



## The Bishop of Grantham

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you with rain pouring down outside. I'm trying to look forward to summer holidays and yet the weather is awful. I know that the land has been very dry and that many farmers are happy that the rain has come. But I also know that too much rain can be as bad as too little rain. Even in my own garden the plants that had been enjoying some sunshine are now broken down by the weight of the storm and I can see where water falling from the gutters is beginning to get into the house under my door.

I am lucky because I just have a small damp patch where I come into my house. Many other people have had to move out of their houses because there have been floods. I am really sad for the people who have been affected and I pray for them and for everyone who is trying to help them. One of the things that I have learnt in the three years that I have lived in Lincolnshire is that our weather is very important to our lives. Every day I look at the level of water in the river. Every evening I look up at the sky and wonder what tomorrow will be like?

Today I am thinking of Noah, who sent the dove out of the ark, looking for dry land. Will it stop raining today and will the farmers and gardeners be able to have healthy crops and a good harvest later in the year? Noah was given a lot of responsibility for the people and animals in his care and I wonder whether I have done all that I can to help to look after the land and the animals and plants that live there?

I am grateful that Noah was given the chance to start again. The floods went down and the animals that had been safely in the ark were able to be free. Perhaps, like Noah, I can soon start again in my garden. Perhaps I can make better choices about the kind of food that I buy. I think God always helps us to start again and I am grateful for this.

When you come back to school in the autumn you might be in a new class. You might even be moving to a new school. I hope that you are able to enjoy starting again. I also hope that you are able to enjoy the holidays, whether it is rainy or sunny. I hope that you have a great summer! Thank you for all your hard work this year!

With best wishes,

+ Nicholas Grantham

Bishop Nicholas  
Bishop of Grantham