



Admission and Licensing

of New Readers

Saturday 3 October 2020

Chapel of The Holy Trinity and St Mark

Bishops Palace Wells

Welcome

*A message from the Bishop of Bath and Wells*

It has often been said that Reader ministry is a ‘bridge ministry’ and that Readers are bridges between the Church and the world; between lay and ordained; between places of work and the home; between and among the individual members of the Church family. And more significantly a bridge and a help for those who are seeking to find faith in God or wanting to grow as disciples and followers of Christ. Putting all that together demonstrates just how much being a Reader is a challenging and responsible role.

Therefore, it is essential for all who are being called into Reader ministry to care for their own spiritual life and their own walk with God. There is no doubt that being a Reader is a challenging, exciting and fulfilling ministry wherever exercised. Every day as we go about our daily lives we are given opportunities to share our faith and to live and tell the story of Jesus. Readers are called to model and encourage Christian ministry and to open the way for others to respond to the opportunities of partnership and participation in the mission of the Church.

We may see ourselves as earthenware jars made out of clay – and indeed that is what we are. But as Paul wrote: ‘God who said “Let light shine out of darkness”, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.’

As Christians, as followers of Christ, we rejoice that the hope of glory is in our hearts and by God’s grace we pray that this may be made visible in our faces, in our lives and in our ministries. As Paul wrote to the church of Thessalonica: ‘The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.’

BEFORE THE SERVICE

***Each time a minister takes up a new office by the licence of the Bishop, s/he must first make the Declaration of Assent and the oaths of allegiance and of canonical obedience. The new Readers will make these prior to the service.***

*Declaration of Assent*

*The Preface to the Declaration of Assent is read:*

*Preface*

*The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?*

*The Reader responds:*

*Declaration*

*I, N, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.*

*Declaration of Canonical Obedience*

*I, N, about to be licensed to exercise the office of Reader in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, do hereby promise to endeavour, as far as in me lies, to promote peace and unity, and to conduct myself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church, and for the spiritual welfare of my fellow men and women. I will give due obedience to the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells and his successors and the minister in whose cure I may serve, in all things lawful and honest.*

The Candidates

*The candidates for admission and licensing as Readers and the benefices in which they will serve are:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Diana Barsham** | Deanery of Shepton Mallet |
| **Graham Finch** | Benefice of Portishead |
| **Andrew Fraser** | Benefice of Peasedown St John with Wellow and Foxcote with Shoscombe |
| **Donna Nicholls** | Benefice of Creech St Michael and Ruishton with Thornfalcon  |
| **Caryl Plewes** | Benefice of Preston Plucknett |
| **Jen Richards** | Benefice of Alham Vale |
| **Ian Sharp** | Benefice of Bath St. Saviours with Swainswick and Woolley |
| **Peter Skett** | Benefice of Clevedon Saint Andrew and Saint Peter  |
| **Gerald Swayne** | Benefice of St Francis Bridgwater |
| **Mary Udale-Smith** | Benefice of Bath Widcombe |

GREETING

*Bishop* We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* This is the day that the Lord has made.

*All* **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*The Bishop introduces the service.*

*The Bishop prays*

Almighty God,

who called your Church to witness

that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be reconciled to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

A reading from the Book of Job

**Job 42: 1-3, 6, 12-end**

**42**Then Job answered the Lord:

‘I know that you can do all things,
    and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?”
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
    things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
therefore I despise myself,
    and repent in dust and ashes.’

The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

This is the word of the Lord

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 10:17-24**

**The Return of the Seventy**

The seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’ He said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

**Jesus Rejoices**

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’

 Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Licensing of Readers

THE ADMISSION AND LICENSING OF NEW READERS

*The candidates to be admitted as Readers stand.*

*Warden* Bishop Ruth, I present these candidates for admission to the office of Reader.

*Bishop* Are they men and women of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrine of our faith?

*The Warden replies*

They are.

