



ANNUAL SERVICE FOR LICENSED LAY MINISTERS



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD

1 NOVEMBER 2025, ALL SAINTS' DAY



WELCOME

Welcome to this Cathedral Church, and to this annual service for Licensed Lay Ministers, which includes the Admission and Licensing of new Church of England Readers.

Please pray for all those to be admitted and licensed, for their families and all who love and support them, and for their parishes and the people they will serve.

A list of those being licensed is found towards the back of this order of service. The president is the Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester and the preacher is Revd Andrew Blyth, the Director of Mission and Ministry.

The admission and licensing take place in the context of Holy Communion. If you normally receive Communion in your own church, you are most welcome to receive it here.

Those wanting gluten-free wafers should come to the dedicated station in front of the High Altar at the east end of the Cathedral.

All others are most warmly invited to come forward at the same time to receive a blessing.

Please bring this order of service with you so that the ministers know that you want a blessing.

There is a LOOP system for the hard of hearing, which is most effective in the centre of the Cathedral away from the pillars.

A large print version of this service booklet is available. Please feel free to sit at any point during the service.

This is a public occasion. Please be aware that photography will take place during the service, and that the service is being relayed around the building on the TV screens, and livestreamed. No other photography or filming is permitted during the service.

Still images captured by the photographer today may be used in promotional materials published by Christ Church Cathedral or the Diocese of Oxford.

For any questions or concerns relating to photography taking place today, please email communications@oxford.anglican.org

There will be a collection during the service for the Adams-Myland Fund which provides grants to support Readers undertaking further study. Please use a gift aid envelope if you are a UK tax-payer.

The Candidates robe in the Chapter House before the Service and move to the cloister for the procession.

Please stand as the procession of Licensed Lay Ministers and Clergy enters the Cathedral before the Service begins. Throughout the service, the congregation is invited to join in everything in bold.

OPENING HYMN

**For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

William Walsham How (1823-1897).

Tune: Sine Nomine (Vaughan Williams – 1872-1958)

THE GREETING

Bishop:
The Lord be with you.

All:
and also with you.

Bishop
Let us pray.

All
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please sit.

Bishop:

My brothers and sisters, 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. 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, missional, and evangelistic ministry.

As licensed lay ministers, they are to encourage the ministries of all God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission in and to the world.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Bishop:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All:

Amen. Lord, have mercy.



Bishop:

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love
with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

All:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

We are truly sorry

and repent of all our sins.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,**

forgive us all that is past

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Bishop:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

Please stand

GLORIA

Congregational Refrain:



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

All:

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

Choir:

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

All:

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

Choir:

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.

All:

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

Choir:
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.

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

Choir:
Amen.

Music: Trinity Mass ©2009 David Thorne

Please sit.



THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

*The Candidates stand to be presented to the Bishop by the Warden of Readers.
The Bishop and Warden of Readers move towards the candidates.*

Warden:

Bishop, I present these persons to be admitted to the office of Reader in the Church of England and licensed as Lay Ministers in this Diocese:

- Eve Hitchens
- Linda Hobbs
- Rachel Moss
- Mike Murray
- Joe O'Neill
- Karen Broadbent

The Candidates are presented.

Bishop:

Have they made the Declaration of Assent, and so 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?

Warden:

They have.

Bishop

Have they also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop and his successors in all things lawful and honest?

Warden:

They have.

Bishop:

Have they promised to endeavour, as far as it lies with them, to promote peace and unity, to conduct themselves as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church, and for the spiritual welfare of all people?

Warden:
They have.

Bishop:
Are they men and women of good lives, sound in faith, regular communicants,
and well fitted for the work or a Reader?

Warden:
They are.

Bishop:
Do they possess sufficient knowledge of Holy Scripture and the doctrine and
worship of the Church of England that they are capable of leading worship,
preaching, and teaching?

Warden:
They do.

THE COLLECT

The Bishop, Warden of Readers and Candidates remain standing.

Bishop:
Generous and omnipotent God,
who called, in the past, sages and prophets:
bless us, in these last days,
through those you have called,
and we admit today, to the office of Reader;
and make them faithful ministers of your word;
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 Candidates sit. The Bishop and Warden of Readers return to their places. The
congregation remains seated.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Old Testament: Daniel 7:1-18

Reader:

This is the word of the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the New Testament: Ephesians 1:11-23

Reader:

This is the word of the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought, in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I Thy true heir,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Be thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Be thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words: Irish 8th cent, tr Mary Byrne 1880-1931 and Eleanor Hull 1860-1935
Tune: Slane (traditional Irish)

Please remain standing.

