



**A Service for
the Licensing of
Readers,
Pastoral Workers
and
Lay Pioneers**

Saturday
9th October 2021
at
2.30pm

WELCOME

Pastoral Workers, Readers and Lay Pioneer are theologically trained and authorised lay people. Our Readers and Pastoral Workers have done Foundations for Ministry together followed by two further years of training relevant to their different callings. Our Lay Pioneers have trained with the Church Mission Society. The ministries of these three groups are different, but complementary; all are rich blessings to the life and mission of the Church.

Readers lead worship, preach and make connections between faith and everyday life. They work to pioneer new opportunities for mission, bring God into conversation and teach the faith. Some take Communion to the sick and do other pastoral work. As informed lay people Readers are not only a skilled resource for the Church, but they also bring the fruits of their training and experience as Readers into their communities and workplaces where they live out their faith and witness to Christ.

WELCOME

Pastoral Workers visit those who are ill and take Holy Communion to the housebound. They support the bereaved and prepare people for marriage and baptism. They run craft groups, lunch clubs, prayer meetings and home groups and do much more besides. They also lead teams and support and enable others who work in pastoral ministry. Pastoral Workers offer their skills within the Church and outside it, partly through the many contacts the Church makes with people at significant times in their lives, and partly through simply being out and about and known within their communities and workplaces.

WELCOME

Lay Pioneer Ministers are innovators who seek to start new missional projects to facilitate evangelism and discipleship. They aim to follow the example of Jesus in a ministry of relationship building with groups and individuals within a local community so that they can create opportunities for those on the fringes of the Church to journey together to explore questions of life and faith. Pioneer ministry has a broad spectrum of practice and can take place within, alongside or outside traditional church structures. At its very heart pioneer ministry is about seeking to share the love of Christ with those who do not yet know Him.

We also come this afternoon to give thanks for those who have faithfully served God and come to mark this milestone stage in their lives and ministries.

THOSE TO BE LICENSED

We are all here to pray for and celebrate the ministries of those to be licensed and the parishes where they will serve:

Readers

Helen Byrne

St Paul with St Luke Tranmere and Christ Church Higher Bebington

Elizabeth Cooper Clark

St James with Emmanuel, New Brighton

Simon Eardley

St James the Great, Thornton-le-Moors with Ince and Elton

Stephen Eccleston

Holy Trinity, Whaley Bridge

Alison Hunter Johnston

St Michael, Marbury, St Chad, Tushingham and St Mary, Whitewell

Lindsey Lawrence

Christ Church, Moreton

Richard Lewis

St Mary and St Helen, Neston

THOSE TO BE LICENSED

Graham Morris

St Mary, Upton

Edward Newman

Christ Church, Chester

Pastoral Worker

Jane Fisher

Christ Church, Moreton

Lay Pioneers

Caroline Bishop

St Mary the Virgin, Weaverham

Alice Price

St Hildeburgh, Hoylake

THOSE TO BE LICENSED

Readers transferring to the Diocese

Jeanette Howe

*St Mary the Virgin,
Eccleston and St Mary, Pulford*

Abigail Ogier

MHA Woodlands Care Home, Poynton

Hilary Savage

St Cross, Knutsford

Lindsay Tanner

Holy Trinity Without-the-Walls (Blacon)

Readers within the Diocese

Anne Draper

*St James the Great, Audlem, with
St John the Evangelist, Doddington and
St Chad, Wybunbury*

Rita Waters

St George, Stockport

Jill Williams

*St James the Great, Audlem, with
St John the Evangelist, Doddington and
St Chad, Wybunbury*

Pastoral Worker transferring within the Diocese

Johanna Whittall

St Chad, Over

THANKS

We give thanks for the ministries of those who have served as Pastoral Workers and Readers now become Emeriti