*Bishop* Have they been well prepared for the duties of this office and made the declarations required by Canon Law?

*Warden* They have.

The Bishop addresses the candidates

Do you believe God is calling you to Reader ministry?

*Candidates* **This is my belief.**

*Bishop* Will you endeavour to raise the hearts and minds of people in worship to the true and living God and in preaching the word to them?

*Candidates* **By the grace of God, I will.**

*Bishop* Will you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, persevere in prayer, in the study of the Scriptures and in the understanding of our Faith?

*Candidates* **By the grace of God, I will.**

*Bishop* Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ and promote unity, peace and love within the Church and the world?

*Candidates* **By the grace of God, I will.**

*Bishop* Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

*Candidates* **By the grace of God, I will.**

*All present stand and the candidates turn and face the congregation.*

*Bishop* Those who respond to God’s call to become a Reader need your continuing encouragement and support. Will you offer them this and uphold them in your prayers?

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

*Bishop* I commend to you these people to be admitted as Readers, asking you to pray for them, for those they will work with and those among whom they will minister.

*There follows a short period of silent prayer. Then the Bishop continues*

Receive, O Lord, our prayers for your servants who seek the gift of your Spirit for the office and work of a Reader. Strengthen, sanctify and bless them. Make them fruitful in their labours and give them joy in your service, for Christ’s sake.

*All* **Amen.**

*In turn, each candidate stands before the Bishop with their incumbent, and their incumbent or parish/deanery representative introduces them by name, saying*

Bishop Ruth, I present to you N to be licensed in the parish(es)/benefice/Deanery of N.

*The Bishop faces the individual candidate, saying,*

N, I admit you as a Reader in the Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Candidate* Amen.

*The newly licenced Reader is then given a blue Reader’s scarf, which they then put on, and receives a Bible, a certificate of admission, and licence to officiate from the Bishop.*

*Once all the candidates have been admitted, the candidates stand together before the Bishop, who says*

Receive this book, as a sign of the authority given to you this day to speak God’s word to his people. Build them up in his truth and serve them in his name.

*The new Readers return to their seats.*

THE PRAYERS

*The prayers are led by the Warden of Readers*

*)*

Let us pray.

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts you have given your people. Inspire us so that we may all work together in the service of your Son.

Bless those who lead in both Church and nation that we may be wise and full of integrity, and always humble before you.

Keep us faithful

All **to your calling.**

Bless we who teach, that we may enlighten and inspire, yet allow ourselves to be filled with your wisdom.

Keep us faithful

All **to your calling.**

Bless those who offer healing, that they may extend the touch of your grace, yet always know your healing presence.

Keep us faithful

All **to your calling.**

Bless those through whom you speak, that we may proclaim your word boldly, yet have our ears open to your gentle whisper.

Keep us faithful

All **to your calling.**

Bless we who administer, help and organise, that we may be diligent in our duty, yet seek your kingdom first.

Keep us faithful

All **to your calling, now and for ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, with confidence we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*All stand.*

THE ACCLAMATION AND DISMISSAL

The Acclamation is led by the newly licenced Readers.

*Readers* There are varieties of gifts,

*All* **but the same Spirit.**

*Readers* There are varieties of service,

*All* **but the same Lord is served.**

*Readers* There are varieties of working,

*All* **but the same God is at work in all.**

*Readers* There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God’s call,

*All* **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Father of all,**

*Readers* over all and in all, to whom Christ ascended on high.

*All* **And through his Spirit he bestows gifts on us:**

*Readers* some are apostles, prophets, evangelists,

*All* **pastors and teachers to equip God’s people:**

*Readers* for work in his service,

*All* **to build up Christ’s body,**

*Readers* to unite us in faith,

*All* **and bring us to the full stature of Christ.**

*Bishop* The God of all hope fill you with all joy to live and tell his eternal story of love; and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please remain distanced outside the chapel.*

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