

**The Ordination  
of  
Ruth Howlett-Shiple  
to  
the Priesthood**

**by**

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

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020  
6.30pm**



**Diocese of  
Portsmouth**

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

### PREFACE

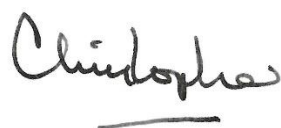
The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in 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, Ruth Mary Howlett-Shipley, 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 Ruth'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 her with your prayers and love.

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#### Acknowledgements

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# The Gathering & Presentation

## THE GREETING

*Bishop* Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

*Bishop* There is one body and one spirit.

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

*Bishop* One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

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

*Bishop* Peace be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

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

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 his royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being.

They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

## THE PRESENTATION

*Archdeacon Gavin says*

Reverend Father in God, I present Ruth to be ordained to the office of priest in the Church of God.

*The Bishop asks these questions:*

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

*Revd Jane* They have.

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

*Revd Jane* They do.

*The Bishop turns to Ruth and says*

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

*Ruth* I do so believe.

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

*Archdeacon* She has duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop. She has affirmed and declared her 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

Let us pray for Ruth,  
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

*A period of silence follows.*

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 *read by Edward Shipley*

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

(5.17-6.2)

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the Gospel reading.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord.

I know them, and they follow me.

*cf John 10.27*

All **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

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

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'

(9.35–10.1, 5-16)

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

SERMON    *The Revd Jane Isaac*

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

# The Liturgy of Ordination

## THE DECLARATIONS

*The ordinand stands before the Bishop, who addresses the congregation.*

*Bishop* Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith.

They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death.

Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

*The Bishop addresses Ruth directly.*

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule

and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do.

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?

*Ruth* 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?

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

*Bishop* Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

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

*Bishop* Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

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

*Bishop* Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

*Ruth* 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?

*Ruth* 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?

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

*Bishop* Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?



*Ruth* 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 make Christ known among all whom you serve?

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

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

*Bishop* Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that Ruth is ready to undertake, and you have heard her declarations. Is it now your will that Ruth should be ordained?

*All* **It is.**

Will you continually pray for her?

*All* **We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage her in her ministry?

*All* **We will.**

*Ruth turns back to face the Bishop, who continues, addressing her.*

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

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 Ruth kneel.*

*All pray in silence as the Veni Creator is sung by David Burgess, cantor.*

## THE INTERCESSIONS *led by Adrian Jordan*

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord Jesus, you knew the love and care of an earthly home:  
protect our families and all the communities we are part of.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you were unjustly condemned by Pontius Pilate:  
be with our brothers and sisters suffering injustice or persecution...

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you forgave the thief on the cross:  
bring us all to penitence and reconciliation...

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you sent your apostles to make disciples of all nations:  
bless all who minister in your church  
and especially those to be ordained priest...

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, you have been glorified in the lives of innumerable saints:  
give us strength to follow in their footsteps...

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

## THE ORDINATION PRAYER

*The Bishop 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.

We praise and glorify you  
because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,  
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,  
the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you  
that by his death he has overcome death;  
and that, having ascended into heaven,

he has given his gifts abundantly,  
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,  
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks  
that you have called this your servant,  
whom we ordain in your name,  
to share as priest in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,  
the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,  
and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

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

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

*Archdeacon Gavin and the Revd Jane Isaac lay their hands on Ruth's head.*

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,  
give this your servant grace and power  
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation  
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.  
Renew her in holiness, and give her wisdom and discipline  
to work faithfully with those committed to her charge.

In union with her fellow servants in Christ,  
may she reconcile what is divided,  
heal what is wounded and restore what is lost.

May she declare your blessings to your people;  
may she proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness,  
and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith;  
so shall a people made whole in Christ  
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you, our God and Father,  
to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

*All*        **Amen.**

*The Bishop anoints Ruth, first on the forehead to recall baptism, and then on the hands to signify sacramental and preaching ministry.*

*Ruth adjusts her stole to the manner in which they are worn by priests.*

*All stand.*

## THE WELCOME

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,  
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

*All*      **We welcome you as an ambassador for Christ:  
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

### THE PEACE

*Bishop*      God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us,  
and as a pledge of what is to come  
has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

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

*Please remain standing.*

### PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*Bishop*      As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

*All*      **Amen.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

*Bishop* It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise  
through your Son Jesus Christ, our great high priest.  
He was lifted up for us on the cross  
that he might reveal your glory and draw all people to himself.  
You exalted him to your right hand on high  
and through your Holy Spirit you sent upon your people  
a rich diversity of gifts.  
From this royal priestly people you raise up ministers  
to proclaim your word, to care for your people  
and to be the stewards of your holy mysteries.  
You call them to serve the world your Son redeemed  
and build up his body the Church to be his bride.  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **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 priest;  
may they be faithful stewards 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.**

*Annabel Shipley will sing during the distribution of communion.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*All* **We thank you, gracious Father,  
for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom;  
by your love unite us  
and with your Spirit send us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **The Sending Out**

THE GIVING OF THE BIBLE, CHALICE AND PATEN

*Ruth receives her Letter of Orders from the Bishop.  
Then the Bishop gives the Bible, chalice and paten, saying*

*Bishop* Receive this book, and these vessels,  
as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day  
to preach the gospel of Christ  
and to minister his holy sacraments.

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 peace of Christ.

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