



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.



WELLS
CATHEDRAL



Admission, Licensing and Rededication of Readers

Saturday 6 October 2018

2.00 pm

Music before the service

Prelude and "St Anne" Fugue in E flat BWV 552 *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Music during the Procession of Readers

Overture from the Music for the Royal Fireworks *G.F. Handel (1685-1759)*

In Christ's name welcome to you from far and near

Welcome to Wells Cathedral and to this annual service of rededication of Readers who do such valuable work within our Diocese and during which we will admit new Readers who have finished their training and licence Readers who have moved into the Diocese. The service is led by the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and the Venerable Simon Hill, Archdeacon of Taunton and Diocesan Warden of Readers.

We are grateful to Matthew Redman for playing for this service.

As you leave at the end of the service there will be a retiring collection for the Readers' Ministry of Zambia.

The Cathedral has a loop system.

Hearing aids may be switched to the position T.



Please do not take photographs (still or video) during the service, and please ensure your mobile phone is turned off during the service. Thank you for your co-operation.

The Reverend Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle, *Precentor*
In Residence, 6 October

Welcome

A message from the Bishop of Bath and Wells

Some 35 years ago there was a hymn, popular at the time, known as 'Rejoice! Rejoice!'. The chorus was 'Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you, The hope of glory in our hearts. He lives! He lives! His breath is in you, Arise a mighty army, we arise'. I remember singing that and being struck by the words of the last verse. 'Though we are weak, His grace is everything we need; We are made of clay but this treasure is within. He turns our weaknesses into His opportunities, So that the glory goes to Him.'

These words pick up an image which we find in Paul's Second letter to the Corinthians where he writes that 'God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ'. But those words are immediately followed by words which say that 'we have this treasure in jars of clay'. That juxtaposition of glory and weakness is important as we think about our ministry as disciples and followers of Christ. The sort of a clay pot, or earthenware jar, that Paul had in mind was something fragile, breakable, disposable and not in itself a thing of beauty. But it was often used to contain olive oil which would be burnt to give light to the house, or which might be used to bring healing, or be perfumed to give the house a fragrant aroma. The important thing was not the pot, useful in itself, but the oil it contained. So in ministry we recall that we are called to be those who make the life and light of Christ known. In our words and our deeds and our lives we are to live and tell the story of Jesus, his death and resurrection. As Paul says in that passage, 'We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.' (2 Corinthians 4:5). Ministry is about bringing our weakness and God's grace together in order that the glory goes to Him. We rejoice indeed that the hope of glory is in our hearts and by God's grace we pray that this may be evident in our faces and in our lives.

+ Peter Bath and Wells

The Oaths

Each time a minister takes up a new office by the licence of the Bishop, s/he must first make the Declaration of Assent and the oaths of allegiance and of canonical obedience. The new Readers will make these oaths prior to the service.

The Bishop reads the Preface to the Declaration of Assent

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?

The reader responds:

Declaration

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 Bath and Wells and his successors in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

The Candidates

The candidates for admission and licensing as Readers and the parishes/benefices in which they will serve are:

Susan McKen Benefice of Beercrocombe with Curry Mallet, Hatch Beauchamp, Orchard Portman, Staple Fitzpaine, Stoke St Mary with Thurlbear and West Hatch (*also known as the Seven Sowers Benefice*)

Richard Wheller Benefice of Nailsea Christ Church with Tickenham

To be welcomed to the Diocese of Bath and Wells are:

Christine Davies Benefice of Preston Plucknett transferred from Diocese of Llandaff

Elizabeth Harper Diocese of Bath and Wells transferred from Diocese of Ely

Richard Harrison Benefice of Berrow and Brean transferred from Diocese of Gloucester

William Newton Newey NHS Chaplaincy Team transferred from Diocese of Guildford

The Gathering

Before the service begins, the Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation.

When the clock has struck, all stand to sing the following hymn as the Procession enters the Nave.

**Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all his mighty deeds;
Tell of love which knows no limits,
Grace which meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness
Into his most marvellous light;
Brought his truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified;
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But he brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know his welcome
And his countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people he intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your master sends:
Royal priests, fulfil your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service -
Sing his praise, his love declare.**

*Words: James E Seddon (1915-1983) based on 1 Peter 2
Music: HYFRYDOL melody by Richard Huw Pritchard (1811-87)*

Bishop We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop This is the day that the Lord has made

All **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

All sit.

