A Celebration of Reader Ministry

Sunday 9th July 2023
3.00 pm
Welcome
Welcome to Manchester Cathedral for this Celebration of Reader Ministry.

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.

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

Gift Aid
During the service there will be a collection for the mission and aims of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.

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.

Minister Conducting the Service
The service is conducted by the Venerable David Sharples, Archdeacon of Rochdale and Sub-Dean.

Preacher
The Rt Revd Dr Matthew Porter
Bishop of Bolton

Musicians
The Manchester Cathedral Voluntary Choir is directed by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist. The organ is played by Jed Hughes, Sydney Nicholson Organ Scholar.
The Declaration of Assent

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

Preface

Bishop  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

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

I, 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 the Candidate to be licensed as Reader today:

**Barbara Adeuja**  
Benefice of Harpurhey, Christchurch and Collyhurst, The Saviour:

Looking back now, I think my Reader journey began with a great desire to serve – to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus in all areas of my life, to serve his people in the church, and to serve as a believer in the wider community. This desire has led me to be involved with teaching children about the gospel in Sunday school, to help struggling youth and children get back on track with their education and finally to become an ALM serving directly in the church.

My involvement in church life slowed down a little during the pandemic but the urge to serve God grew stronger and I had to respond. As a Reader in training, I had the opportunity to study the scriptures more deeply, and have had great discussions with other committed Christians which has helped me become more grounded on God’s word. The journey has been a trying one that calls for total dedication but I have had great support from my mentors, the church, my life group, other Readers and ministers in training. I feel confident to venture into the world of Christ’s ministry and excited to be a facilitator of God’s word as a teacher.

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

**Christine Hardy**  
Benefice of Prestwich, St Margaret:

From an early age I felt a call to serve God and I was already involved with church life through the choir. Reading the Epistle, leading Intercessions and becoming a Eucharist Assistant was next.

This seemed to answer God’s call, but it was just beginning. I then went on the ‘Foundations for Ministry Course’ and this led to me becoming a Reader. Being a Reader is both rewarding and a privilege, especially when ministering to the Church and community.

I thank God for everyone he calls and for my own journey, which is still developing.

**Tom Hennell**  
Benefice of Withington, St Paul:

Tom has been a licensed Reader at St Paul’s, Withington for thirty-four years. Until recently, he had been focusing chiefly on promoting and supporting young
peoples’ worship; and also in leading all-age worship presentations. Following Covid, Tom has taken on a new ministry, as the primary minister and preacher at monthly services of Choral Evensong following the format of the Book of Common Prayer. St Paul’s has long had a strong and vibrant tradition of choral worship, and this regular choral evensong has provided our choir with new challenges, while also reaching a wider worshipping congregation.

Ann Tattersall
Benefice of Chadderton, St Matthew and St Luke:

As a Reader, as we journey on to encourage others to come to know our loving Lord and the gifts he gives us, it has been wonderful to help others and be appreciated.

Licensed as a Reader in 2011, I have preached and assisted at Communion Services, led All-Age Worship and Funeral Services, led Bible Study courses, taken Home Communion, and opened the church initially for a social event one afternoon each week, then I expanded it to include a meal at lunch time - “A Place of Welcome”.

Through times of joy and grief, God builds our strength supporting others.

Susan Winstanley
Benefice of Blackley, St Peter:

I commenced Reader ministry in 1992 having been confirmed 2 years previously. It was following my confirmation that my calling for ministry began.

Having attended Sunday School regularly as a child and having been baptised, the minister would never confirm me at the age of 14. From the moment my journey began I had a fantastic personal tutor who understood the pressures of family life and study combined. This enabled me to flourish in an area that I found interesting and fulfilling.

Having been a Reader for 28 years, I have always found it to be a privilege to be able to teach, preach and lead worship. To act as the confidante for people who need a listening ear or time to sit in silence and be comforted.

During my time as a Reader I found teaching the young for confirmation and baptism preparation rewarding. Seeing these people find their own relationship with Jesus.

As I continue my journey with the title Reader Emeritus, I pray that I will continue to be guided by God’s grace.
Music Before the Service
Elegy, from A Downland Suite
John Ireland (1879-1962)
arr Alec Rowley (1892-1958)
Order of Service

Please stand as the ministers enter. The Sub-Dean, Archdeacon David Sharples, welcomes the congregation

Hymn

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend: I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee, that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end: O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.
O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Wolvercote NEH 420
John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)
William H Ferguson (1874-1950)

The Greeting

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

Bishop We proclaim not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord
All and ourselves as servants for Jesus’ sake.

