

A Celebration of Reader Ministry



Sunday 11 July 2021
3pm

Welcome to Manchester Cathedral

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester, especially to the family and friends, colleagues and churches of those who are to be Licensed and Admitted today. The building is the old mediaeval Parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

Celebrating 600 years

2021 is a special year for Manchester Cathedral as it marks the 600th anniversary of the granting of our first Royal charter establishing a collegiate church. Even in these uncertain times, an exciting programme of events for the whole family is planned and we hope to be able to share more details in due course.

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

Live streaming

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

COVID SECURE

It is not only numbers which are limited in order for today's service to be "covid secure". For instance, there can be no singing. Those attending are also required to observe the following:

- face masks are to be worn at all times (except when receiving Communion);
- hand sanitiser is made available to be used on arrival and departure;
- the congregation must remain seated in their allocated places;
- all direct interaction is to be avoided with those not in your household or bubble, maintaining a one-metre distance;
- Communion will be distributed in one kind (i.e. bread alone): hand sanitiser will be available, and must be used should there be accidental contact with the hand of the administer of Communion
- the congregation should leave directly after the service, maintaining a two-metre distance and without interacting with others inside or outside, taking this order of service with them.



Hearing-loop

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Musician

The organ is played by Christopher Stokes,
Organist and Master of the Choristers

Music before the service

Grave and Adagio
From Sonata No 2 in C minor

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)

The Declaration of Assent

This Declaration is made by the Reader candidates before the service.

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

I, N, 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.

I, N, will give due obedience to the Lord Bishop of Manchester and his successors in all things lawful and honest.

I, N, about to be licensed to exercise the office of Reader in the Diocese of Manchester, 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.

Please pray for those who are to be admitted as Readers today:

Ian Banks

The Benefice of Walmersley Road, Bury

Carolyn Bubb

The Benefice of Levenshulme

Deborah Crossland

Benefices of Heywood, St James and Heywood, St Margaret and Heap Bridge, St George

John Evans

The Benefice of the Turton Moorland Ministry

Helen Kidd

The Benefice of The Good Shepherd and St Barnabas, Manchester

Ron Knott

The Benefice of Horwich and Rivington

David Onabanjo

The Benefice of St Cross with St Paul, Clayton

Susan Pilkington

The Benefice of St Paul, Astley Bridge

Gail Randall

The Benefice of St Thomas, Oldham (Moorside)

Joanne (Jo) Sumsion

The Benefice of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Anthony (Tony) Whitehead

The Benefice of St Bede, Bolton le Moors

Ian Banks

I'm a recent 'graduate' of the Diocesan ALM programme, where I focussed on Worship. I feel that I am called to preach and, with the encouragement of others, went forward for Reader training. My background is in the Baptist Church and this process has belatedly included my Confirmation. So, I will have had many + hands on my head by the time I'm done!

As well as being in full time employment, I also run the church website and help my wife manage the church hall. This makes me acutely aware of 'being church' in how we welcome and communicate with people beyond the church building.

I'm extremely grateful for the support of my wife, family and friends during the training. Also, to the staff and my fellow students at All Saints, many of whom I will have the pleasure of meeting in person for the first time today due to lock-down restrictions whilst the course has been running.

Carolyn Bubb

About 14 years ago I read an article about someone whose ministry was closely connected to their job and as I read on, I heard myself say 'that's me!' After a period of time where I worked my way through three incumbents in my lengthy discernment, I find myself nearing the end of the Reader course and my ministry feels more connected than ever to my role as a social worker. The job often brings with it some dark moments but the faith I have in God being with me ensures that I have the strength to manage these as well as offer support, guidance and care to colleagues and children and their families. It is at times a huge responsibility, but I feel privileged that God has put me here.

Through the Reader course my ministry has opened up within the two Levenshulme churches where I worship with my professional skills coming in quite handy in a pastoral role. But the real joy for me has been preaching, where my excitement at sharing what scripture contains spills out into my sermons. I can't wait to explore and develop this aspect of my ministry further.

