

**ORDINATION OF DEACONS**

**by the Bishop of Lichfield**

**Preacher**

**The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane**

***Assistant Bishop and Canon Custos***

**Michaelmas 2020**

**Saturday 26 September**

**at 11:00, 13:00, 15:00 and 17:00**

**Welcome to Lichfield Cathedral**

### The Dean and Chapter are delighted to share these great occasions as fifteen men and women are ordained to serve as deacons in the Church of God. It is good to gather in the Mother Church of our diocese, under the presidency of the Bishop of Lichfield, as we celebrate together these signs of Christ’s abiding presence with us.

**Ordinations**

# Ordination Services are occasions of great celebration in the life of a Diocese as we celebrate our faith and trust in the Living God whose Spirit comforts and sustains the Church, not least through the calling of men and women as Bishop, Priest and Deacon. The whole Church is committed to a life of sharing God’s healing and truth with a sick and hungry world: our ordained ministers personify this embodiment in the Church of God’s work in the world.

**Collection**

The collection will be taken as people leave the building. There are collection boxes situated by the doors as well as contactless devices for those who wish to donate using their credit or debit card. The proceeds from the collection will be to support the life and mission of this Cathedral Church. Thank you for your generosity.

**Receiving Communion**

Communion will be offered only in bread at this time. Please follow the instructions given as to how to do this. Gluten free host will be available on request. If you do not normally receive communion please feel free to come forward for a blessing.

**Practicalities**

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the stewards.

**Lavatories** Please ask a steward for directions.

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**Music & Speech**

There is no congregational singing allowed at this time and we are also asked to speak softly. It is also mandatory to wear a face covering in the Cathedral.

### Joining in

Please join in with whatever is printed **in bold type**. The order of service indicates which is the appropriate posture (standing or sitting) but please feel free to stand or sit as you are able.

**Preacher:**The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane

*Canon Custos and Assistant Bishop*

*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane is an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield and Canon Custos of Lichfield Cathedral. Born and bred in Stoke-on-Trent, she worked as a Speech and Language Therapist in the NHS before training for ordination. She was ordained to the diaconate in Lichfield Cathedral in 1993 and served her curacy in the Stafford Team Ministry. She has ministered at Ely Cathedral and in the Diocese of Norwich as Director of Communications and Bishop’s Chaplain and then as Archdeacon of Norwich. She was consecrated as a bishop in Canterbury Cathedral in 2006 to serve the Diocese of Derby and now has returned, full circle, to Lichfield.*

**Music**

*The organ in today’s services is played by Martyn Rawles, the Assistant Director of Music and Cathedral Organist.*

*Before the service will be played*

Komm', heiliger Geist. BWV 652 (Come, Holy Ghost)

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*After the service the organ voluntary will be*

Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren (Now praise, my soul, the Lord)

*Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*

*The cantors, Josie, Emily, James and Thomas, are members of the Choir.*

*At 11:00 and 13:00 James and Thomas will sing*

Panis Angelicus

*Words from the hymn ‘Sacris solemniis’, Thomas Aquinas (c.1225–1274)*

*Music: César Auguste Jean Guillaume Hubert Franck (1822 –1890)*

*At 15:00 and 17:00 Emily and Josie will sing*

A Gaelic Blessing

*Words and Music: John Rutter (b.1945)*

**A message from our partner church in Germany**

The Nordkirche was formed at Pentecost 2012 and is the product of the merger between the North Elbian Church, the Church of Mecklenburg and the Pomeranian Church. With 2.25 million members it is the fifth largest evangelical church in Germany.

The partnership with the Diocese of Lichfield allows engagement with the ongoing work of reconciliation and promotes Christian unity.

Representatives attend each other’s ordinations and licensing services and the concerns of each church feature regularly in one another’s prayer diaries.

**Gruß aus der Nordkirche zu den Ordinationen in der Diözese Lichfield im September 2020**

Liebe Ordinandinnen und Ordinanden, liebe Schwestern und Brüder,

Herzliche Grüße aus Ihrer Partnerkirche, der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Norddeutschland. Gern wären unser Direktor Dr. Christian Wollmann und ich persönlich bei Ihrer Ordination gewesen. Die Flüge für Ende Juni waren bereits gebucht. Doch werden wir in diesen Zeiten der Corona-Pandemie dazu gebracht, uns auf das Wesentliche zu besinnen: Wen kann ich einladen, wen sehen, was ist mir wirklich wichtig zu sagen? Und wie kann ich auch ohne persönliche Begegnung Kontakte halten?

