



The Diocese of  
Southwark

# The Admission and Licensing of Readers

Sunday 11 October 2020

6.00pm

SOUTHWARK  
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

# Welcome to Southwark Cathedral

Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be

explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

## The Declarations

Before the service the candidates for admission and licensing as Readers made the Declarations in the form prescribed by Canons E 5 and E 6.

*The Bishop read the Preface to the Declaration of Assent*

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 Candidates responded*

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 I will use only the forms of service which are authorized or allowed by Canon.

I, A B, will give due obedience to the Lord Bishop of Southwark and his successors in all things lawful and honest.

I, A B, about to be licensed to exercise the office of Reader in the Diocese of Southwark, 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 all people. I will give due obedience to the minister in whose cure I may serve, in all things lawful and honest.

## **To be Licensed**

Tracie Bishop, St Andrew the Apostle Church, Catford  
Clare Dowding, All Saints' Church, Blackheath  
Dale Kirk, St Paul's Church, Kingston Hill  
Fiona Lock, The Oxted Team Ministry  
Olusola (Sola) Oyeleye, St Paul's with St Saviour's  
Church, Brixton  
Susan Patterson, St Stephen's Church, South Dulwich  
Sarah Paxton, Limsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry  
Ronald Searle, Parish of Kingswood  
Nick Smith, St John's Church, Felbridge

# To be Welcomed

Janet Bishop, Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton

## Gathering

### The Greeting

*The bishop greets the people*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

There is one body and one spirit.

**All There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**All one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

*The bishop introduces the service.*

My brothers and sisters, God has gathered us into the fellowship of the universal Church. As members together of his body, Christ calls us to minister in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world. Within this ministry, 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 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.

## **Prayers of Penitence**

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his ministry.

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive  
our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your  
faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
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.**

# Liturgy of the Word

## Reading

2 Corinthians 2. 12 – 3. 6

*Read by Marion Watson, St Mary's Church, Lewisham.*

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

When I, Paul, came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not peddlers of God's word like so many; but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence.

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

For the word of the Lord,

**All thanks be to God.**

## **Reading**

Luke 13. 22–30

*Read by Kim Honey, St Margaret's Church, Chipstead.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?' He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

For the word of the Lord,

**All thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

Peter Graystone, Diocesan Lay Training Officer,  
Discipleship & Ministry

# **Anthem**

God be in my head · John Rutter

*Sung by the Choir.*

## **Admission and Licensing**

### **The Presentation of Candidates for Admission**

*The candidates for admission stand and are presented to the bishop by Simon Stocks, St Augustine's College of Theology.*

Bishop Christopher, I present these people to be admitted to the office of Reader...

*When all the candidates have been presented, the bishop says*

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. They have also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop and the declaration which must be made before a Reader is licensed.

*The bishop then asks Simon Stocks*

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

**Simon Stocks They are.**

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

**Simon Stocks They have.**

## **The Questions**

*The bishop turns to the candidates and says*

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

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

**Candidates I do so believe.**

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.**

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.**

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

**Candidates 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?

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

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

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

*The candidates turn and face the congregation.*

Brothers and sisters, these people have been chosen for the office of Reader. Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

**All We will.**

Will you continue to pray for them?

**All We will.**

*The bishop invites the clergy of the new Readers' parishes to stand and asks*

Will you work closely with your new Readers and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

**Clergy We will.**

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

**Clergy We will.**

*The clergy sit. The candidates turn back to face the bishop.*

## **The Admission**

*The candidates move forward to stand before the bishop, who admits them to the office of Reader by the delivery of a copy of the Scriptures with these words*

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.

**All Amen.**

*When all have been admitted, the newly admitted kneel, and the bishop blesses them*

May the Lord give you wisdom, courage, strength and  
love to do his will,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you, and on your work done in his name,  
now and always.

**All Amen.**

*The newly admitted Readers stand.*

## **The Licensing**

*As the organist plays, the Readers put on their blue scarf;  
the Registrar hands to each their license and then the  
bishop says*

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in  
this diocese.

May the Lord be with you in all your work and  
ministry from this day onwards.

**All Amen.**

## Welcome to an incoming Reader

*The Warden of Readers presents the Reader transferring from another diocese, saying*

Bishop, I present a Reader to be licensed for ministry in this diocese, Janet Bishop from St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, to serve in the parish of Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton.

*The bishop greets the Reader, presents her licence and says*

Janet, we welcome you to exercise the office of Reader in the Diocese of Southwark.

*The bishop then says to all the newly licensed and welcomed Readers*

We welcome you as ministers of God's word.

**All May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

*The newly licensed Readers sit.*

## The Renewal of Commitment

*The congregation remains seated as the Warden of Readers invites all the other Readers present to stand and addresses them*

My brothers and sisters, in the name of the Church I thank you for your faithful ministry. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you and invite you now to renew your commitment to the ministry entrusted to you. Therefore I ask:

Will you, as a Reader, continue, as far as in you lies, to promote peace and unity and to conduct yourself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church and for the spiritual welfare of all people?

**Readers With God's help, I will.**

Will you continue to study the Scriptures, to deepen your knowledge of the Christian faith and to grow in your discipleship of Christ?

**Readers With God's help, I will.**

Will you give obedience to those who are set in authority over you and will you work willingly and collaboratively with all who are your fellow workers in the gospel?

**Readers With God's help, 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 to all?

**Readers With God's help, I will.**

Almighty God,  
who has given you the will to undertake these things,  
give you also the strength to perform them,  
that he may complete that work that he has begun  
in you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*All stand*

## **The Peace**

We are the body of Christ.

**All By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**All We are bound by the love of Christ.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

## **The Litany**

*Led by Sally Carter-Esdale, Wimbledon Team Ministry,  
and Jeremy Davies, Emmanuel Church, South Croydon.*

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

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 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.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For Christopher our bishop,  
Karowei, Jonathan and Richard, our Area bishops,  
and for all bishops, lay ministers, priests and deacons,  
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after  
righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For Tracie, Clare, Dale, Fiona, Sola, Susan, Sarah,  
Ronald, Nick and Janet  
called to be Readers in God's Church,  
that they may be open to the prompting of the  
Holy Spirit and faithful in service,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For Gerry, Julie, Chris and Leon  
licensed in recent years and who have now  
completed their training,  
that they may continue to be guided by the  
Holy Spirit and be faithful in service  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For the parishes and communities they will serve,  
that they may be blessed by their Reader's ministry  
and be prayerful and patient in their encouragement,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those training for Reader ministry,  
that they may be inspired, transformed and eager  
partners in God's service,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All 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.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,  
especially Sheena Bryden, Grace Comben, Brian  
Cook and Chris Glasson who have died in the past  
year, and in communion with all the saints, we

commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to  
Christ our God;  
Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us so 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.**

# The Sending Out

## The Blessing

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**All who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
**All now and for ever. Amen.**

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and  
works of God;

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

**All Amen.**

## Anthem

The Lord bless you and keep you · John Rutter

Go in peace and make Christ known.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Voluntary

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