The Bishop welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

The Liturgy of the Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

read by Ann Goddard

A reading from the book of Ruth.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said,

‘Do not press me to leave you
 or to turn back from following you!
 Where you go, I will go;
 where you lodge, I will lodge;
 your people shall be my people,
 and your God my God.
 Where you die, I will die—
 there will I be buried.
 May the Lord do thus and so to me,
 and more as well,
 if even death parts me from you!’ (1.1-17)

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

Please stand to sing the following hymn

Intro Verse

Refrain

All a-round us we have known you, all cre-

a-tion lives to hold you. In our liv-ing and our dy-ing we are bring-ing you to birth.

**God beyond our dreams, you have stirred in us a
 mem'ry;
 You have placed your pow'rful spirit in the hearts of
 humankind.
 All around us we have known you,
 All creation lives to hold you,
 In our living and our dying
 We are bringing you to birth.**

**God, beyond all names, you have made us in your image;
We are like you, we reflect you; we are woman, we are
man.**

**God, beyond all words, all creation tells your story;
You have shaken with our laughter, you have trembled
with our tears.**

**God, beyond all time, you are labouring within us;
We are moving, we are changing in your spirit ever new.**

**God of tender care, you have cradled us in goodness,
You have mothered us in wholeness, you have loved us
into birth.**

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

GOSPEL READING

read by Gerald Lush

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. (1.1-6,17)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

After the introductory sentence, all sit for

THE SERMON The Reverend Tina Hodgett, *Evangelism Team Leader*

Silence is kept

All stand to sing the following hymn

**O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
And with love everlasting you besiege me:
In every moment of life and death, you are.**

**Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
You have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.**

**Although your Spirit is upon me,
Still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you;
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**For you created me and shaped me,
Gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) based on Psalm 139

Rededication, Licensing and Welcoming of Readers

THE REDEDICATION

With the exception of those to be newly admitted, all Readers holding a Licence or Permission to Officiate in the Diocese stand.

The Bishop says

My brothers and sisters, Christ has called us into the fellowship of the universal Church and, according to our gifts, to be agents of his mission in the world.

Readers are called to the ministry of the Word: to bring God into the conversation, to lead people to Christ that they may become his disciples, and to equip them to share the good news of God's kingdom. They lead worship, teach and preach, building up the Church, and working with others to make Christ visible.

When you were admitted as a Reader you undertook to be faithful in prayer and, by word and example, to serve those for whom Christ died. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as heralds of his gospel and ministers of his grace.

Bishop Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for the world?

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

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

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

Bishop Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

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

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

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

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

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

Readers **By the grace of God, we will.**

Readers **God our Father,
in the name of Christ and in the power of your Spirit,
we commit ourselves to you and one another,
to live, work, and pray as one body in Christ,
to trust each other as fellow workers in your Church,
and to give ourselves with body, mind, and spirit
to the ministry to which you have called us.
Give us vision, give us courage, and give us joy,
that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to your eternal glory.
Amen.**

The Readers sit.

THE ADMISSION AND LICENSING OF NEW READERS

The candidates to be admitted as Readers stand.

Warden Bishop, I present these candidates for admission to the office of Reader.

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

The Director of Studies replies

They are.

Bishop Have they been well prepared for the duties of this office and made the declarations required by Canon Law?

Warden They have.

The Bishop addresses the candidates

Bishop Do you believe God is calling you to Reader ministry?

Candidates **This is my belief.**

Bishop Will you endeavour to raise the hearts and minds of people in worship to the true and living God and in preaching the word to them?

Candidates **By the grace of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, persevere in prayer, in the study of the Scriptures and in the understanding of our Faith?

Candidates **By the grace of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ and promote unity, peace and love within the Church and the world?

Candidates **By the grace of God, I will.**

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

Candidates **By the grace of God, I will.**

All present stand and the candidates turn and face the congregation.

Bishop Those who respond to God's call to become a Reader need your continuing encouragement and support. Will you offer them this and uphold them in your prayers?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

Bishop I commend to you these people to be admitted as Readers, asking you to pray for them, for those they will work with and those among whom they will minister.

All kneel, if they are able, or sit for silent prayer.

Bishop Receive, O Lord, our prayers for your servants who seek the gift of your Spirit for the office and work of a Reader.

Strengthen, sanctify and bless them.

Make them fruitful in their labours and give them joy in your service, for Christ's sake.

All **Amen.**

In turn, each candidate stands before the Bishop with a sponsor from their benefice and their incumbent, and either their sponsor or incumbent introduces them by name. The Bishop takes them by the hand, saying,

Bishop N, I admit you as a Reader in the Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate **Amen.**

The Bishop anoints the newly licensed Readers and each Reader receives a Bible, a certificate of admission and licence to officiate from the Bishop.

Bishop Receive this book, as a sign of the authority given to you this day to speak God's word to his people. Build them up in his truth and serve them in his name.

Each candidate is vested with a blue Reader's scarf.

