



**Evensong
with the
Licensing of
Pastoral Workers and Readers**



Feast of St Francis
Sunday 4th October
3.30pm



PASTORAL WORKERS & READERS

Pastoral Workers and Readers are theologically trained and authorised lay people. Both groups do Foundations for Ministry followed by two further years of training. Reader training includes Old and New Testament studies, preaching, worship, mission and discipleship. Pastoral Worker training includes different elements of pastoral care with listening being a key skill. Both groups are licensed by the Bishop. Their ministries are different but complementary; both are vital to the life and mission of the Church.

Readers lead worship, preach and make connections between faith and everyday life. They work to pioneer new opportunities for mission, bring God into conversation and teach the faith. Some take Communion to the sick and do other pastoral work. As informed lay people Readers are not only a skilled resource for the Church, but they also bring the fruits of their training and experience as Readers into their communities and workplaces where they live out their faith and witness to Christ.

Pastoral Workers visit those who are ill and take Holy Communion to the housebound. They support the bereaved and prepare people for marriage and baptism. They run craft groups, lunch clubs, prayer meetings and home groups and do much more besides. They also lead teams and support and enable others who work in pastoral ministry. Pastoral Workers offer their skills within the Church and outside it, partly through the many contacts the Church makes with people at significant times in their lives, and partly through simply being out and about and known within their communities and workplaces.

We are all here to pray for and celebrate the ministries of those to be licensed and the parishes where they will serve:

PASTORAL WORKERS

Caroline Houghton	Wallasey, St. Hilary
Sue Johnson	Ellesmere Port, St Thomas
Nikki Matthews	Eastham, St Mary the Virgin
Rob Shepherd	Northwich, Holy Trinity

READERS

Barbara Brighton	Hallwood Ecumenical Parish
Laura Brough	Birkenhead Priory, Christ the King
Nicola Brown	Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton, St James the Great
Linda Craig	Henbury, St Thomas
Keith Fletcher	Walton, St John
Christopher Graham	Hale, St Peter
Mark Hackney	Bramhall, St Michael and All Angels
Rachel Roberts	Alderley Edge, St Philip and St James
Nick Singleton	Cheadle, St. Cuthbert with St Mary
Elizabeth Stokes	Hallwood Ecumenical Parish
Dave Wood	Upton, St Mary
Carolyn Wort	Whitewell, St Mary and Tushingham, St Chad

PASTORAL WORKER TRANSFERRING TO A NEW PARISH

Margaret Kitchen	Grappenhall, St Wilfrid
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READERS TRANSFERRING TO NEW PARISHES

Geoff Belton	Gatley, St James
Robert Brook	Great Saughall, All Saints
Jeanette Howe	Eccleston, St Mary & Pulford, St Mary the Virgin
Sheena Wilson	Great Meols, St John the Baptist

OFFICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

all stand as the bell sounds; the choir sings

THE HYMN

- 1 **All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
- 2 **Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia.
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:**
- 3 **Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;**

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933)
St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Geistliche Catholische Kirchengesäng (1623)

THE WELCOME

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester welcomes the congregation followed by the introduction from The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester

THE PRECES

The Canon Precentor and Choir sing the following short intercessory prayers known as Preces

- Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
- God, make speed to save us.
○ Lord, make haste to help us.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
- Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

All sit

PSALM 23

The Choir sings one of the psalms appointed for the fourth evening of the month

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Chant: Roger Fisher (born 1936)

THE FIRST LESSON

read by Caroline Houghton,
St Hilary, Wallasey

The first lesson is taken from the book of Proverbs, Chapter 2 beginning to read at the first verse.

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom, and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2. 1-11

Here ends the first lesson.

All stand

THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

All sit

THE SECOND LESSON

read by Christopher Graham,
St Peter's, Hale

The second lesson is taken from the first letter of John, Chapter 2 beginning to read at the first verse.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk just as he walked.

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

1 John 2 1-11

Here ends the second lesson.

