

The Admission and Licensing of Lay Workers

5 July 2020

The Gathering

The Bishop welcomes all who are joining online, and explains the nature of the service.

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you;

All **And also with you.**

The Bishop prays a Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity:

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Archdeacon reads the Gospel for the day (Matthew 11.16-19 & 25-end).

Archdeacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

Reflection, by the Bishop

The Introduction to the Admission and Licensing

Bishop 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, our candidates today are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and other ministers in a licensed lay capacity as we look forward to their ordination. They are to lead public worship, to preach and teach the word of God, to assist at Holy Communion and to share in pastoral and evangelistic work. 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.

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

Candidates Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?
I do so believe.

Candidates 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.

Candidates 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.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

Candidates 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.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

The Admission

The Bishop reads 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. [Names], 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?

Each candidate makes the first Declaration individually:

I, [name], Accredited Lay Worker, 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 authorised or allowed by Canon.

And then the second Declaration individually:

I, [name], Accredited Lay Worker, will give due obedience to the Lord Archbishop of York and his successors in all things lawful and honest.

The candidates sign a copy of the Declarations and show the signed paper.

Bishop [Names], I admit each of you as an Accredited Lay Worker in the Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Licensing

The Bishop reads the form of Licence.

Bishop 'I [name], Bishop of [See] [delegate for this purpose...] to my well beloved in Christ [names], Greeting:

'I do by these presents grant you my licence to work as Accredited Lay Worker:

[Name] to the Benefice of [Place], [Name] to the Benefice of [Place] ... respectively;

within the Diocese and Jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York under the direction of the Incumbent of the Benefice until the Thirty-first Day of December 2020, or until such earlier date upon which the Archbishop of York shall think fit to revoke this Licence; and therein to perform all ecclesiastical duties belonging to that Office; and I give you my Licence to speak and pray publicly in consecrated buildings within the Diocese of York at the discretion of the Incumbent or Priest in Charge.

'And so I commend you to Almighty God, humbly praying in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that his blessing may rest upon you and your work.

'In testimony whereof I have caused the Archiepiscopal Seal of the Archbishop of York to be hereto affixed and I have subscribed the same this Fifth day of July 2020.'

[Names], receive authority to exercise the ministry now entrusted to you.

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. **Amen.**

The Bishop welcomes the newly licensed Lay Workers to their ministry, and invites all who are taking part to congratulate them.

The Prayers

The Archdeacon leads prayers of intercession, ending with the Lord's Prayer:

**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

Bishop God give you a vision of his love, faith to believe it and grace to fulfil it; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Bishop explains the intended arrangements for the ordination of deacons in the autumn, and thanks everyone who has joined online.