Ich bin dankbar, dass die Partnerschaft zwischen Ihrer Diözese und unserer Nordkirche auch in diesen Zeiten weitergeht, ja dass wir gerade jetzt unsere Erfahrungen austauschen und füreinander beten. An diesem Wochenende schließen wir in Sie unserer Kirche ganz besonders in unsere Fürbitte ein.

Hier bei uns in Hamburg hängt seit Ende März auf großen Bannern an über 200 Kirchen das Wort aus dem 2. Timotheusbrief „Gott gibt uns den Geist der Kraft, Liebe und Besonnenheit“. Es soll Mut machen vor allem in Zeiten, in denen in den Kirchen kein Gottesdienst gefeiert werden konnte. Es soll mit wenigen Worten von unserer Hoffnung erzählen. Diesen Geist der Kraft, der Liebe und der Besonnenheit wünsche ich heute Ihnen!Gott segne Sie und Ihren Dienst in unserer weltweiten Kirche. Und Gott segne unsere Partnerschaft.

*Pastorin Christa Hunzinger, Europareferentin im Zentrum für Mission und Ökumene – Nordkirche weltweit*

**Word of greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**in Northern Germany**

Dear ordinands, dear sisters and brothers,

Warm greetings from your partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany. Our director Dr Christian Wollmann and I would have loved to attend your ordination personally. The flights were already booked for Petertide weekend. But in these times of Covid 19 we need to concentrate on the essentials: Whom can I invite, whom can I see, what is the most important thing to say? And how can I keep in touch without meeting personally?

I am thankful that the partnership between your diocese and our Nordkirche continues in these times, that in some aspects we even exchange our experiences and pray for each other more intensively. This weekend we especially pray for you in our Nordkirche.

Here in Hamburg, big banners are hanging at over 200 church buildings with the word from the second letter to Timothy: “God has given us the spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind”. This word wanted to encourage us especially in times when no services could be celebrated in our churches. With a few words only it wants to witness our hope. I ask for this spirit of power, love and of a sound mind for you today. God bless you and your ministry in our worldwide church. And may God bless our partnership.



*Revd Christa Hunzinger,*

*Europe Secretary in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany – Centre for Global Ministries and Global and Ecumenical Relations*

**Candidates**

*The candidates for ordination to the diaconate are*

**At 11:00**

**Wolverhampton Episcopal Area – Lichfield Archdeaconry**

Amanda Mary ARTHUR The Penkridge Team Ministry

Simon Neil Nathaniel FOSTER Lichfield S.Chad

Graham Michael WIGLEY Shenstone and Stonnall

**At 13:00**

**Wolverhampton Episcopal Area – Walsall Archdeaconry**

Ross Thomas BROOKS Ettingshall and Wolverhampton S.Martin and S.Stephen

Valerie Ann FAIRCLOUGH Central Wolverhampton

Joseph Luke SMITH Walsall S.Matthew

**at 15:00**

**Shrewsbury Episcopal Area**

Stephen ALSTON Baschurch and Weston Lullingfield with Hordley

Gerald Arthur (Jess) HARPER Albrighton, Boningale and Donington

Gareth INGHAM Oakengates, Priors Lee and Wrockwardine Wood

Samuel Mark JOHNSON Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch

James WEAVER Oswestry Holy Trinity

**at 17:00**

**Stafford Episcopal Area**

Frances Ann BRIDGEWATER Cheadle with Freehay

Garry Richard HIGGS Rocester, Denstone and Croxden with Hollington

Ian Charles Thomas PERRY Stafford Saint Paul and Saint Thomas

Glen Robert THOMAS North Potteries **Declarations**

*Prior to this service, the candidates for ordination all made and subscribed the Declaration of Assent and took the required Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience.*

**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 and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

**Oath of Allegiance**

I, *N*, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law: So help me God.

**Oath of Canonical Obedience**

I, *N*, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and his successors in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

**The Gathering and Presentation**

*Please stand, if you are able, as the Bishop of Lichfield moves to the Nave Sanctuary.*

**The Greeting**

*Remain standing as the Bishop 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.**

Please sit as the Bishop offers words of welcome and then says

God calls his people to follow Christ,

and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

to declare the wonderful deeds

of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ,

the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit.

In baptism the whole Church is summoned

to witness to God’s love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given a variety of ministries.

Deacons are ordained so that the people of God

may be better equipped to make Christ known.