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

All:
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Luke 6:20-31

Reader:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit for the Sermon.

The Sermon: Andrew Blyth.

Please stand.

THE CREED

All:

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.

THE LICENSING

*The Congregation sits. The Candidates move to where the Bishop is standing, and stand around him with the Warden of Readers and LLM Archdeaconry Advisors.
The Bishop says:*

Bishop:

In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Licensed Lay Minister, you must now answer the questions we put to you.

Do you believe that God has called you to this Ministry?

Candidates:

I do so believe.

Bishop:

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

Candidates:

By the grace of God I will.

Bishop:

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

Candidates:

By the grace of God I will.

Bishop:

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

Candidates:

By the grace of God I will.

The Bishop presents the Candidates to the people and says:

Bishop:
Brothers and sisters,
these men and women
have been chosen for the office of Reader and are to be licensed as Lay
Ministers.
Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All:
We will.

Bishop:
Will you continue to pray for them?

All:
We will.

Bishop:
Eternal God, great in mercy and compassion, who orders the church and the
world, look on these your servants called to the ministry of your word, and
continually fill them with your Holy Spirit that they might speak your Word, live
your truth, and glorify you in and through their lives and ministries; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:
Amen.

*The Warden of Readers and LLM Archdeaconry Advisors lead the Bishop to each
Candidate in turn for the Bishop to admit them as Readers and pray for them.*

Bishop:
I admit you as a Reader in the Church, and I license you as a Licensed Lay
Minister in this Diocese, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit.

All:
Amen.

The Archdeacons put the scarves on their candidate and give them a Bible. When all Candidates have received these tokens of ministry, the Bishop says:

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.

All:

Amen.

The Bishop then welcomes the Readers into the ministry into which they have been newly licensed.

Bishop:

Eve, Linda, Rachel, Mike, Joe, Karen – welcome to your new ministries! To lead people in worship and break open the Word of God are amongst the greatest privileges this life affords. May the Lord bless you richly in this ministry; give you wisdom, courage, love, and strength to do his will; may he stir up in you the gifts of his grace and sustain each one of you throughout your ministry, for his glory.

All:

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

The Bishop, Warden of Readers, and LLM Archdeaconry Advisers return to their places. Please kneel or sit for the prayers of intercession.

RE-DEDICATION OF LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

All Licensed Lay Ministers in the congregation are invited to dedicate themselves afresh to their Ministry. The Congregation remains seated. The LLMs stand.

Bishop:

My brothers and sisters, in the name of the Church, I thank you for your faithful ministry as Licensed Lay Ministers. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you and invite you now to renew your commitment to the ministry entrusted to you.

Bishop:

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

LLMs:

By the grace of God, we will.

Bishop:

Will you continue to 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?

LLMs:

By the grace of God, we will.

Bishop:

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

LLMs:

By the grace of God, we will.

Bishop:

Will you then, pray that the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you to make Christ known to all?

LLMs:

Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift that is in us that we might make Christ known to all to the glory of God the Father. Amen

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.

THE PEACE

Please stand

Bishop:

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised
into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

Bishop:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All:

And also with you.

Bishop:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who, from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

All creation, name him, with love strong as death;
but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath.
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

Truly this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

Tune: Evelyns (William Henry Monk)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Bishop:
The Lord is here.

All:
His Spirit is with us.

Bishop:
Lift up your hearts.

All:
We lift them to the Lord.

Bishop:
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All:
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Bishop:
Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord,

5



God of_ power and might, heaven and earth are

8



full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na, ho-san-na,

11



ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is he who

15



comes in the name_ of the Lord. Ho-san-na, ho-

19



san-na, ho-san-na in the_ high-est.

Bishop:

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

All:

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop:

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.

All:

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop:

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

All:

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop:

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.

All:

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop:

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please sit or kneel.