Readers

Mary Babbage

All Saints, Hale Barns with Ringway

Patricia Bradshaw

St John, Dukinfield

David Drinkwater

St Helen, Witton, Northwich

Ronald Fuller

St Andrew, Tarvin

Andrew Hardy

St John the Evangelist, Sandiway

Colin Haworth

St Andrew, Tarvin

Elizabeth Joyce

St Mary & St Helen, Neston

Basil Keys

St Nicholas, Burton

Janet Malpas

St Mary, Hollingworth

Francis Mawdsley

St Thomas & All Saints, Ellesmere Port

Alan Murch

St Chad, Romiley

THANKS

Gillian Newcombe

St Laurence, Frodsham

John Owens

Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield

Paul Ramsey

St Mary, Nantwich

Dorothy Sidebotham

St James, Gatley

Valerie Sparks

St Hilary, Wallasey

Christopher Taylor

St Mark, Antrobus

Alan Thompson

St Mary, Nantwich

Lorraine Williams

St Mary, Upton (Overchurch)

Pastoral Workers

Denise Campbell,

St John the Baptist, Guilden Sutton

Audrey Griffiths

St John the Evangelist, Kingsley, Christ Church,

Crowton & St Berteline & St Christopher,

Norton

Andrea Millington

St Michael & All Angels, Bramhall

Judith Newburn

Christ Church, Birkenhead

HYMN

- 1 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.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 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!

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

BLAENWERN

William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937)

THE GREETING

Bishop Mark greets the people

Blessed be God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

There is one body and one spirit.

**There is one hope
to which we were called.**

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you
and also with you.

All sit

THE WELCOME

Bishop Mark introduces the service

Bishops Sam and Julie then continues

We gather with joy to celebrate the ministries of those who are to be licenced as Pastoral Workers, Readers and Lay Pioneer, and continue to support those who are moving to serve in a new parish.

Pastoral Workers are called to work in partnership with the clergy and others in caring for people both within and beyond the family of the Church. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for him; and that it is by our love for one another that others will know that we are his disciples.

Those who are to be admitted as Pastoral Workers today will serve their communities in a variety of ways: preparing families for baptism and couples for marriage and supporting them in the years that follow, visiting the sick and housebound; comforting the bereaved and lonely. By God's grace they will proclaim the Good News of Christ's kingdom by the generosity of their care and the integrity of their lives.

THE WELCOME

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 authorised 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.

Lay Pioneers are called to work with others to reach out to people who have traditionally been outside the orbit of the Church. They are called to share the love of Christ by developing a wide variety of creative and innovative approaches to mission and developing them through to fruition. That might include using a shared or common interest or hobby to form small-group missional communities or inquirers groups. By their gifts of imagination and creativity they spread the good news of Jesus out to the world.

THE WELCOME

We also come this afternoon to give thanks for those who have faithfully served God and come to mark this milestone stage in their lives and ministries.

COLLECT

Bishop Mark says

Let us pray

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. **Amen.**

THE 1st READING

THE OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the book of Zechariah, chapter 8 beginning to read at the 14th verse.

read by Alison Hunter Johnston
St Michael, Marbury, St Chad, Tushingham
and St Mary, Whitewell

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Just as I purposed to bring disaster upon you, when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; do not be afraid. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgements that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and

THE 1st READING

the fast of the tenth, shall be seasons of joy and gladness, and cheerful festivals for the house of Judah: therefore love truth and peace.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, the inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Come, let us go to entreat the favour of the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.' Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to entreat the favour of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'

Here ends the first reading.

All stand

PSALM 23

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me, and Your rod and
staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend (born 1963)

© 1996 Thankyou Music/Adm.

All sit

THE 2nd READING

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 20 beginning to read at the 19th verse.

read by Simon Eardley

St James the Great, Thornton-le-Moors
with Ince and Elton

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with

THE 2nd READING

them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Here ends the second reading.

THE SERMON

The Rt Revd Julie Conalty
Bishop of Birkenhead

THE ANTHEM

Jesu, the very thought of thee

Jesu, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)
Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

*At the end those who are to be newly licensed
as Pastoral Workers, Readers and Lay
Pioneers, stand.*

THE PRESENTATION

Canon Vivien Gisby, Warden of Pastoral Workers, Readers and Pioneers, presents them to Bishop Mark

Bishop Mark,
I present to you these candidates to be admitted as Readers.