Theirs is a life of visible self-giving.

Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission;

as he washed the feet of his disciples,

so they must wash the feet of others.

As we gather together before God, and trusting in his grace alone,  
let us join with these ordinands in confessing our sins.

**Prayers of Penitence**

*The Bishop says*

In a dark and disfigured world

we have not held out the light of life.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world

we have failed to share our bread.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world

we have kept the love of God to ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The Bishop announces God’s forgiveness of our sins*

May the God of love and power forgive you

and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Stand if you are able*

**Gloria in Excelsis Deo**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Sit*

**The Presentation**

*The Archdeacon presents the ordinands to the Bishop*

Reverend Father in God, I present the following persons to be ordained to the office of deacon in the Church of God:

*N,* to serve *in the parish of* *N*.

When all the ordinands have been presented, the Bishop asks the Bishops’ Director of Ordinands, The Revd Romita Shrisunder

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

***BDO*** They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

**BDO** They do.

The Bishop turns to the ordinands and says

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

***Ordinands*** I do so believe.

*The Bishop continues*

I invite the Archdeacon to confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

*The Archdeacon says*

They have duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop. They have 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’.

*Remain seated as the Bishop prays*

**The Collect**

Let us therefore pray for these ordinands,

and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,

through your Son you have called us into the fellowship

of your universal Church:

hear our prayer for your faithful people

that in their vocation and ministry

each may be an instrument of your love,

and give to your servants now to be ordained

the needful gifts of grace;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*All are seated for the readings*

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Old Testament Reading**

*read by The Dean.*

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

*1 Samuel 3.1-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
     and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.  For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand if you are able*

Alleluia Alleluia

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit

and they are life, says the Lord.

**Alleluia** cf. John 6.63

**Gospel Reading**

*read by the Archdeacon*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’  And he said to them, ‘What is it you want me to do for you?’ And they said to him, ‘Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’  But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’  They replied, ‘We are able.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;  but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

*Mark 10.35-45*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A fanfare is sounded to honour the reading of the Gospel.*

*Sit*

**Sermon**

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane

*A time of silence is kept*

*The Bishop invites members of the congregation to stand if they are able and says*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,**

**Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

### The Liturgy of Ordination

**The Declarations**

*The ordinands stand before the Bishop, who addresses the congregation*

Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ’s kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God’s purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God’s people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God’s presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

*The Bishop addresses the ordinands directly*

We trust that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to give yourself wholly to his service, that you may draw his people into that new life which God has prepared for those who love him.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

***Ordinands***I do so accept them.

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?

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

Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith

as the Church of England has received it,

and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?

***Ordinands***I believe it, and will so do.

Will you strive to make the love of Christ known

through word and example,

and have a particular care for those in need?

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

Will you be a faithful servant in the household of God,

after the example of Christ,

who came not to be served but to serve?

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

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life

and that of your household according to the way of Christ,

that you may be a pattern and example to Christ’s people?

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

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel

for the sake of the kingdom of God?

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

Will you accept the discipline of this Church

and give due respect to those in authority?

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

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit,

continually stir up the gift of God that is in you,

to grow in holiness and grace?

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

All who are able stand as the ordinands face the congregation,

and the Bishop says

Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that these ordinands are ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations.

Is it now your will that they should be ordained?

***All respond* It is.**

Will you continually pray for them?

***All respond* We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

***All respond* We will.**

*The ordinands turn to face the Bishop, who continues to address them*

In the name of our Lord, we bid you remember the greatness of the trust in which you are now to share: the ministry of Christ himself, who for our sake took the form of a servant. Remember always with thanksgiving that the people among whom you will minister are made in God’s image and likeness. In serving them you are serving Christ himself, before whom you will be called to account.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Members of the Congregation sit as the ordinands kneel*

*Silence is kept*

**The Litany**

*Sung by the Revd Canon Andrew Stead, Canon Precentor and a cantor.*

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father,

in union with Christ our Lord:

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,

that they may serve him in truth and love,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Bishop, for Clive and Sarah, the area bishops,

and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons,

that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For

(11:00) Amanda, Simon, and Graham

(13:00) Ross, Valerie, and Joseph

(15:00) Stephen, Jess, Gareth, Samuel and James

(17:00) Frances, Garry, Ian and Glen

called to be deacons in his Church,

let us pray to the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and suffering,

for the aged and infirm,

for the lonely and neglected,

and for all who remember and care for them,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the hungry,

for the homeless and the oppressed,

for all prisoners and captives,

and for our brothers and sisters

who are persecuted for their faith,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen,

for the leaders of the nations,

and for all in authority,

let us pray to the Lord.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,

and in communion with Blessed Mary the Virgin,

Chad our patron, St Michael and all Angels,

and all the saints,

we commit ourselves, one another,

and our whole life to Christ our God;

to you O Lord.

