

WELCOME

We welcome you to this celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Ordination of Deacons. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop, Mother Church of the Diocese of Chester and the core of a Christian community which has worshipped here for over 1100 years.

THE DECLARATION OF ASSENT

This Declaration of Assent is made by Deacons, Priests and Bishops of the Church of England when they are ordained, and on each occasion when they take up a new appointment.

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, A B, 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 authorized or allowed by Canon.

THOSE TO BE ORDAINED DEACON

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

12 noon

Philip Bishop	Weaverham, St Mary the Virgin
Rob Croft	Christleton, St James
Sam Durdant-Hollamby	Hoole, All Saints
Helen Eccles	Knutsford, St John the Baptist & Toft, St John the Evangelist
Marie Flint	Stockport St Mary & Brinnington, St Luke
Gilly Hall	Cheadle, All Hallows
Hana Helvadjian	Lache-cum-Saltney, St Mark
Catherine Johnson	Cheadle, All Hallows

2.30pm

Vanessa Layfield	Nantwich, St Mary
Paul Lewis	Poulton Lancelyn, Holy Trinity
Anna Leyden	Chester, Christ Church
Martin Makin	Bredbury, St Mark
David Murray	Sale, St Anne
Jen Pilling	Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton, St James the Great
Anthony Rigby	Elworth, St Peter
George Roach	Higher Bebington, Christ Church & St Paul with St Luke, Tranmere

5.00pm

Danny Sedano	Frankby, St John the Divine with Greasby, St Nicholas
Frances Skinner	Great Meols, St John the Baptist
Richard Skinner	Hoylake, St Hildeburgh
Simon Stride	Stalybridge, Holy Trinity and Christ Church
Christine Turner	Seacombe, St Paul, Poulton, St Luke & Liscard The Resurrection, St Mary
Debbie Wilkinson	Birkenhead Priory, Christ the King
Claire Wilson	Bunbury, St Boniface & Tilstone Fearnall, St Jude

THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

THE GATHERING AND PRESENTATION

THE GREETING

The Bishop greets the people

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.

All sit

The Bishop introduces the service and then continues

Brothers and sisters, we have come together in the presence of almighty God for the ordination of those called to serve as deacons in his Church; though we are few in number in the cathedral, many join us in prayer and worship over the weekend, in the parishes and on line, to continue to celebrate the ministries that began in July and pray and support them as they continue to live and proclaim the Gospel as deacons in the communities where they serve.

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. Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving. Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission; as he washed the feet of his disciples, so they must wash the feet of others.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Bishop says this invitation to the confession to which all then respond

As we gather together before God,
and trusting in his grace alone,
let us join with these ordinands in confessing our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The Bishop says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The ordinands stand

THE PRESENTATION

Each ordinand is presented by the Archdeacons of Chester or Macclesfield

Reverend Father in God, I present these persons to be ordained to the office of deacon in the Church of God.

When the ordinands have been presented, the Bishop asks these questions, to which Canon Sarah Fenby, Diocesan Director of Vocations responds:

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

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 asks this question, to which they respond

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

I do so believe.

The Bishop continues

I invite the Registrar to confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

The Registrar of the Diocese, Lisa Moncur, responds

Those who are required to do so have duly made the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign. They have all made an oath or a solemn affirmation 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 ordinands sit

THE COLLECT

The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer and then says

Let us pray for these candidates,
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
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 ordained the needful gifts of grace;
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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the book of Joshua.

1. 1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 86. 1-6

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.
Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

Geoff Nobes

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 28. 16-20
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All sit after the preacher has led a prayer

SERMON

The Right Revd Geoff Pearson,
Hon Assistant Bishop

At the end of the sermon, a short silence is kept; all then stand

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Bishop says

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

The congregation sits; the ordinands remain standing

THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION

THE DECLARATIONS

The Bishop says

Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible. Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

The Bishop addresses the ordinands directly

We trust that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to give yourself wholly to his service, that you may draw his people into that new life which God has prepared for those who love him. 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?

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.

Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it, and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?

I believe it and will so do.

Will you strive to make the love of Christ known through word and example, and have a particular care for those in need?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you be a faithful servant in the household of God, after the example of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve?

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 the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those in authority?

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 grow in holiness and grace?

By the help of God, I will.

The ordinands face the training incumbents and guests

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

In the name of our Lord, we bid you remember the greatness of the trust in which you are now to share: the ministry of Christ himself, who for our sake took the form of a servant. Remember always with thanksgiving that the people among whom you will minister are made in God's image and likeness. In serving them you are serving Christ himself, before whom you will be called to account. 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 sit; silence is kept

THE LITANY

The Director of Vocations leads the litany

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 Mark and Keith our bishops, and for all bishops, priests and deacons,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those 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,
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 all those who suffer for those affected by the Covid Pandemic
and for all those who care for the sick and dying
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 those 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.

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Bishop prays

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 sent your only Son Jesus Christ
to take the form of a slave;
he humbled himself for our sake,
and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross.
We praise and glorify you because in every age you send your Spirit
to fill those whom you have chosen,
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 deacons in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

The Bishop lays his hands on the head of each ordinand, saying

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

Each deacon puts on their stole signifying the order of their diaconal ministry

The Bishop continues

Through your Spirit, Heavenly Father,
give these your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministry.
Make them faithful to serve and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.
May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son,
who washed the feet of his disciples,
and set the needs of others before his own.
May their life be disciplined and holy,
their words declare your love and their actions reveal your glory,
that your people may walk with them in the way of truth
and be made ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GIVING OF THE BIBLE

The newly ordained deacons stand; the Bishop invites each deacon to come forward to take a copy of the New Testament and their licence

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

THE WELCOME

The newly ordained deacons turn to the congregation; the Archdeacon of Macclesfield says to them

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
**We welcome you as fellow servants in the gospel:
may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love.**

All stand

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

The Bishop says

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
**We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The Bishop says

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through your servant Jesus Christ our Lord.

At his baptism Jesus was revealed as your beloved Son.

Coming among us as one who serves,

he taught us that the greatest in your kingdom are those who make
themselves least and the servants of all.

Although he was their teacher and their Lord,

he washed the feet of his disciples and commanded us to do the same,
that we might reveal the power of your love,
made perfect in our human weakness.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

The Choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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.**

BREAKING OF BREAD

The Bishop says

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.**

GIVING OF 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.**

All sit

AGNUS DEI

The Choir sings

- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Stewards will invite guests to either receive the Sacrament or a Blessing; please follow directions. Those coming forward are asked to return to their seats by the Side Aisles

COMMUNION MUSIC

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After a silence, the Bishop says

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you, not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We thank you, gracious Father,
for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom;
by your love unite us and with your Spirit send us,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All stand

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING

The Bishop says

God who has called you is faithful.
May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleans 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 light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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