Working full-time, studying part-time and being mum to my four kids has been tough especially more so since the impact of Covid 19. The bulk of my Reader course has been completed on-line and via Zoom but I feel very blessed to have had some time to build relationships with my fellow Reader students before lockdown. These are relationships that have grown and developed sustaining us in faith, fellowship and a friendship that will continue long into the future. The Reader course has brought so much into my life and into my ministry not least these very special people and I thank God for that.

Deborah (Debs) Crossland

My name is Debs and I came to faith in 2012 at the age of 30 years. Not to worship or intentions of doing so but attended the church to get a taste of the building before getting married. I can say I didn't even believe in God or have intentions of continuing after I got married. From never seeing anyone receive communion before and asking myself why are people shaking hands saying these words "peace be with you" were new experiences that definitely had me out of my comfort zone. I wasn't baptised or even held a Bible never mind read it.

However God's plans were different. From God being almost like a tiny spider giving me a taste of Church and His words via the Good News to be almost like a woodpecker working in my heart. I had a feeling in 2013 that God wanted more from me and so I did children's ministry, however that itch did not go away with me a couple of years later completing ALM in Pastoral Care and then FFM course. Coming back as a leader the year after, I thought that was definitely it and that God can't possibly want more from me. However my plans and God's plans were once again different and with quiet time with God in prayer I discussed reader ministry with my Vicar Susan Banks who supported this calling of which I got accepted.

From being someone who less than 10 years ago did not even own a Bible to being baptised, confirmed and very much love God with my whole heart has changed me so much for the better.

If you take anything away after reading my story it is this. God loves every single one of us, whether we go to Church or not. However many of my turning points in faith at the beginning was listening to sermons and feeling at times like the words were meant for me. Give it a go. The Church is the people in my eyes and the congregation I worship at are like a second family to me full of love for one another. During this time of a pandemic we really can't get enough of love in our lives can we? So type ChurchNearYou in google and see where God takes you.

God Bless.

Debs

John Evans

At the age of 14, my twin brother and I committed our lives to Christ. Together we attended church, Sunday school, Bible classes and youth club. I always believed that God had plans for my life and he had called me to serve him. However at this time I did not know how. As I grew older, he led me into various forms of service. A Sunday school teacher, a youth leader in the church, He opened many venues of service for him. I always believed that God was calling and leading me by his Holy Spirit. I became a nurse ministering to the sick in the hospitals. Then onto residential social work management and care for the elderly. All this time I was still active in the church. On retirement at 65, I became more active with my own parish church supporting the clergy, assisting at Holy Communion, leading evening prayer and occasional midweek services.

In 2019 I was commissioned as an ALM (worship). Looking back I can see God's hand leading me all the way to where I am now, and I continue to follow my favourite piece of scripture, to:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and be not wise in your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path.

Helen Kidd

My name is Helen Kidd. I am a member of the Church of the Resurrection and St Barnabas, in the Beswick area of Manchester. I have been connected to this church since childhood and in recent years have found myself called to serve in various roles. I am currently a Churchwarden and the PCC Treasurer. I have been exploring vocation for a few years now and have been an ALM for the past 3 years. I completed the FFM course in 2019-2020. It was whilst doing this course that I really felt God was calling me to Reader Ministry and looking back over the past few years, I can see now that He has been slowly leading me in this direction.

Although I hadn't had any experience of preaching before starting training, I really feel this is an area I've grown in. It is a real privilege to tell the stories of Jesus and to bring the Word of God into the lives of those who hear it; and along with the pastoral and teaching sides of this ministry, I feel truly blessed that God has chosen me to serve Him in this way.

Ron Knott

Ever since Jesus came into my life in a new way at university in the 1960s, I have enjoyed studying the bible and sharing in studying it with others. I started as a school teacher and then was a university lecturer for many years. In my former diocese of Guildford I was a (licensed) Pastoral Assistant. I moved back north and to the Horwich team of 4 churches almost 20 years ago.

Becoming an ALM in 2017 was another landmark in my life and there was a natural progression to continue in order to be a Reader. I still enjoy learning how to better preach and share in order to encourage everyone to see just how wide, how deep and how high is the love God has for us in Jesus.

I also like growing things to eat, cooking and baking and though now retired, still look after and develop one of the longest running recreational mathematics sites on the web. For sheer fun and enjoyment, nothing beats leading the occasional line dance for charity.