**The Ordination Prayer**

*Please continue to pray for the ordinands who remain kneeling.*

*The Bishop stands to pray:*

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,

because in your infinite love

you have formed throughout the world

a holy people for your own possession,

a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you

because you sent your only Son Jesus Christ

to take the form of a slave;

he humbled himself for our sake,

and in obedience accepted death,

even death on a cross.

We praise and glorify you

because in every age you send your Spirit

to fill those whom you have chosen,

to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,

for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks

that you have called these your servants,

whom we ordain in your name,

to share as deacons in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,

who came not to be served but to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

*Here the bishop silently lays his hands on the head of each ordinand,*

*first saying*

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant *N*  
for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.

*When the Bishop has laid hands on all of the ordinands, he continues*

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,

give these your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministry.

Make them faithful to serve

and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.

May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son,

who washed the feet of his disciples,

and set the needs of others before his own.

May their life be disciplined and holy,

their words declare your love and their actions reveal your glory,

that your people may walk with them in the way of truth

and be made ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,

belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Giving of the New Testament**

The newly ordained Deacons are given a copy of the New Testament.

The Bishop says

Receive this book,

as a sign of the authority given you this day

to speak God’s word to his people.

Build them up in his truth and serve them in his name.

**The Welcome**

*The newly ordained deacons put on their stoles.*

*The Dean says to the newly ordained deacons*

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord  
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.

**We welcome you as fellow servants in the gospel:**  
**may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,**  
**that you may be rooted and grounded in love.**

Please stand if you are able as all applaud the newly ordained deacons.

An Organ fanfare is played.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

**The Peace**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

We belong to him through faith,

heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a socially distanced sign of peace.

**Preparation of the Table**

**Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*After the washing of the president’s hands*

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

*Remain standing if you are able*

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise

through your servant, Jesus Christ our Lord.

At his baptism he was revealed as your beloved Son.

Coming among us as one who serves,

he taught us that the greatest in your kingdom

are those who make themselves least and the servants of all.

Although he was their teacher and their Lord,

he washed the feet of his disciples

and commanded us to do the same,

that we might reveal the power of your love,

made perfect in our human weakness.

Therefore with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

**Sanctus and Benedictus**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,**

**we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,**

**until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,

his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,

we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,

we bring before you this bread and this cup

and we thank you for counting us worthy

to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people

and gather into one in your kingdom

all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of Blessed Mary the Virgin,

Chad our Patron, Michael and all Angels,

and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,

through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, with whom and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

Remain standing if you are able as, after a short silence, the Bishop introduces

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

*The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

**Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, **you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

**Giving of Communion**

*The Bishop invites the people to Communion, saying*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The Bishop receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving physically their communion. The words for the distribution are used once at this point and not repeated to each communicant.*

**Spiritual Communion**

I invite you to open your hands as a sign of your openness

to receiving God’s grace as we pray together:

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,**

**for all the benefits you have given me,**

**for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,**

**I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.**

**O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,**

**may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,**

**and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

*Those of any Christian denomination who are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion in their own churches are invited to do so here, as directed by the stewards (please let a steward know if you require a gluten-free wafer). Those who wish to come forward for a blessing are also most welcome.*

*If you have difficulty in walking to the communion station, please inform a steward and we will gladly bring the sacrament to you in your place.*

*The Cantors will sing a motet as members of the congregation receive their communion. The organ will then play until all have returned to their seats and a brief period of silence is observed.*

*Stand if you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

whose ascended Son gave gifts of leadership and service to the Church:

strengthen us who have received this holy food

to be good stewards of your manifold grace,

through him who came not to be served but to serve,

and give his life as a ransom for many,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Sending Out**

Remain standing if you are able as the Bishop proclaims the Blessing

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 organist plays the voluntary as**the Bishop of Lichfield leads his new deacons to the Great West Doors.*

*The congregation should sit once the procession has passed and wait for the stewards’ instructions on how to leave the building safely.*

*There are donation boxes and contactless donation points available as you leave the building. We are always grateful to you for your generosity.*

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