

Service of Welcome

**The Revd Sue Lepp,  
Lead Airport Chaplain**

by

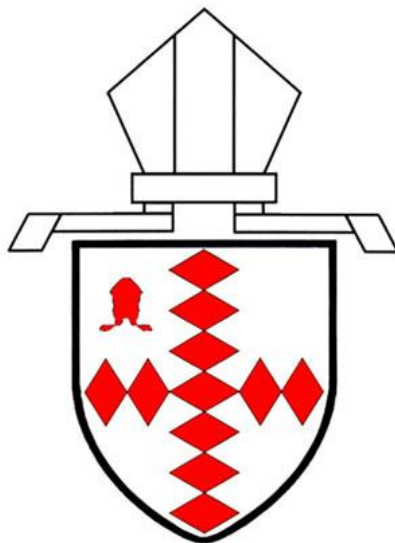
**The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett,  
Bishop of Croydon**

and

**London Gatwick**

on

**Thursday 26 October 2023, 11am**



**Bishop Rosemarie** greets everyone with:

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

We meet in the name of the Creator Father.

Within this time and place,

We meet as a family and community,

Bound as one together in love.

We meet together to recognize and celebrate the appointment of Sue for her work as Lead Chaplain.

We ask for God's blessings upon London Gatwick and upon all the work undertaken by the Chaplaincy team.

### **Opening Prayer**

God of peace and unity

**All be in our arriving and departing.**

God of truth and mercy

**All be in our listening and understanding.**

God of hope and renewal,

**All be in our healing and restoring.**

Lord, come bless our gathering with unity,  
hope and vision.

Build in us all a deep respect for one another so that  
your people may be one.

Stir your hope within our hearts and renew our faith.

May your vision fill our lives as we seek to reveal your  
love.

**All Amen**

## Scripture Reading

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Bishop Rosemarie will give a short address.**

**Prayers led by the Chaplaincy team**

In the quiet of this moment,

**All hear our prayer**

In the presence of your Spirit,

**All hear our prayer**

In the company of these people,

**All hear our prayer**

(Lead Chaplain) Lord in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

**THE WELCOME**

Sue, we welcome you as Lead Chaplain, as a colleague in the work of pastorally caring for those who come here, in partnership with all those who work here.

Will you be open and sensitive to their needs their joys and sorrows?

**Sue With the help of God, I will**

Through your words of counsel forgiveness, restoration and encouragement will you support and encourage them on their journey?

**Sue With the help of God, I will**

In partnership with your fellow chaplains and with the churches of this area will you work to enable those in London Gatwick to become more fully aware of the love of God the Father, the healing presence of Jesus our redeemer and the new life of the Holy Spirit?

**Sue With the help of God, I will**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray regularly for Sue, And that you may help her in all the duties of her holy calling.

**All With the help of God, we will**

### **The Presentation and Greetings**

**Greetings are offered by the chaplaincy team of London Gatwick**

Sue, in your words may you always speak with compassion, humility and strength – as you seek to lead and advise your fellow Chaplains using the wisdom and grace that your faith has gifted to you. We welcome you to share with us the pastoral responsibility for the well-being of all who use this airport and work for GAA.

*A lanyard is presented by a representative of the chaplaincy team as a symbol of her leadership role as Lead Chaplain*

**Greetings are offered by the leadership team of London Gatwick**

Sue, as you lead your team of Chaplains, support, comfort and sustain them in their day-to-day roles. We encourage you to continue to develop the chaplaincy network; so that it may continue to grow in its capacity to support the

work of all who use this airport and all who work for GAA.

**Greetings are offered by the Area Dean**

Sue, as a Chaplain you will have the opportunity to represent the diocese to those in our community whether those of faith or those of no stated faith – by building bridges and helping us meet the needs of the community we serve around London Gatwick.

**Presentation by the Archdeacon of Reigate & Area Dean**

*A Bible is presented by the Archdeacon of Reigate.*

*A diocesan badge is presented as a symbol of her role in representing the Diocese to the wider community by the Area Dean.*

***The lead chaplain says***

Thank you for your welcome and good wishes. I look forward to my work here with God's help and your prayers.

*The formal welcome concluded. Bishop Rosemarie invites a sign of welcome and support from the congregation, before concluding the service with a blessing.*

## **Concluding prayer and blessing**

May you trust in generations past and yet to come  
May your heart be filled with intuition  
and your words be filled with insight  
May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue  
and your vision be in a straight path before you  
May your eyes shine with the light of holy words.  
And may Your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.  
May your lips speak wisdom  
and your fulfilment be in righteousness  
even as you ever yearn to hear words  
of the Holy Ancient One.

*Talmud. Bavli Berachot 17A.*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

And the blessing of God almighty  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**