David Onabanjo

I was born and raised in Nigeria from a strong Christian and church going family. Father was a Pentecostal pastor and later a Bishop whose main missional work was planting many churches and founding schools linked to the churches in several villages and towns to proclaim the Good News of God. Inescapably, I have always been active within the church environment all my life.

Educated with Higher National Diploma and MA post-graduate degree in Marketing from University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. Have always worked in sales and marketing professionally where I also obtained many vocational qualifications.

I have two grown up children and a wonderful family in Manchester who have been very supportive when I accepted the calling to train as a Reader in the Licensed Lay Ministry. Moreover, I have never been short of support and encouragement from my church family at St Cross, Clayton.

It appears therefore a natural progression for me to offer myself in greater ways to assist in a more structural manner; and contribute to the church's growth tangibly and spiritually.

I believe God has called and is enabling me to be available in all circumstances for His work and greater good of my community.

Susan Pilkington

My journey into becoming a Reader started some 30 years ago when I first felt called into ministry, yes I agree it did take me a long time! There always seemed to be a genuine reason why the time was not right, health problems, stubbornness etc etc. Finally in December 2018 I could delay no longer and I am delighted to say I was accepted for training and now in 2021 I am being licensed as a Reader. A huge Thankyou to all who have supported me and I pray I fulfil my ministry in this role.

Gail Randall

I have worshipped at St Thomas for thirty years but for much of that time I can honestly say I felt no call to licensed ministry. I used my skills as a musician to rehearse the choir, formed an adult handbell ringing group and rang the tower bells. Then, quite unexpectedly, I began to sense that God was calling me to do more. At first, I ignored this but the inner voice became so strong that I knew I had to do something. I enrolled for the Foundations for Ministry course which I found deeply enriching. It seemed to confirm my calling and I continued with ALM training. After being commissioned as a Worship ALM we went into an interregnum and I became very busy leading some services and giving talks.

I believed this was something special I was being called to do. Since beginning Reader training, I have learnt so much and have valued the fellowship and support of the other students. I haven't looked back – only to the future and how I can best serve God in my life and at St Thomas.

Jo Sumsion

I have lived and worshipped in the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw since my husband Paul was ordained 17 years ago. We have three teenage children and four chickens. I work as a teaching assistant in one of the church schools in our parish. I am involved in leading music for worship and I trained as an ALM for worship in 2016-17 where my particular remit has been to lead the All-Age Worship team.

The events that began 16 months ago and the sudden reimagining of what it meant to be and do church were all part of my journey towards Reader ministry. As we reopen, both in our churches and in wider society, I am excited about the possibilities that there are for the Church to be at the centre of the rebuilding and to offer to all the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Tony Whitehead

My name is Tony Whitehead and I am 52 years old. I was brought up from a very early age in a very high Anglican church and as such was very disciplined in the BCP and the catechism and was able to recite the Nicene Creed by heart by the time I was taking my first Holy Communion at about the age of 11.

By the time I was in my late teens I felt I was ready to take the next step and look at ordained ministry. Then, material things took over and I quickly rejected this concept. Looking back now, I feel that this was expected of me rather than a calling I had myself.

My faith has evolved as I have grown but during my early life, I hadn't felt the calling of God or experienced the Holy Spirit. Attending a Pentecostal church in my late teens gave me that experience which I was lacking. Since then, I have felt the Holy Spirit direct my life. Reader Training has allowed me to fulfil my potential in the Spirit and allow me to minister not just to myself but to others in a more formal setting. The support of my family, especially my wife, has been paramount in my journey and I couldn't have done this without her support.

Please pray for those who were entitled Reader Emeritus in 2020:

Barry Barnes
Pam McGrath
Penny Mittler
David Newton
David Roberts
Michael Stuckey

Barry Barnes

After exploring my vocation throughout my teens and early twenties, I was directed to train as a Reader. My role has developed over the years. It has included preaching, leading worship and serving on both Diocesan and Deanery Synods. I have also been privileged to be part of a team taking Communion to people in their own homes. I embrace the challenge offered to me through Reader ministry as the Church continues to develop and change in the years ahead. I commend the role of Reader ministry to anyone exploring God's call.