Bishop:

As our Saviour taught us, so 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.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

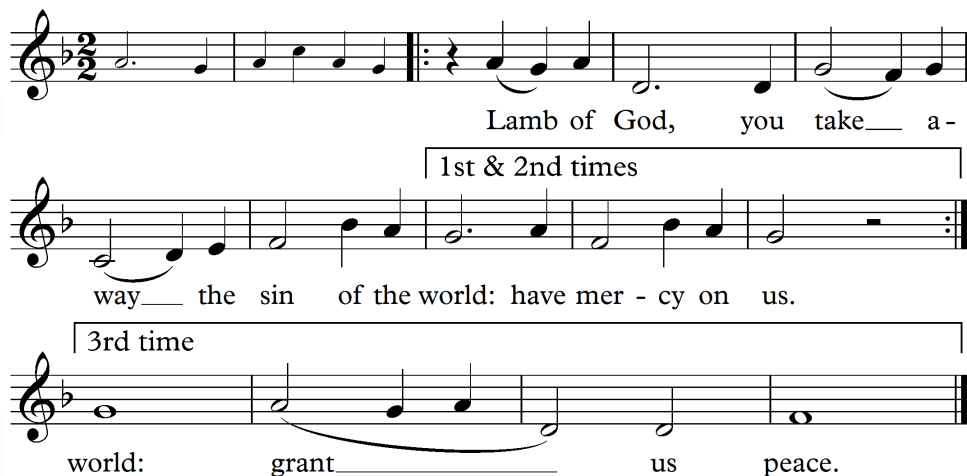
Bishop:

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

All:

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a -

1st & 2nd times

way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us.

3rd time

world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bishop:
God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All:
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

If you normally receive Communion in your own church, you are most welcome to receive it here – please follow the directions of the stewards to the appropriate station.

Those requiring a gluten-free wafer should come to the High Altar at the front of the Cathedral, where a dedicated station is available immediately in front of the altar.

If you wish Communion to be brought to you, please speak to a sidesman.

All others are most welcome to come forward to receive a blessing: please bring this order of service with you so that the ministers know that you want a blessing. During Communion the choir will sing, "Beati quorum via" with words from Psalm 119 verse 1 ("Happy are they that are upright in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord") and music by Charles Villiers Stanford. You are invited to join in the hymns.

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Words: Sebastian Temple 1928-97, after the Prayer of St Francis.
Music: Sebastian Temple

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us: and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.**

**So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.**

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
torn for you: eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
paid the price to make us one.

So we share...

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin,
shed for you: drink and remember
he drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.

So we share...

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as his body here on earth.

As we share in his suffering,
we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend 1963-, Keith Getty 1974- and Kristyn Getty 1980-. Copyright © 2006 Thankyou Music

AFTER COMMUNION

The Bishop and others return to the crossing.

Bishop:
God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

All:

Almighty God

**We thank you for feeding us
with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

Send us out in the power of your Spirit

to live and work

to your praise and glory.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Bishop invites all those present who are licensed or authorised to preach to stand and lift their Bibles up.

Bishop:

God spoke the Word.

All:

And great was the company of the preachers.

The Bishop invites all who are able to stand for the dismissal.

Bishop:

Go into all the word and make disciples of all the nations, bringing them to faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey the commandments of Jesus;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon 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.

The Licensed Lay Ministers and Clergy process out during the hymn.

FINAL HYMN

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.

Now is the time for us to march upon the land,
into our hands he will give the ground we claim.
He rides in majesty to lead us into victory,
the world shall see that Christ is Lord!

Rejoice!...

God is at work in us his purpose to perform,
building a kingdom of power not of words,
where things impossible, by faith shall be made possible;
let's give the glory to him now.

Rejoice!...

Though we are weak, his grace is everything we need;
we're made of clay but this treasure is within.
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities,
so that the glory goes to him.

Rejoice!...

Graham Kendrick © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Those being admitted and licensed

- Linda May Hobbs – St Helen's, Abingdon (Dorchester)
- Rachel Moss – St Michael & St Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead (Berks)
- Michael Francis Murray – St Michael's Steventon (Dorchester)
- Joseph Robert O'Neill – St Mary's Church, Aylesbury (Bucks)
- Karen Jane Broadbent – Christ the King, Sonning Common (Dorchester)
- Eve Suriya Ross Hitchens – St Michael at the Northgate, Oxford (Oxford)

We welcome to the diocese:

- John Seabridge
- Graham Jones
- Ruth Edy

We remember those who have move to another diocese:

- Penny Crane
- Colin Cockshaw
- Hazel Berry
- Denise Morry-Carter
- Celia Donald
- John Scholefield

We honour those who have become Emeritus this year or have retired from Ministry:

- Bob Peters
- Averil Stephenson
- Theresa Gray
- Jenny Wagstaffe

We remember those who have died:

- John Leach
- Anthony Jefferies
- David Sammon
- Mary Roe

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OXFORD**