

Before the Service

Prior to their Ordination, the Candidates have made and subscribed the Declaration of Assent and the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience as required by law:

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?

Declaration of Assent

I, NN, 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 and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

The Oath of Allegiance

*I, NN, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law:
So help me God.*

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

*I, NN, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and his successors in all things lawful and honest:
So help me God.*

Please hold in your prayers those who are to be ordained at this service:

Frances BRIDGEWATER,
to serve in the parish of S Giles the Abbot Cheadle
Garry HIGGS,
to serve in the parishes of Denstone, Hollington, Croxton and Rocester
Ian PERRY
to serve in the parishes of Doxey and S Paul's, Stafford

Music before the service

Prelude and Fugue in C minor

Anton Bruckner

The Gathering

Please STAND as the clergy enter from the West door.

The choir sings the introit: Locus Iste

This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament: it is without reproach

Music by Anton Bruckner

The Greeting

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one body and one spirit.

There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and father of all.

Peace be with you

and also with you.

God calls his people to follow Christ,
and forms us into a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him
who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The clergy move to the altar

When they arrive at the altar, the Bishop continues

The Church is the Body of Christ,
the people of God and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love
and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries.
Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise
and the proclamation of the gospel.
They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church,
delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being.
They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them
as the pattern of their calling.
With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters,
they are to sustain the community of the faithful
by the ministry of word and sacrament,
that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ
and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Presentation

Each ordinand is presented to the Bishop by The Revd Dr Jeanette Hartwell

Bishop, I present *N* to be ordained to the office of priest

in the Church of God; s/he is to serve in the parish of N

*When the ordinands have been presented, the bishop asks these questions,
to which the appropriate persons respond:*

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them
found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

The Director of the Vocations and Training team responds

They have

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

They do

The bishop turns to the ordinands and says

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

The ordinands reply

I do so believe

I ask confirmation that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths
and made the Declaration of Assent.

The confirmation

They have duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign
and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop.

They have affirmed and declared their 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’.

The Collect

Let us pray for those now to be ordained
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

Eternal Father,

when the gospel of Christ first came to our land
you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban

by making him the first to win a martyr’s crown:

grant that, following his example,

in the fellowship of the saints

we may worship you, the living God,

and give true witness to Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The ordinands go to their seats

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Saint Mary's children's choir sings: The Lord's my shepherd
Words based on Psalm 23. Music: Stuart Townend*

The Gospel

The Gospel is read by the Rev'd Pam Merriott

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors of the house where the disciples had met
were locked for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
*was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of Ordination:

The Declarations

The ordinands stand before the bishop, who addresses the congregation

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds
among the people to whom they are sent.
With their Bishop and fellow ministers,
they are to proclaim the word of the Lord
and to watch for the signs of God's new creation.
They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord;
they are to teach and to admonish,
to feed and provide for his family,
to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations,
and to guide them through its confusions,
that they may be saved through Christ for ever.
Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance
and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love.
They are to baptize new disciples
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith.
They are to unfold the Scriptures,
to preach the word in season and out of season,
and to declare the mighty acts of God.

They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship,
offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
They are to bless the people in God's name.
They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor,
and intercede for all in need.
They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death.
Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the
whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The bishop addresses the ordinands directly

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this,
and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God,
to devote yourself wholly to his service,
so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord
and grow into his likeness,
God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do.
And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose,
you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures
as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation
through faith in Jesus Christ?

The ordinands reply:

I do so accept them

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture,
and in all studies that will deepen your faith
and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

By the help of God, I will

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel,
so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

By the help of God, I will

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ
as the Church of England has received them,
so that the people committed to your charge
may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

By the help of God, I will

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ,
strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church
and in the world?

By the help of God, I will

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household
according to the way of Christ
that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

By the help of God, I will

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel
for the sake of the kingdom of God?

By the help of God, I will

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church,
and respect authority duly exercised within it?

By the help of God, I will

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit,
continually stir up the gift of God that is in you,
to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

By the help of God, I will

The congregation STANDS and the ordinands turn to face them.

Brothers and sisters,
you have heard how great is the charge
that these ordinands are ready to undertake,
and you have heard their declarations.
Is it now your will that they should be ordained?

It is

Will you continually pray for them?

We will

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

We will

The ordinands turn back to face the bishop, who continues, addressing them.

