

**The Ordination  
of  
Jack Stephen Williams  
to  
the Diaconate**

by

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

**09 October 2020 18:30**



## **PREFACE & DECLARATION OF ASSENT**

*The 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. This Declaration has already been made by the candidate.*

### **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**

*Ordinand* I, Jack Stephen Williams, 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.

## **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 Jack's life 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 him with your prayers and love.

+ Chiodora

# The Gathering & Presentation

## 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 congregation sits and Bishop Christopher introduces the service.*

*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 God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given us 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.

## THE PRESENTATION

*Archdeacon Jenny says*

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

*Then the Bishop asks these questions*

*Bishop* Have those whose duty it is to know this ordinand and examine him found him to be of godly life and sound learning?

*Revd Emma* They have.

*Bishop* Do they believe him to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?  
*Revd Emma* They do.

*The Bishop turns to Jack and says*

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

*Jack* I do so believe.

*Bishop* Has this ordinand taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent?

*Archdeacon* He has duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop. He has affirmed and declared his 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 COLLECT

*Bishop* Let us pray for Jack  
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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 servant 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*All sit.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## READING

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (12.1-13)

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*            **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the Gospel reading.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

*cf 1 Samuel 3.9; John 6.68*

*All*            **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

*All*           The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

(10.35-45)

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

SERMON    *The Revd Emma Racklyeft*

*After the sermon a time of silence is kept.*

# The Liturgy of Ordination

## THE DECLARATIONS

*Jack stands. The Bishop then addresses the congregation.*

*Bishop* 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 Jack 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?

*Jack* I do so accept them.

*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?

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

*Bishop* 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?

*Jack* I believe it and will so do.

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

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

*Bishop* 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?

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

*Bishop* 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?

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

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

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

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

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

*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?

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

*Jack turns to face the congregation. The Bishop addresses the congregation.*

*Bishop* Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that Jack is ready to undertake, and you have heard his declarations.

Is it now your will that Jack should be ordained?

*All* **It is.**



Will you continually pray for him?  
*All*        **We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage him in their ministry?  
*All*        **We will.**

*Jack turns back to face the Bishop.*

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 Bishop and Jack kneel.*

*The congregation kneels or remains seated as we listen to 'Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me' and all pray in silence.*

#### THE INTERCESSIONS

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord Jesus, you called your disciples to take up the cross:  
deepen in each of us a sense of vocation.

*All*        **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you prayed for your Church to be one:  
unite all Christians that the world may believe...

*All*        **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, at your call men and women forsook all to follow you:  
bless all those to be ordained deacon and the parishes they serve...

*All*        **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you broke down the walls that divide us:  
bring the people of this world to live in peace and concord...

*All*        **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you cured by your healing touch and word:  
heal the sick, comfort the bereaved and sustain all who care  
and welcome us all at the last into fullness of life...

*All* **Lord, hear us, and make us one in heart and mind,  
to serve you for ever. Amen.**

#### THE ORDINATION PRAYER

*Jack continues to kneel before the Bishop, who stands to pray.*

*Bishop* 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.

*All* **Lord, send your Spirit.**

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.

*All* **Lord, send your Spirit.**

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.

*All* **Lord, send your Spirit.**

And now we give you thanks  
that you have called this your servant,  
whom we ordain in your name,  
to share as a deacon 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.

*All* **Lord, send your Spirit.**

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray.

*The Bishop lays his hands on Jack's head.*

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

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,  
give this your servant grace and power to fulfil their ministry.  
Make him faithful to serve  
and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.  
May he 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 his life be disciplined and holy,  
his words declare your love and his actions reveal your glory,  
that your people may walk with him 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.

*All*        **Amen.**

*Jack vests himself with a stole.*

*The congregation stands.*

THE WELCOME

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord  
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

*All*        **We welcome you as a fellow servant in the gospel:  
may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love.**

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

THE PEACE

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

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

*Jack shares the Peace with those in his household.  
Otherwise please share the Peace appropriately and at a safe distance.*

*Please remain standing.*

#### PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*Bishop*       Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

*All*            **All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

#### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Bishop*       The Lord be with you  
*All*            **and also with you.**

                 Lift up your hearts.  
*All*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

                 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All*            **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 he 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 saying:

*All*        **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Bishop*    We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

*All*        Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*Bishop* Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Remember Justin, our Archbishop,  
and your servant now ordained;  
may he be a faithful steward of your heavenly gifts.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

*A time of silence is kept.*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Bishop* Let us pray with confidence 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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Bishop* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*All* **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*Bishop* God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*During Communion please remain seated until guided by a Churchwarden to come forwards to receive Communion in one kind. We listen to the song 'Oceans' led by Steve and Charley.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Silence is kept. The congregation stands with the Bishop.*

*Bishop* Let us pray.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

# The Sending Out

## THE GIVING OF THE BIBLE

*Jack receives his Letter of Orders and Licence from the Bishop.*

*The Bishop then gives a Bible to Jack, saying*

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 BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Bishop* God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,  
cleanse you by his holiness  
and send you to proclaim his word.

*All* **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

*All* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

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