Bishop Mark responds

Vivien - 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?

She replies

They have.

THE PRESENTATION

Canon Vivien then says

Bishop Mark,
I present to you this candidate to be
admitted as a Pastoral Worker.

Bishop Mark responds

Vivien - has she made the Declaration of Assent, and thereby 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? Have she also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop?

She replied

She has.

THE PRESENTATION

Canon Vivien then says

Bishop Mark,
I present to you these candidates to be
admitted as Lay Pioneers.

Bishop Mark responds

Vivien - 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?

She replies

They have.

THE PRESENTATION

All the candidates turn to face Bishop Mark; he asks the Directors of Studies, the following to which they respond

Liz and Jenny,
are these men and women of Christian character,
well versed in the Holy Scriptures
and in the doctrines of our faith?

They reply

They are.

Bishop Mark continues

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

They reply

They have.

Bishop Mark turns to the candidates and says

In order that we may be satisfied
that you are ready to begin the ministry of
a Reader, Pastoral Worker or Lay Pioneer,
you must answer the questions we put to
you.

THE LICENSING

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

I do so believe.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

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?

By the grace of God, I will.

Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

By the grace of God, I will.

Will you promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world and especially among those whom you serve?

By the grace of God, I will.

Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

By the grace of God, I will.

THE LICENSING

The candidates turn to face the congregation, who respond to the Bishop's questions

Brothers and sisters, these men and women have been chosen for the offices of Reader, Pastoral Worker or Lay Pioneer. Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

We will.

Will you continue to pray for them?

We will.

Bishop Mark invites the Incumbents of the new Pioneer Ministers, Pastoral Workers and Readers' parishes to stand and asks them

Will you work closely with your colleagues and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

We will.

Will you commend them to the people amongst whom they will minister?

We will.

The candidates and incumbents then sit

THE LICENSING

Bishop Mark says:

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
we thank you that 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 servants,
now to be admitted to the office of
Reader, Pastoral Worker and Lay Pioneer
Minister, the needful gifts of grace.

Grant them wisdom and understanding
in their reading and proclamation
of your holy word
and keep them in all holiness,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LICENSING

Canon Vivien calls, by name, each candidate in turn.

The candidate then kneels before Bishop Mark saying:

N, I admit you as a Pastoral Worker/Reader/Lay Pioneer in the Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Take authority to exercise the office of Pastoral Worker/Reader/Pioneer Minister in this Diocese. Receive this licence as your authority to serve and may God richly bless you and his world in your ministry. **Amen.**

Each Reader receives a Bible and their incumbent places a scarf on them.

The Pastoral Worker receives a pastoral edition of the New Testament and her incumbent gives her, her badge.

Each Lay Pioneer receives a pastoral edition of the New Testament

THE LICENSING

Bishop Mark will hand the Licence to those Readers and Pastoral Workers who are moving to a new parish and says:

N, take authority to exercise the office of Reader/Pastoral Worker/Lay Pioneer in this Diocese.

Bishop Mark will hand the Licence to those Readers/Pastoral Workers who have moved from another diocese with these words:

Welcome to our fellowship.

N, take authority to exercise the office of Reader/Pastoral Worker in this Diocese.

After returning to their seats the newly licensed Readers/Pastoral Workers and Lay Pioneers then turn to face the congregation and Bishop Mark says the following to which the congregation respond:

I present to you your newly licensed Readers, Pastoral Workers and Lay Pioneers.

We welcome you.

Applause is given – all then stand

HYMN

- 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.

