person of unity amidst an uncertain period in the life of the Church of England.

We need the new Rector to be someone who will be part of the diocesan family. They will be a bridge builder, someone who is looking to establish and build upon relationships with churches across the city and diocese. They will be a leader rooted in Biblical Theology and open to theological debate and conversation as we seek God's will for the church and as we preach the Gospel afresh to this generation. The new Rector will pay attention to culture, looking to build relationships and a healthy culture with safeguarding and welcome at the heart of mission.

St Leonard's has been through a challenging time; different perspectives have spoken into the current situation and there hasn't always been agreement on the way forward. The churchwardens and many of the established congregation are deeply rooted in the life of the church and we need a skilful, pastoral and wise leader to work with them so that the church may flourish and grow.