

Rev. Hugh Pettingel



After qualifying as a Chartered accountant in 1954 I read theology at Kings College London and was made Deacon in 1959 and priest in 1960 (the year the revised prayer book was introduced.) I was curate of Mansfield, Notts. and then became a CMS missionary in Iran serving as chaplain to the bishop and administrator of the diocese until 1967. I was then successively Curate of Wellington Somerset, Chaplain to London University and Rector of Holywell cum Needingworth / Director of Stewardship in the Diocese of Ely.

I resigned my orders in 1971 and joined KPMG in London and then in 1975 emigrated to Canada to join a petrochemical firm as internal auditor. In 1976 I was made manager internal audit Europe and came to Fribourg in Switzerland. In 1980 I was appointed Director of Finance at the World Council of Churches in Geneva until my retirement.

I became a worshipper at Holy Trinity, Geneva and was a member of the Thursday group. In September 1992 whilst driving Bishop John to Territet he asked me whether I would consider taking up orders again in order to help in the Diocese. With his backing I applied to the Archbishop and then began a long and thorough examination of my background to see if there was anything untoward in my resignation. Of course there was not and my orders were restored in 1994 and I was given permission to officiate in the diocese.

I then did locums in France, Germany, North Africa, Norway, Portugal and Spain as well as Switzerland, sometimes for extended periods and often being asked to return on more than one occasion.

I also helped out at Holy Trinity and took weddings and funerals at the request of the Chaplain when the persons concerned attended a service away from Holy Trinity. On one occasion I was on holiday with my brother in Portugal when the Chaplain unexpectedly became ill. An emergency telephone call from the Warden brought me scurrying back to Geneva to take the Sunday Services. On another occasion I arrived at the church door to be told I was due to take the service which had completely slipped my mind.

After over twenty years my services to the Diocese ended in 2018.