HYMN

- 3 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.
- 4 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 (born 1963)

All sit

THANKSGIVING

Bishop Mark invites those who are to be made Reader or Pastoral Worker Emeritus to stand

Almighty God,
you have entrusted to your Church
a share in the ministry of your Son
our great high priest:
we give you thanks and praise
for all those who, inspired by your Holy
Spirit, serve the ministry of your Church.
We thank you for these women and men
of faith who serve as Readers and Pastoral
Workers in this diocese.
We rejoice with them for the moments
when your kingdom has felt close at hand.
We pray with them for the places where
we would see your kingdom come.
We seek your blessing on them today as
they enter this new phase of their ministry.
May they hear your voice speak over them,
'Well-done, good and faithful servant'
and, encouraged by your word,
strengthen them in their witness to the
love and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

*led by Canon Liz Shercliff
and Revd Jenny Bridgeman,
Directors of Studies*

In fellowship with all who have served God faithfully in this place throughout the ages, let us make our prayers known to him.

Creator God, in Jesus
you make your dwelling-place among us.
He brings good news to the poor,
redemption to the lost, salvation to all.
Anoint your Church
with the power of your Spirit;
inspire us to live as your children;
equip us to proclaim the gospel of new life,
that the imprisoned may be set free,
the sick be made whole,
and the dead be raised
to abundant new life.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

INTERCESSIONS

Bless the ministers of your Church with wisdom and understanding, and with every good and perfect gift.

We pray for those faithful ministers whose example of devotion we follow, and we give particular thanks for all who minister as Readers, Pastoral Workers and Lay Pioneers.

Today we pray particularly for your blessing on those to be licensed as Readers, Pastoral Workers and Lay Pioneers

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Eternal God, increase the number of your servants and pour out your gift of encouragement upon us.

We pray for all those who are exploring your calling upon their lives and ask that you would stir up those who would be gifted as Readers, Pastoral Workers, and Pioneers in your church.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

INTERCESSIONS

Give us a voice
to cry out with the poor
for bread, for justice, for peace.
Transform our world
with mercy and truth;
let your name be hallowed in every land,
and your light shine on all who sit in
darkness
as we seek to share the love of Christ
with those who do not yet know him.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Give us a patient heart to watch and wait
with the sick and infirm,
the downcast, the refugee,
the prisoner and the despairing.
Let them know the power of your healing
and the comfort of your love.
Repair their brokenness,
renew their spirit and restore their hope.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

INTERCESSIONS

Send us as comforters
to those who mourn,
that we may share with them the joyful
news of Christ's rising.

Help us to follow the good examples
of all who have gone before us in the Way,
that we, with them and all the departed,
may know you in your eternal glory.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Give us thankful hearts
for your faithful servants in every generation,
as we remember all who have witnessed to
you in this region and diocese.

Rejoicing in their fellowship,
we pray for the fulfilment of your kingdom,
in the words our Saviour gave us:

INTERCESSIONS

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

All stand

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING

Bishop Mark says

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.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE SENDING OUT

- 1 Go forth and tell!
O church of God, awake!
God's saving news
to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus,
saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world
his worthy praise may sing.
- 2 Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all;
he will in grace
respond to all who call:
how shall they call
if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?
- 3 Go forth and tell
where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want,
the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord,
concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours
which cares for all humankind.

THE SENDING OUT

- 4 Go forth and tell!
The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts
let no one be denied;
live out your life
as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers
for his sole glory use.
- 5 Go forth and tell!
O church of God, arise!
go in the strength
which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations
his great name adore
and serve him,
Lord and king for evermore.

James E Seddon (1915-83)

WOODLANDS

© *The Representatives* Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Of the late James Edward Seddon/Admin

by The Jubilate Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Material from *Common Worship* included in this service is copyright

© *The Archbishops' Council 2000*

Scripture quotations are from

New Revised Standard Version Bible:

Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission.

All rights reserved.

CCLI Licence Number: 177097

THANKS

To those who have been Foundations for
Ministry Group Leaders

To those who have been Pastoral Worker
Course Tutors and Assessors

To those who have been Reader Trainers

To those who have been Mentors to the
candidates

To the Committee for Ministry
Administrators

To the Canon Precentor and Cathedral
Community for the preparation of this
service, hospitality and assistance

To the Cathedral Nave Choir and all
musicians