All stand

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

All sit

THE HOMILY

At the end of the homily, all stand and face East towards the High Altar to affirm the Christian Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

All sit or kneel

THE LESSER LITANY

The Canon Precentor and Choir sing the Responses, Lord's Prayer and Collects

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

SUFFRAGES

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
○ Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

○ God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Fear not O Lord

Edward Elgar

THE LICENSING

THE PRESENTATION OF PASTORAL WORKERS

The Pastoral Workers and Readers stand for the Presentation

Canon Vivien Gisby, Warden of Pastoral Workers and Readers presents them to Bishop Mark

Bishop Mark, I present to you these candidates to be admitted as Pastoral Workers.

Bishop Mark responds

Pastoral Workers are called to work in partnership with the clergy and others in caring for people both within and beyond the family of the Church. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for him; and that it is by our love for one another that others will know that we are his disciples.

Those who are to be admitted as Pastoral Workers today will serve their communities in a variety of ways: preparing families for baptism and couples for marriage and supporting them in the years that follow, visiting the sick and housebound; comforting the bereaved and lonely. By God's grace they will proclaim the Good News of Christ's kingdom by the generosity of their care and the integrity of their lives.

Vivien - 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?

She replies

They have.

THE PRESENTATION OF READERS

Canon Vivien then says

I present to you these candidates to be admitted as Readers.

Bishop Mark responds

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 and evangelistic work. As authorised 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.

Vivien - 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 licensed?

She replies

They have.

All the candidates turn to face Bishop Mark; he asks Canon Sarah Fenby, Director of Vocations the following to which she responds

Sarah, are these men and women of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith?

They are.

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

They have.

Bishop Mark turns to the candidates and says

In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Reader or Pastoral Worker, you must answer the questions we put to you.

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

I do so believe.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

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 grace of God, I will.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

Bishop Mark addresses the Dean, Residentiary Canons and congregation with the following:

These men and women have been chosen for the offices of Pastoral Worker or Reader. The clergy and congregations who have supported them through their training are with us virtually on screen and in spirit.

For those gathered here and those at home, I ask that you respond in prayer and praise:

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

We will.

Will you continue to pray for them?

We will.

Will you commend them to the people amongst whom they will minister?

We will.

The candidates then sit, Bishop Mark remains standing and says:

God our Father, Lord of all the world, we thank you that through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church. Hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry, each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servants, now to be admitted to the office of Reader or Pastoral Worker, the needful gifts of grace. Grant them wisdom and understanding in their reading and proclamation of your holy word and keep them in all holiness, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Canon Vivien calls, by name, each candidate in turn.

The candidate comes forward then stands before Bishop Mark who says:

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

Take authority to exercise the office of Pastoral Worker/Reader in this Diocese.

Receive the licence as your authority to serve

and may God richly bless you and his world in your ministry. **Amen.**

Each Pastoral Worker takes their licence, a pastoral edition of the New Testament and their badge

Each Reader takes their licence, a Bible and dresses themselves with their scarf

After each candidate has been licensed they return to their seat

Bishop Mark invites those Readers and Pastoral Worker who are moving to a new parish to stand and says:

Take authority to exercise the office of Reader/Pastoral Worker in this Diocese.

The Readers and Pastoral Worker will receive the licences at the end of the service

THE WELCOME

Bishop Mark invites all of the newly licensed Readers and Pastoral Workers to stand

I present to you your newly licensed Readers and Pastoral Workers
We welcome you.

They then sit as Bishop Mark and Canon Vivien return to their seats

THE INTERCESSIONS

led by Canon Sarah Fenby

At the end of the prayers, all say

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

All stand

HYMN

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord.
And where there's doubt true faith in you.**

***Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving unto all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Words and Music: Sebastian Temple (1928-97) based on a prayer of St Francis
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THE BLESSING

Bishop Mark says

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give you the wisdom and strength to serve and follow Christ,
and that with his Spirit you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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