



The Admission & Licensing as Readers

of

**Amanda Hollingsworth
Coleen Jackson
Sue Moss
Elizabeth Quinn
Clare Watson**

by

**The Right Reverend Christopher Foster
Bishop of Portsmouth**

Saturday 14 November 2020

10.30

Traditionally Reader ministry is one of teaching and preaching. Today, many Readers also exercise pastoral, liturgical and evangelistic ministry.

Please continue to pray for those being licensed today along with the Readers and Reader candidates in this diocese who seek to fulfil a ministry in the Church as lay people.

Welcome

The circumstances today mean that you join this special service in church or remotely. We would prefer to be together in one place but nevertheless, we are together in prayer and worship as we celebrate God's call on these candidates and the place of each of us in the mission of the Gospel and ministry of the church. Wherever you are please take a full part in this service and support them with your prayers and love.

+ Chiodo



The Introduction

Music before the start: I, the Lord of sea and sky (Dan Schutte)

THE GREETING

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

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop introduces the service.

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, 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.

THE COLLECT

Bishop 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Sandra Haggan, Sub-warden of Readers for Havant Deanery

A reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

(3.14-4.5)

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept after the reading.

SECOND READING

Mary Close, Readers' Board Secretary

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?'

They answered, 'Yes.'

And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

(13.44-52)

At the end This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *The Venerable Gavin Collins, Warden of Readers*

After the sermon a time of silence is kept.

The Presentation of the Candidates for Admission

*The candidates for admission are presented to the Bishop
by the Head of Mission, Discipleship and Mission, the Revd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell*

Reverend Father in God, I present
Amanda Hollingsworth to be admitted to the office of Reader
in Portsea, St Mary;
Coleen Jackson to be admitted to the office of Reader
in Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth;
Susan Moss to be admitted to the office of Reader
in South Hayling, North Hayling and Eastoke;
Elizabeth Quinn to be admitted to the office of Reader
in Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon;
Clare Watson to be admitted to the office of Reader
in Alverstoke, St Mary, St Faith and St Francis.

The Declarations

*The candidates for admission and licensing as Readers make the Declarations
in the form prescribed by Canons E 5 and E 6.*

The Warden of Readers 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. 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?

Candidates 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 Bishop of Portsmouth 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 Portsmouth, 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.

The Bishop asks these questions to which the Director of Portsmouth Pathway responds.

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

DPP They are.

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

DPP They have.

The Questions

The Bishop asks the candidates the following questions.

Bishop 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.

Bishop 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

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 By the grace of God, I will.

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

Candidates By the grace of God, I will.

Bishop 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.

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

Candidates By the grace of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the congregation.

Bishop Brothers and sisters,
these candidates have been chosen for the office of Reader.

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All **We will.**

Will you continually pray for them?

All **We will.**

The Bishop addresses the clergy of the new Readers' parishes.

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

Clergy We will.

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

Clergy We will.

THE ADMISSION AND LICENSING

The Bishop admits each candidate to the office of Reader 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.**

Each new Reader holds the Licence, as 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.**

The new Readers vest themselves with a blue Readers' scarf.

The Bishop blesses all the new Readers.

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 WELCOME AND PEACE

Bishop We welcome you as ministers of God's word.
All **May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

Bishop We are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God,
through Christ our Lord who came and preached peace
to those who were far off and to those who were near.

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

All are encouraged safely to offer others a smile or gesture of Peace.

LITANY *led by Canon Hilary Spurgeon, Deputy Warden of Readers*

In the power of the Spirit and in unison 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,
and for all bishops, clergy and ministers,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Amanda, Coleen, Sue, Elizabeth and Clare
called to be Readers in his Church,
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.**

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe,
that they may receive the light of the gospel,
and for those whose faith has grown cold,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have served as Readers,
all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;
and we gather up our prayers in the words he 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.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

All Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever. Amen.

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.
All **Amen.**

Music at the end: Prelude in C by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Music for this service played by Debs Henning-Vears.

Acknowledgements

*Excerpts from Common Worship: The Admission and Licensing of Readers
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I Cor. 16:14