In the name of our Lord
we bid you remember the greatness of the trust
that is now to be committed to your charge.
Remember always with thanksgiving
that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock,
bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross.
It is to him that you will render account
for your stewardship of his people.
You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength,
but only by the grace and power of God.
Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged
and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.
Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The ordinands kneel and silence is kept.

Veni Creator is sung by Saint Mary's choir.

Please do NOT join in.

*Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.
Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

The Litany

led by Philip Taylor, Reader in the Stafford town centre parishes

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,

and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve him in truth and love,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our diocesan bishop,
for Matthew, Bishop of Stafford
and for all bishops, priests and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Frances, Garry and Ian,
called to be priests in his Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lost and for those who have strayed,
that they may return to the way of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering,
for the aged and infirm,
for the lonely and neglected,
and for all who remember and care for them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the hungry,
for the homeless and the oppressed,
for all prisoners and captives,
and for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen,
for the leaders of the nations,
and for all in authority,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves;
for grace to repent and amend our lives,
that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have gone before us in faith
and now sleep in the peace of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy

In communion with Mary, the mother God,
Chad in whose footsteps we follow Christ and all the Saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;

to you O Lord.

The Ordination Prayer

The ordinands continue to kneel before the bishop, who stands to pray.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood,
a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you
because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,
the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death;
and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly,
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called these your servants,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as priests in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,
and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

*Here the bishop and priests
lay hands toward on each ordinand,
and the bishop says*

***Send down the Holy Spirit
on your servant N
for the office and work of
a priest in your Church.***

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give these your servants grace and power
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.
Renew them in holiness,
and give them wisdom and discipline
to work faithfully with those committed to their charge.
In union with their fellow servants in Christ,
may they reconcile what is divided,
heal what is wounded
and restore what is lost.

May they declare your blessings to your people;
may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness,
and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith;
so shall a people made whole in Christ
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you,
our God and Father,
to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

Amen

The Welcome

The associate archdeacon says to the newly ordained priests

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

All reply

**We welcome you as ambassadors for Christ:
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The bishop introduces the Peace

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

*Please offer a sign of peace to those around you,
ensuring that you maintain an appropriate social distance at all times*

*While the altar is prepared Saint Mary's children's choir sings: Sing of the Lord's goodness
Words and music: Ernest Sands*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

We praise God for all that He has done.

The Children's choir responds on our behalf, please do NOT join in

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord.

Holy, holy holy Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest.

The prayer continues,

praising God for the gift of the Holy Spirit

recalling the Last Supper, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus,

and praying for God's world.

This response is used

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

At the end of the Prayer:

Amen

Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

**the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

During the Breaking of Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The newly ordained wash their hands before distributing communion

The Children's choir sings;

Jesus, Lamb of God and source of life:

Jesus loving bearer of our sins

hear our prayer, have mercy;

give us your peace

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man:

Jesus, true redeemer of the world: Hear our prayer...

Jesus, Lord of life and Lord of light:

Jesus, here in form of bread and wine: Hear our prayer...

An invitation to communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

If you usually receive communion elsewhere you are welcome to do so here.

Communion is distributed in one kind. The entire grace of the Sacrament is received.

There are three communion points in the nave, all with shielding screens.

Please ensure that you keep 2 metres (6 feet) from others.

Please only move from your seat when directed by a steward,

and follow the one way system.

If you don't wish to receive Communion,

you may want to use this Prayer of spiritual communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

for all the benefits you have given me,

for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Anthem during communion:

Ave Verum Corpus

Ave verum Corpus, natum
ex Maria Virgine,
Vere passum, immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
Unda fluxit sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum
In mortis examine.

Jesu, Word of God Incarnate,
Of the Virgin Mary born;
On the Cross your sacred Body, For us
with nails was torn.
Cleanse us by the Blood and Water
Streaming from your pierced side.
Feed us with your body broken,
Now and in death's agony.

Music: WA Mozart

A Prayer after Communion

Lord God, heavenly Father,
grant to your Church today
the faith of her apostles,
the hope of her martyrs
and the love of her Lord,
our Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen

The Giving of the Bible

The newly ordained priests stand before the bishop who gives the Bible to each of them.

Receive this book,
as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day
to preach the gospel of Christ
and to minister his holy sacraments

The Blessing

Peace be with you

And also with you

God who has called you is faithful.
May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

Amen

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

Amen

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry

Amen

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always

Amen

Go in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

The newly ordained priests receive their Letters of Orders.

The Bishop leads the newly ordained from the church.

Voluntary: Allegro vivace from Sonata No 1 - Felix Mendelssohn