



**Annual Service
for
Licensed Lay Ministers**

*To include the Admission and Licensing
of new Church of England Readers*

**On Zoom
7th November 2020
3 pm Oxford Time**



Please pray for all those to be admitted and licensed, for their families and all who love and support them, and for their parishes and the people they will serve. A list of those being licensed is found towards the back of this order of service. The President is the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft.



Please make sure that you are muted at all times unless you are saying something.



The service will live streamed on YouTube and be recorded.



Opening Hymn

The word of God breaks forth in power,
and speaks life to the dead;
it saves us in temptation's hour
through Christ our living head.
Pour out your power, O Lord we pray,
and let the voice be heard
of those you summon here today
to speak your mighty word.

The word of God gives out of naught
shape to the dust of earth;
from chaos and confusion fraught
new worlds are brought to birth.
Send forth your Spirit, Lord we pray,
on those who speak of you –
that all who hear their voice today
may live their life anew.

The word of God is swift and sure
and rises far above
all fantasy and false allure
to speak the truth with love.
Bestow that love, O Lord we pray,
on those who speak for you
that what they do and what they say
may to your word be true.

The word of God shines on our way
and lights the path we take;
it warns us when we go astray
and from our sleep we wake.
Speak through your heralds, Lord we pray,
that guidance may be known
by all who long for your new day
yet feel lost and alone.

The Word of God is Christ the Lord,
the true and lively way;
he is the prize and the reward,
the sun of endless day.
Proclaim his story, tell his fame
to greatest and to least
and bid them all in his great name
to share the Master's feast.

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Tune: Kingsfold

THE GREETING

Bishop The Lord be with you.

All (muted) and also with you.

Bishop Let us pray.

All (muted) Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Bishop My brothers and sisters, 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 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 a variety of ministries. Readers are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and other ministers. They are to lead public worship, to preach and teach the word of God, to assist at the eucharist and to share in pastoral, mission and evangelistic work.

As authorized lay ministers, they are to encourage the ministries of God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission to the world.

THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION

The Candidates for Admission raise their hands one by one, as their names are called and are presented to the Bishop by the Warden of Readers.

Warden Bishop, I present these persons to be admitted to the office of Reader in the Church of England and licensed as Lay Ministers in this Diocese.

Krou Assoua

Neil Barker

Celia Donald

Heather Ford

Rowena Harrison

Doral Hayes

Mary Howarth

Benjamin Johnson

Luke Martin

Denise Morrey-Carter

Sarah Mortimer

Jane Vowles

Philip Wilson

When all the Candidates have been presented, the Bishop asks these questions:

Bishop Have they made the Declaration of Assent, and thereby 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?

Have they also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop and the declaration which must be made before a Reader is admitted and licensed?

Warden They have.

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

Warden They are.

Bishop Have they been sufficiently prepared for the duties of this office?

Warden They have.

THE COLLECT

Bishop Generous and omnipotent God,
who called, in the past, sages and prophets,
bless us, in these last days,
through those you have called,
and we admit today, to the office of Reader;
and make them faithful ministers of your word;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson: Is 40: 1-11

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

The second lesson: Matthew 5: 1-12

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Sermon: Bishop of Oxford

MUSIC

Choir anthem: Teach me O Lord (Attwood)

THE QUESTIONS

The Bishop says to the Candidates who unmute:

Bishop In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Licensed Lay Minister, you must now answer the questions we put to you.

Do you believe that God has called you to this Ministry?

Candidates I do so believe.

Bishop Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the Word to them?

Candidates By the grace of God I will.

Bishop 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?

Candidates By the grace of God I will.

Bishop Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

Candidates By the grace of God I will.

Bishop Will you promote unity, peace and love in the church and in the world and especially among those whom you will serve?

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.

Bishop Brothers and sisters,
these men and women have been chosen for the office of Reader and are to be licensed as Lay Ministers.
Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All (muted) **We will.**

Bishop Will you continue to pray for them?

All (muted) **We will.**

PRAYER

Bishop Let us pray.

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

All (muted) **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader 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.

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

Leader 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.

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

Leader For, Krou, Neil, Celia, Heather, Rowena, Doral,
Mary, Benjamin, Luke, Denise, Sarah, Jane and
Philip called to be Licensed Lay Ministers in his
Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

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

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

Leader For those who do not yet believe,
that they may receive the light of the gospel,
and for those whose faith has grown cold,
let us pray to the Lord.

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

Leader 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.

All (muted) Lord, have mercy.

Leader In communion with Frideswide, Birinus and all the
saints, we commit ourselves and our whole life to
Christ our God;
Merciful Father,

**All (muted) Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Bishop and candidates.

THE ADMISSION

Bishop Eternal God, great in mercy and compassion, who
orders the church and the world, look on these
your servants called to the ministry of your word,
and give them your Holy Spirit. As you instructed
Ezra the scribe and inspired Huldah the prophet,
so instruct and inspire your servants to faithfully
minister your word and so gain a crown of glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Warden introduces each Candidate; the Bishop makes the sign of the cross saying

Bishop N, I admit you as a Reader in the Church, and I license you as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Diocese, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Candidates put on their blue scarf.

Bishop May the Lord give you wisdom, courage, love and strength to do his will; may he stir up in you the gifts of his grace and sustain each one of you in your ministry; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we are bold to say

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.

THE BLESSING

The newly licensed LLMs take up their Bibles in silence.

Bishop God spoke the Word

All And great was the company of the preachers.

Bishop 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.

All Amen.

Bishop Go into all the word and preach the gospel,
make disciples of all nations,
teaching them to obey the commandments of
Jesus;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Warden Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final hymn

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

(Martin Rinkhart)

Tune: Beaumont

The service ends

Those being admitted and licensed:

Krou Assoua	Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes
Neil Barker	St Nicholas, Marston
Celia Donald	St George the Martyr, Wolverton
Heather Ford	South Chilterns Benefice
Rowena Harrison	St Peters Church, Loudwater
Doral Hayes	St Paul with St Mary's, Wooburn
Mary Howarth	St Mary's Parish, Hitcham
Benjamin Johnson III	St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church, Littlemore
Luke Martin	Eton College Chapel
Denise Morrey-Carter	Blackbird Leys, Holy Family Church
Sarah Mortimer	University Church of St Mary the Virgin
Jane Vowles	Holy Cross and St Mary, Quainton
Philip Wilson	Bicester St Edburg Church

We welcome to the diocese:

Daphne Cook
Christine Tucker

We honour those who have become Emeritus this year:

Roger Verrall
Michael Dexter-Elisha
Teresa Gray
Betty Harvey
Anna Knaggs
Glenys Newman
Lewis Simmons
John Leach
Lawrence Smy

We remember those who have died:

Hanslip Long
Alison Hassall
Annette Jackson

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