

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

Called Together
Celebrating
**Licensed Lay Ministry
in Suffolk**



Sunday 27 September 2020

Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A warm welcome to families, friends, parish members and all who are supporting those to be licensed and welcomed in Lay Ministry. Today's service brings together the celebration under one umbrella of Readers, Children's and Families' Ministers, Licensed Evangelists, Lay Pastors and Pioneers in our diocese. *Please pray for those being licensed over the course of the day and for the parishes they serve, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and that, guided by the Holy Spirit, their ministry may be richly blessed.*

Although each kind of ministry is celebrated in its distinctiveness, there is the over-arching theme of all being sent out to minister from the Cathedral – 'the seat of the Bishop and centre of worship and mission' – in order to be empowered and strengthened for the work God has called us to do, and to be the people he has called us to be.

In today's service, those to be licensed and welcomed will affirm their belief in the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and will make declarations and promises as they prepare for or continue their ministry in the Church.

Music today

We are delighted that some of our cathedral musicians are able to provide music for today's service, working within the restrictions of the current Covid-19 regulations: thank you to our Acting Director of Music, Richard Cook, and the Cathedral's *InHarmony* project lead, Richard Hubbard.

Please do turn off mobile and electronic devices as they may be a distraction to others.

Please do not use cameras or videos during the Licensing: there will be an opportunity for photos with candidates, the bishop and clergy at the end of the service.

We may be taking official photographs in which you may appear if we later use them in the public domain: please let the welcome team know if you or your family should be omitted from such photos.

giftaid it

If you are a UK taxpayer, please think before you put cash in the collection plate. If you put it in one of the Gift Aid envelopes (which are available in this order of service), fill in your details and sign it, the Chancellor adds 25% to your gift. So a gift of £5.00 becomes £6.25 at no extra cost to you. Please remember to fill in your details to enable the Cathedral to claim the 25% tax from the Government. **Thank you.**

Those to be Licensed today

Please pray for those being licensed at the three services today, and for the places they serve, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Readers

Mike Bryer: *The Benefice of Kesgrave*

Ruth Bull: *The Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham*

Doreen Page: *The Benefice of Beccles, St Michael and St Luke*

Reader to be welcomed and licensed from another diocese

Rachel Clarke: *The Benefice of Walton and Trimley*

Children's and Families' Ministers

Sandra Cresswell: *The Benefice of Carlford*

Charlotte Gooch: *The Benefice of Woodbridge, St Mary the Virgin*

Christine Stainer: *The Benefice of Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St George with Little Whelnetham, Cockfield, Felsham and Gedding*

Helen Woodroffe: *The Benefice of Horringer*

Licensed Evangelists

Rob Collett: *The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle*

Malcolm Gibbs: *The Benefice of Ipswich, St Thomas*

Hannah Ponting: *The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle*

Mark Stancombe-Duhm: *The Benefice of Saxmundham with Kelsale-cum-Carlton*

Pioneers

Karen Nelson: *The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle*

Kathy Wilson: *The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*

*God of power and might,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you, now and always;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Order of Service

¶ The Gathering and Presentation

Candidates are seated with their guests before the service begins.

After the welcome, everyone stands and turns to face the font for

The Greeting

Everyone remains standing. The Bishop greets everyone and says

We meet in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All Peace be with you
and also with you.

The Re-affirmation of our Baptism

The Bishop introduces the service and says

Bishop 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 fulfil this, God has given a variety of ministries, and today we celebrate and affirm this. Baptism is the foundation of the ministry of the whole people of God, to witness to God's love and work for God's Kingdom. As we prepare for the licensing and sending out of those whom God has called to authorised Lay Ministry, let us rejoice in our baptism into Jesus Christ by which we share in God's call to be a royal priesthood.

Water is poured into the font.

The Blessing of Water

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the
Spirit may daily be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Symbols of Ministry

Everyone remains standing.

*As the procession moves to the Pavement, symbols of the different ministries
celebrated today are placed upon the altar, and the organist plays a fanfare.*

The Presentation

Candidates to be licensed as Readers, Children's & Families' Ministers, Licensed Evangelists and Pioneers, together with those to be welcomed to the diocese, are presented by a representative from their church, who says

Reverend Father in God, I present *Name* to be made a
[*Ministry*], and to serve in *Benefice/Parish name*.
[or to be welcomed and licensed for ministry in this diocese
and to serve as Reader in *Benefice/Parish name*.]

When the candidates have been presented, the Bishop addresses the Diocesan officers responsible for the formation and training of the candidates, saying

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

Answer They are.

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

Answer They have.

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

Answer They have.

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

Answer They do.

Bishop Have these candidates 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?

Answer They have.

The Bishop addresses the candidates, saying

Brothers and Sisters, do you believe yourself to be called,
chosen and equipped for your respective ministries?

The candidates reply, saying

I do so believe.

The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the following bidding

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

Everyone kneels or sits as the choir sings

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind – to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden that causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

Words: Isaiah 61:1-3,11

Music: Edward Elgar, 1857- 1934

All remain kneeling or seated as the Bishop prays

The Collect

Generous God,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life
in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Everyone sits for

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the Israelites associated with it'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it'; and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. And when your people say to you, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?' say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it; and I will put the stick of Judah upon it, and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand. When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there for ever; and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them for evermore. My dwelling-place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them for evermore.

Ezekiel 37.15-end, NRSV

All For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Friends in Christ, of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3.7-19, NRSV

All For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Everyone remains seated for

The Sermon

given by
The Reverend Canon Dave Gardner
Diocesan Director of Mission & Ministry

A time for reflection follows, as the following is sung.