Pam McGrath

A rewarding 35-year Art and Design teaching career in a Boys' Grammar, a Secondary Modern, and finally a Comprehensive School ended in early retirement in 2007. A persistent 'voice' told me 'You're not doing enough', so I became Sacristan at my local church and learned to bell ring to welcome the Millennium! The 'call' was unrelenting, so with advice from my Incumbent and congregation support, I began Reader training and was Licensed in 2010. I volunteer in the Chaplaincy at the local Prison (Pre-Covid) helping with 'Alpha' and 'Living with Loss' courses, and am privileged to be Lay Reader Chaplain for Rochdale Archdeaconry.

Penny Mittler

A rewarding 35-year Art and Design teaching career in a Boys' Grammar, a Secondary Modern, and finally a Comprehensive School ended in early retirement in 2007. A persistent 'voice' told me 'You're not doing enough', so I became Sacristan at my local church and learned to bell ring to welcome the Millennium! The 'call' was unrelenting, so with advice from my Incumbent and congregation support, I began Reader training and was Licensed in 2010. I volunteer in the Chaplaincy at the local Prison (Pre-Covid) helping with 'Alpha' and 'Living with Loss' courses, and am privileged to be Lay Reader Chaplain for Rochdale Archdeaconry.

David Newton

During the years of my ministry, I've been involved in a variety of activities relating to the Readers' licence, and the usual "routine" work shared by PCC members and other involved members of the parish.

I spent a number of years teaching Sunday School using the Scripture Union scheme and assisted at the Sunday Eucharists as well as preaching during those services and leading the occasional Evensong.

During the interregnum I welcomed and introduced visiting celebrants to the congregation, including Bishop Mark when then Archdeacon, helping them through our version of the service. I prepared the candidates for confirmation and led one of our Lenten study groups, enabling all involved to discuss matters of belief and faith.

Hopefully, God and the Vicar willing, I will be able to continue in some small way to contribute to the life of the parish.

David Roberts

My involvement with church began as a choir boy and later in PCCs including being church warden. I was licensed as Reader in 2014 and it has been a privilege to serve in our church. I am also involved in Gideon ministry.

I have retired twice; once from teaching and again from Tesco as customer assistant. I love classical music and performing jazz in a local orchestra. Sometimes you will find me in our caravan or on a Royal Enfield motorcycle. I look forward to the plans God has for my future.

Michael Stuckey

It was whilst I was attending Spring Harvest that I felt God calling me to some kind of ministry. I have enjoyed being a Reader for 25 years. Over time it has enabled me to serve in many roles. These have included being an Assistant University Chaplain, a member of the Diocesan Healing Group, a member of the Vocations Development Group, Messy Church, leading a House Group and of course leading and preaching in services.

I was delighted when asked to be Sub Warden in 2012. I value the support of the Readers and it is privilege to be involved in representing them both locally and nationally. In times of great change in all our ministries we can be certain of the guidance of an ever present, loving God.

Please pray for those who to be entitled Reader Emeritus today:

Ian Choularton
John Evans
Ron Knott
Joan Needham
Val Penoyre
Susan Pilkington
Jane Thompson
John Ward

Val Penoyre

I've attended St Peter's Levenshulme for most of my life! I was converted there in 1970 whilst a student and served in Children's and Youth Work before the Lord led me to Bible College in 1975. I did not expect to return but found myself in Manchester again in 1981. I became part of the team, leading house groups, Bible Studies and Discipleship courses. In order to have official recognition for this, I was licenced as Reader in 1994. Preaching, teaching and funeral ministry have been my main focus. I've now reached a certain age but my desire to share God's life-changing Word is undiminished!

Jane Thompson

Becoming a Reader was a mid-life opportunity to fulfil a desire to serve God in a specific ministry at a time when my husband had recently been ordained and our 4 children were grown/growing up. I was a teacher in Further Education and felt that this was 'my time.' Since my licensing in 2003, it has been a privilege to lead others in worship, prepare and preach sermons, serve on the ministry teams of 3 churches and be part of such things as Messy Church. It has been stimulating, challenging and faith-enhancing. I am glad to still be able to contribute to the life of the church we now worship in.