Bishop For the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’,
All has caused his light to shine within us:

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

Bishop Peace be with you.
All and also with you.

Introduction

The Rt Revd Dr Matthew Porter, 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 a new Reader, 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 candidate 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.

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.

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.

Please stand
Hymn

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere;
we long for heaven’s demonstration here;
Jesus, your light shine bright for all to see:
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Before all things, in him all things were made;
inspiring culture, media, and trade;
may all our work serve your economy:
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere;
with us be present in our public square;
fill all who lead with your integrity:
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Forgive us, Lord, when we have not engaged;
falling to scribe your heart on history’s page;
make us again what we were made to be:
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Faithful to govern ever may we be;
selfless in service, loving constantly;
in everything may your authority:
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Eventide
NEH 331
W H Monk (1823-1889)
Noel Robinson
and Andy Flannagan

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Romans 12.1-13
read by Canon Avril Scott

A reading from the Letter 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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Psalm 100 sung by the Choir

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Chant by Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)
A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Jesus said, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

All stand

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling, 
joy of heaven, to earth come down, 
fix in us thy humble dwelling, 
all thy faithful mercies crown. 
Jesu, thou art all compassion, 
pure unbounded love thou art; 
visit us with thy salvation, 
enter every trembling heart.
Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
ever more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

_Blaenwern_ NEH 408
*Charles Wesley* (1707-1788)

_William Rowlands* (1860-1937)

_All sit_

**Sermon**

Shelia Radford
Licensed Reader and
Reader Chaplain for the Archdeaconry of Salford

**Intercessions**

The Revd Tracy Marshall
Team Rector, United Benefice of Atherton and Hindsford
with Howe Bridge
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.

Anthem sung by the Choir

We praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin: continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world:
doth acknowledge thee;
The Father: of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death:
thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage. 
Govern them: and lift them up for ever.
Day by day: we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

Te Deum in B flat
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Conferral of the title ‘Emeritus’

The Readers are presented to the Bishop with the following words

Sub-
Warden

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

As their names are called the Readers stand before the Bishop.

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 Readers receive their certificates from the Bishop after which they return to their places

The Admission and Licensing of a Reader 
and Presentation of the Candidate for Admission

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

Bishop Matthew, I present to you this person 
to be admitted to the office of Reader.

Sponsors read the name of each candidate, and the place where they are to serve

Bishop Has she made the Declaration of Assent, and thereby affirmed and declared here 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? Has she also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop and the declaration which must be made before a Reader is licensed?

Sub-Warden She has.

Bishop Is she a woman of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith?

Sub-Warden She is.

Bishop Has she been sufficiently prepared for the duties of this office?

Sub-Warden She has.
The Questions

The Bishop turns to the candidate 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?

Candidate

I do so believe.

Bishop

Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?

Candidate

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?

Candidate

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?

Candidate

By the grace of God, I will.

The candidate turns and faces the congregation.

Bishop

Brothers and sisters, this candidate has been chosen for the office of Reader. Will you uphold and encourage her in her ministry?

All

We will.

Bishop

Will you continue to pray for her?

All

We will.

The Bishop invites the clergy of the new Reader’s parish to stand and asks

Bishop

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

Clergy

We will.
Bishop Will you commend her to the people amongst whom she will minister?

Clergy We will.

The clergy sit

**The Admission**

The candidate stands before the Bishop, who admits her to the office of Reader by the delivery of a copy of the Scriptures, with these words

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.

The new Reader kneels and the Bishop blesses her 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 Reader stands and is vested in a blue scarf

**The Licensing**

The Bishop hands the newly admitted Reader her licence 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.

The Bishop then says to the newly licensed Reader

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

All May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

All return to their places.

Please stand
Hymn

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height; 
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light; 
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made, 
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth, 
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth; 
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above, 
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound, 
each jubilant chord re-echo around; 
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone, 
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song 
to him be outpoured all ages along: 
for love in creation, for heaven restored, 
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord! 

Laudate Dominum NEH 427
From the anthem ‘Hear my words’
by C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

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

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music after the service
Toccata, Symphony No 5, Opus No 42
Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Remain standing as the procession leaves the Cathedral

With thanks to Sheila Radford and Tracy Marshall who led the retreat

Refreshments are served after the service in the south aisle.
Everyone is invited to stay.

Please take this order of service away with you
 to reflect upon the readings and prayers,
 and as a reminder of your visit.

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