THE WELCOMING OF READERS TO THE DIOCESE

Readers who are to be welcomed to the diocese come forward in turn and stand before the Bishop, each being introduced by their parish priest or by their Archdeaconry Warden.

The Bishop takes each Reader by the hand, saying

We gladly welcome you as a Reader in this Diocese.

Anne Sear, Secretary of the Reader Council says

Bishop and Readers you are called into ministry with the whole people of God. As the baptised body of Christ we are all called to serve God in the world. Therefore clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you and above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom and whatever you do, in word or deed: do in the name of the Lord Jesus.

All **Amen.**

All stand to sing the following hymn



Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

**Many the gifts, many the people,
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 Making your kingdom come.**

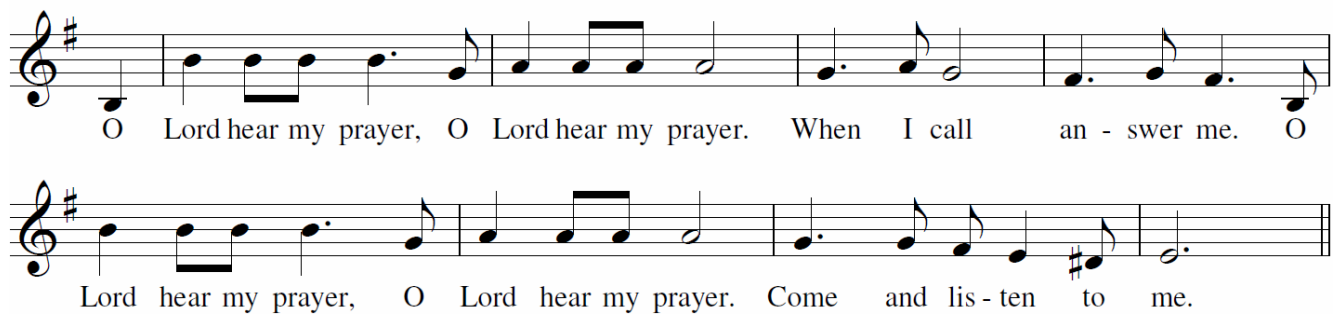
**Christ, be our light!
 Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gathered today.**

Words: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)
 Music: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT Bernadette Farrell

All sit.

THE PRAYERS

The prayers are led by Louise Jarman and Jane Rees. At the end of each bidding, all join in singing the response



O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
 Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Reader Guide your Church in the way of the Gospel: may your Holy Spirit keep her faithful and warm hearted, Lord we pray,

All **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader Bless and guide Peter and Ruth, our Bishops, and all who share ministry in this Diocese, that we may be faithful to our calling, Lord we pray,

All **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader Bless Susan and Richard as they begin their ministry among us, and Christine, Elizabeth, Richard and William in their new stages of ministry, Lord we pray,

All **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader That the Church may go out to meet all people, and become a place of trust and welcome, Lord we pray,

All **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader For all who are beginning to know Christ, and who long to centre their lives on his will, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader Keep all who have found you rooted in your love; may they grow in goodness and truth, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader For our cities, towns and villages, and for the thriving of the communities within and around them, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader For all who suffer trials and afflictions and who need our kindness and help, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader We remember those who have gone before us in faith. Grant us to enter with them into the life that never ends, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader Grant us the joy of praise, in communion with all your saints, Lord we pray,
All **○ Lord, hear my prayer...**

Reader As our Saviour taught us, with confidence we pray
All **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 for

The Acclamation and Dismissal

The acclamation is led by the newly licensed Readers

Readers There are varieties of gifts,
All **but the same Spirit.**

Readers There are varieties of service,
All **but the same Lord is served.**

Readers There are varieties of working,
All **but the same God is at work in all.**

Readers There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call,
All **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Father of all,**

Readers over all and in all, to whom Christ ascended on high.
All **And through his Spirit he bestows gifts on us:**

Readers some are apostles, prophets, evangelists;
All **pastors and teachers he gives us to equip God's people:**

Readers for work in his service,
All **to build up Christ's body,**

Readers to unite us in faith,
All **and bring us to the full stature of Christ.**

Bishop The God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Bishop Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

During the hymn the Bishop leads the newly-licensed and welcomed Readers in procession to the West End of the Cathedral.

All sing

**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 glorious praise may sing.**

**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?**

**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 mankind.**

**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.**

**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.**

*Words: James E. Seddon (1915-1983)
Music: WOODLANDS W. Greatorex (1877-1949)*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata in D major

M. Lanquetuit (1894-1985)

As you leave at the end of the service there will be a retiring collection for the Readers' Ministry of Zambia.

**All are warmly invited for refreshments
in the North Transept, to the left of the altar.**