Blessed Spirit of the King

Blessèd Spirit of the King,
of grace and love the author,
work repentance deep within,
and bend me at your altar.
Melt my heart with majesty,
then show my ruined self to me;
teach me to more clearly see
your might and will to save me.

Here I place without reserve
my soul in faith and meekness,
trusting in Christ's power and love
to flourish in my weakness.
Cause my days on earth to be
through time and through eternity
a trophy of his victory,
a monument to mercy.

Teach me to behold my God,
and trust his power to save me,
arms outstretched in constant love,
whose strength will never fail me.
Help me to commune with him,
depend and follow after him,
that through my life his peace will reign,
and joy be my companion.

*Stuart Townend © 2006, Thankyou Music
Words based on a Puritan Prayer*

Everyone stands.

The Declarations

Bishop We gather to celebrate and to give thanks to God that our Lord Jesus Christ calls every member of the Church to minister in his name. We thank him that by his Holy Spirit he gives to his Church gifts, varied and abundant, to equip his people for their work of ministry, and to build up the Body of Christ, so that we may grow in faith and knowledge until we reach the full stature of Christ himself.

We pray for all who exercise Lay ministry today. Especially we pray for those to be admitted, licensed or welcomed as Readers, Children's & Families' Ministers, Licensed Evangelists and Pioneers.

Readers are members of an historic lay order within the Church by which Jesus Christ continues his work of proclaiming the good news of his kingdom. With Readers all Licensed Lay Ministers share with the Bishop and his fellow Priests and Deacons in the pastoral care of those whom they serve. Readers have a particular calling to lead public worship, to teach and to preach, to intercede and to assist, to encourage and to counsel.

As we come together we recognise, honour and affirm our dependence on one another and our common mission and calling to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission to the world.

Everyone remains standing as the Bishop leads the following responsory.

All There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

All There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord is served.

All There are varieties of working,
but the same God is at work in all.

All There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call,
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.**

Candidates remain standing while the congregation sits.

The Bishop addresses the candidates, saying

Do you believe yourself to be called, chosen and equipped for ministry?

The candidates reply, saying

I do so believe.

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 **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

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

Candidates **I do so accept them.**

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

Candidates **I believe it and will so do.**

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

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

Bishop Will you accept the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those in authority?

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

Bishop Will you follow the way of Christ in your ministry, in your relationships at work, in the fellowship of your church, and at home?

Candidates **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

Bishop 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?

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

The congregation remain seated and the candidates turn to face them.

Bishop Brothers and sisters, you have heard their declarations. Is it now your will that they should be Licensed and welcomed?

All It is!

Bishop Will you continually pray for them?

All We will.

Bishop Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All We will.

The candidates turn to the bishop.

Bishop May the Lord who has given you the will to undertake Licensed Lay Ministry give you the grace to carry it out.

All Amen.

Candidates come forward in turn to the Bishop. The Bishop says

I license you as [Ministry] in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

They receive a licence to minister and are given a symbol of office by a member of their family.

To Readers, the Bishop says

Bishop N, I admit you to the office of Reader, [welcome you to this diocese as a Reader] in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

New Readers are vested by their family with a Reader's scarf.

The candidates return to their seats.

Bishop 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, be upon you, and on your work done in his name, now and always. **Amen.**

The Bishop then addresses all the newly admitted candidates, saying

Bishop We welcome you as ministers of God's word.

All May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Everyone greets the new Licensed Lay Ministers warmly.

Everyone kneels for the

Prayers of Intercession

During the prayers, organ music will underscore the spoken words.

Let us pray for the building up of God's gifts to his Church, looking beyond ourselves to mission in the world, as we say

God of the church,
we thank you that you give gifts to us that we may work together in the service of your Son.
We give you thanks for the life and witness of the churches across this county.
Bless all in your church today, lay and ordained, that we may be firm in faith, yet humble before you.
Bless those through whom you speak today.

All Your kingdom come, your will be done.

God of our lives,
whose Son has promised that his Spirit will lead and guide us, we pray for the communities in which our churches are set.
May we be as salt and light
for those who seek to build up the common good.

All Your kingdom come, your will be done.

God of Creation,
you have fashioned the universe
and call us to care of the earth.
We pray for healing for divided peoples and nations,
for peace, tolerance and justice,
and that we, each one, may live in reverence for the earth.

All Your kingdom come, your will be done.

God of healing and tenderness,
we hold before you the vulnerable,
the ill, the lonely, the abused and those who care for them,
the homeless, prisoners and all in the justice system.
Bless those in the church who minister healing,
that they may bring wholeness to others,
yet know your healing touch in themselves.

All Your kingdom come, your will be done.

God of eternity,
We praise you for all your saints down the ages
who have made known the good news of your Son.
We thank you for those who have enriched our lives
and influenced us for good.
May we follow in their footsteps and draw others
into the light and love of your Son,
and, at the last, sit at the table in your kingdom,
Where you are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Everyone remains kneeling as the choir sings

New Commandment

I give to you a new commandment,
that you love one another,
as I have loved you.

*Words: from John 13
Music: Peter Nardone, b. 1965*

Bishop Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our saviour has taught us:

All **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.

Everyone stands for

The Blessing

Bishop Peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop 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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Everyone remains standing as the Bishop leads those who have been newly licensed through the Cathedral, and the procession moves to the west end as the organ voluntary is played.

The Organ Voluntary

Postlude from Six Pieces for Organ, op. 33
Christopher Steel, 1938-1991

Thank you for being here for today's celebration.

**It is a great help to the cathedral wardens if you can replace
your kneeler on the pew after the service.**

Service order extracts from *Common Worship Services*,
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