

PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL



**Annual Service of Celebration
of Licensed Lay Ministry**
including
The Admission & Licensing as Readers
of

Karen Crowhurst - Sandown, St John's and Shanklin, St Blasius
Joanna Nicholson - Holy Trinity and St Catherine Ventnor
with St Boniface Bonchurch

and welcome to

Mandy Hollingsworth - Portsea St Mary
Coleen Jackson - Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth
Sue Moss - St Mary's South Hayling, St Peter's North Hayling
and St Andrew's Eastoke (Hayling)
Elizabeth Quinn - Soberton, Newtown and Hambleton

and

The Re-Licensing of Serving Readers

**Saturday 3rd July 2021
10.00 a.m.**

The Declarations

Before the service the candidates for admission and licensing as Licensed Lay Ministers 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.

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury for our Annual Service of Celebration of Licensed Lay Ministry and the Admission and Licensing of new Readers.

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

*Music before the start: Prelude on 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord'
- Ashley Grote (b.1982).*

Please stand, if you are able, as the Bell rings.

The Commissary Bishop enters and the Cathedral Consort sings the hymn.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry, his army he shall lead,
till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own;
put on the gospel armour, each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song;
to him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

*Words: George Duffield (1818-1888)
Tune: MORNING LIGHT*

Please remain standing, if you are able.

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

The Bishop gives a welcome and then introduces the service.

INTRODUCTION

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 for Karen and Joanna - and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

A time of silent prayer is kept.

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for Karen and Joanna
and all your faithful people,
that in our vocation and ministry
we 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.**

Please sit.

FIRST READING - read by Coleen Jackson (*Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth*)

A reading from the first Book of Kings.

Elijah got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.'

(19.8-16)

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Choir sings.

PSALM 150

O praise God in his holiness:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:
 praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances:
 praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:
 praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath: praise the Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
 world without end. Amen.

SECOND READING - *read by Mandy Hollingsworth (Portsea St Mary)*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

(10.1-12)

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION

The candidates for admission stand.

The Warden of Readers presents them to the Commissary Bishop.

Warden Reverend Father in God,
I present these persons to be admitted to the office of Reader:
Karen Crowhurst of Sandown, St John's and Shanklin, St Blasius;
and Joanna Nicholson of Holy Trinity and St Catherine Ventnor
with St Boniface, Bonchurch.

Bishop Have they 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 and the declaration which must be made before a
Reader is licensed?

Warden They have.

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

Director of Reader Training
They are.

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

Director of Reader Training
They have.

The Bishop addresses the candidates.

THE QUESTIONS

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 candidates turn and face 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.**

Bishop Will you continue to pray for them?

All **We will.**

The Bishop addresses the clergy of the candidates' parishes or chaplaincies.

Bishop Will you work closely with your new Readers 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.**

The Bishop then hands the new Readers their licence and a Bible saying

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.**

Each new Reader (and the Readers licensed online during the pandemic last year) puts on their blue Reader scarf.

Then the Bishop blesses 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.**

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 invited safely to exchange a gesture of peace with those nearby.

Then please sit as the Choir sings the anthem.

I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is builded as a city: that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*Words: from Psalm 122
Music: C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)*

THE RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

After the anthem, all Readers stand.

Bishop My brothers and sisters, as you are today re-licensed to serve in the office of Reader, I thank you for your faithful ministry as Readers and for your care in reviewing your ministry with your incumbents. I pray God's continued blessing upon you and, as you receive your licences, I ask you to renew your commitment to the ministry entrusted to you.
Therefore I ask:

Will you, as a Reader, continue, as far as in you lies,
to promote peace and unity
and to conduct yourself as becomes a worker for Christ,
for the good of his Church
and for the spiritual welfare of all people?

Readers **With God's help, I will.**

Will you continue to study the Scriptures,
to deepen your knowledge of the Christian faith
and to grow in your discipleship of Christ?

Readers **With God's help, I will.**

Will you give obedience to those who are set in authority over
you and will you work willingly and collaboratively
with all who are your fellow workers in the gospel?

Readers **With God's help, I will.**

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 to all?

Readers **With God's help, I will.**

Almighty God,
who has given you the will to undertake these things,
give you also the strength to perform them,
that he may complete that work
that he has begun in you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All the Readers then pray together.

Readers **God our Father,
we offer our lives to do your work
in your Church and in the world.
Help us by your Holy Spirit
to hear more clearly your call
to deeper commitment to your service,
and give us grace to respond with gladness;
for the glory of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All sit or kneel.

LITANY *led by the Warden of Readers.*

In the power of the Spirit and in union 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 our vocation and ministry,
that we may serve him in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Rob, our Commissary Bishop,
and for all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Readers and Pioneers,
that they may hunger for truth
and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Karen, Joanna, Mandy, Coleen, Sue and Elizabeth
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;

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All stand, if you are able, as the Choir sings.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my All in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe;
this gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
and as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand:
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend (b.1963)

BLESSING

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 for ever. 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 among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun danket alle Gott (Op. 65 No. 59) – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*All Readers are invited collect their licences from the St Thomas Chapel
at the East End of the Cathedral after the service.
Please follow the one-way directions from the Welcome Area,
ensuring safe-distancing at all times.*

Acknowledgements

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Diocese of
Portsmouth

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