John Ward

I started attending St John's, Old Trafford in 1978 - firstly as a chorister, then as a server. My Rector, Revd Chris Ford, helped, in later years, to answer my questions about my 'calling' and it was suggested that Reader Ministry was the way I should take. I trained 1992-1996 and was licensed to St John's, a Church which helps many future ordinands, curates and other future ministers. I would like to think that I have helped in some of this guidance and training; I have preached and continued to serve in whatever ways have been needed, and hope to continue as necessary.

The Greeting

Please remain standing

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

We proclaim not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord
and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake.

For the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness',
has caused his light to shine within us:

so let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as we build up one another in all wisdom.

Peace be with you.
and also with you.

Please sit

The Rt Rev'd Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton and Warden of Readers, 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 licensed 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.

Today as we come together for the Admission and Licensing of new Readers, we also give thanks for the long service of some of our Readers and recognise their continuing contribution to the ministry of the Church, as the title of Reader Emeritus is conferred upon them.

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray for our Readers, for our candidates for Reader ministry and for the ministry of the whole Church.

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 Renewal of Commitment

The Bishop asks all Readers to stand and renew their commitment to ministry.

Bishop My brothers and sisters,
in the name of the Church
I thank you for your faithful ministry as Readers.
I pray God's continuing blessing upon you
and invite you now 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.**

Readers Will you continue to study the Scriptures,
to deepen your knowledge of the Christian faith
and to grow in your discipleship of Christ?
With God's help, I will.

Readers 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?
With God's help, I will.

Readers 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?
With God's help, I will.

Bishop 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.**

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.**

Readers sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Timothy 4. 1-5

A reading from 2 Timothy

read by Elaine Greenhalgh
Reader in the West Bolton Team

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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Luke 12. 35-40

read by Jo Sumsion

Reader Candidate, Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parish

A reading from The Gospel according to St Luke

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

At the end the reader says

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jane Mann
Reader at Christ's Church, Harwood
and Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain of Readers

Organ Music

Canzona: O Welt, ich muß dich lassen *Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)*
Op 65 No 21

Intercessions

led by The Rev'd Stephen Tranter
Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain of Readers

The Lord's Prayer

Leader 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.**

Conferral of the title 'Emeritus'

The Readers are presented to the Bishop with the following words:

Bishop Mark, I present to you these persons on whom the title Reader Emeritus is to be conferred.

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Bishop It is both right and a joy that we recognise the contribution that these individuals have made to the ministry of the Church over the past years, and to thank God for their willingness to offer themselves in ministry beyond retirement.

Will you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, readily and willingly undertake to give your prayerful support to these people, and will you continue to encourage them in their Office in the Church of God?

All **We will.**

The Bishop invites the people to pray

Bishop Almighty God,
giver of all good things,
sustain these your servants and give them
your strength and guidance
as they continue to offer themselves for
ministry in your Church;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Admission and Licensing of Readers

The Presentation of Candidates for Admission

The Sub-Warden of Readers presents those to be licensed as Readers to the Bishop, saying

Bishop Mark, I present to you these persons to be admitted to the office of Reader.

Candidates stand as their name is called

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?

Sub-Warden They have.

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

Sub-Warden They are.

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

Sub-Warden They have.

The Questions

The Bishop turns to the candidates and says

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.

Bishop 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 men and women 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.**

Candidates turn and face the Bishop

The Bishop invites the clergy of the new Readers' parishes or chaplaincies to stand and asks

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 clergy sit

The Admission

The candidates stand before the Bishop, who admits them to the office of Reader by the delivery of a copy of the Scriptures, with these words said to each

Bishop 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.**

When all have been admitted, the new Readers kneel and the Bishop blesses them with these words

Bishop 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 new Readers stand and vest themselves in a blue scarf

The Licensing

The Bishop gives the newly admitted Readers their licences with these words

Bishop 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.**

When all have received their licences, the Bishop says to the newly licensed Readers

Bishop We welcome you as ministers of God's word.

All **May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

The Blessing

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.**

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

Bishop Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Music after the service

Fugue, from Sonata No 2 in C minor *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*

With thanks Jane Mann, Elaine Greenhalgh, and Stephen Tranter
who led the retreat for our Reader candidates at Whalley Abbey.

**PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING PROMPTLY
TAKING YOUR ORDER OF SERVICE WITH YOU.
THANK YOU.**

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