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New Bishop's high hopes for Birmingham

The incoming Bishop of Birmingham is to begin his inauguration day with a bird's eye view of his new diocese. The Rt Rev David Urquhart will host a breakfast meeting for invited media in the 18th-floor Presidential Suite at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Beetham Tower on Friday.

"I chose to hold the meeting at the Radisson SAS in Beetham Tower as it is a real landmark and a gateway to Birmingham, which seemed appropriate as I am newly arrived in the city. Because it's on the highest floor of the Radisson SAS Hotel, the presidential suite provides beautiful views across Birmingham and the surrounding region," he said. "I am extremely grateful to the hotel whose generosity has made it possible for me to meet the media in such lovely surroundings."

The new Anglican bishop said the aim of the breakfast meeting was to build relationships with the people of Birmingham.

"The message I want to send out is that I am a Christian bishop for the people of Birmingham, whatever their faith. Being a bishop is not just about Church, it's about connecting with the civic, business and local communities. I intend to be out and about in the city and wider region a lot."

Kathrine Ohm Thomas, general manager of the Radisson SAS, said: "Because the hotel is recognised as a key landmark in the city, it seems fitting that such a significant event should be held here."

Bishop David, formerly Suffragan Bishop of Birkenhead, succeeds the Most Rev John Sentamu who is now Archbishop of York. His inauguration takes place at Birmingham Cathedral at 11am on November 17.

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