

The Oaths

(made by the candidates before the service)

The 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.

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

I N, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the Area Bishop of Reading and their successors in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

The Declaration of Assent

(made by the candidates before the service)

The Declaration of Assent is made by deacons, priests and bishops of the Church of England when they are ordained and on each occasion when they take up a new appointment (Canon C 15).

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.

The Gathering

Organ Music:

A Fantasy - Harold Darke (1888- 1976)

Berceuse - Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

The Greeting

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

Bishop There is one body and one spirit.
All **There is one hope to which we were called;**

Bishop one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
All **one God and Father of all.**

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

The Bishop welcomes the congregation gathered in church and online and invites them to sit.

The Bishop introduces the service.

Bishop 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 particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being.

They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Presentation

The Archdeacon presents those to be ordained and each candidate stands as their name is called.

Archdeacon Bishop Olivia, I present:

Angela Hazel McSweeney **Brennan**

to serve in the Benefice of Thatcham

Carol Anne **Cooper**

to serve in the Benefice of Furze Platt

Paulette Evadne (**Polly**) **Falconer**

to serve in the Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen

Jacqueline (**Jackie**) **Fountain**

to serve in the Benefice of Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary

Sarah Elizabeth **Mortimer**

to serve in the Benefice of Sunninghill and South Ascot

Cara Louise Jane **Smart**

to serve in the Benefice of Wokingham St Paul

Phyllis Jessica (**Phyl**) **Sopp**

to serve in the Benefice of Maidenhead Saint Luke

to be ordained to the office of priest in the Church of God.

When the candidates have been presented, the Bishop asks these questions of the Director of Ordinands and any involved with their training who all stand.

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

DDO **They have.**

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

DDO **They do.**

The Bishop turns to the ordinands and says

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

Ordinands **I do so believe.**

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

Archdeacon 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'.

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray.

A time of silent prayer is kept.

Bishop 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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 18:1-15 (ESV)

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

And the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, “O Lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 8:5-17 (ESV)

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

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

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marvelled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Liturgy of Ordination

The Declarations

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

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to

unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The Bishop addresses the candidates directly.

Bishop We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do. And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

- Bishop* 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.**
- 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?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**
- Bishop* Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**
- Bishop* Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**
- Bishop* Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**
- Bishop* 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.**
- Bishop* 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.**
- Bishop* Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**
- Bishop* Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?
- Ordinands* **By the help of God, I will.**

*The congregation stands.
The ordinands turn and face the people.*

Bishop 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 **It is.**

Bishop Will you continually pray for them?

All **We will.**

Bishop Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All **We will.**

The ordinands turn back to face the Bishop, who continues addressing them.

Bishop In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

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.

The congregation and the ordinands kneel.

The Prayers

A time of silent prayer is kept and then the Veni Creator is sung by the Minster choir as a prayer for those to be ordained.

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart;**

**Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.**

**Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song,**

**Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*WORDS: Veni Creator Spiritus, Latin 8th or 9th century
trans. John Cosin (1594–1692)*

Intercessions are led for the ordinands and for the ministry of the whole Church.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.
All **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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For our bishops, Steven, Gavin, Alan and Olivia,
and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For N & N called to be priests in his Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth our Queen,
for the leaders of the nations,
and for all in authority,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **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.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with Frideswide, Birinus and all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;
to you, O Lord.

All

The Ordination Prayer

The Bishop, wearing a face mask, stands to pray, while others remain kneeling.

Bishop 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 have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,
the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death;
and that, having ascended into heaven,
he has given his gifts abundantly,
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 your servants,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as a priest in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,
and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

The ordinands come forward in turn, each bringing their own kneeler.

The Bishop and the two assisting priests all sanitise their hands and, wearing masks, then lay their hands on the head of each candidate. All three sanitise their hands again after each candidate. The Bishop says

Bishop Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant, N,
for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

The candidate holds their hands, palms up, towards the Bishop who anoints them with oil of chrism on a cotton bud. A separate cotton bud should be used for each person.

Bishop May God, who anointed the Christ with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, anoint and empower you to reconcile and bless his people.

After hands have been laid on all the candidates, the Bishop sanitises their own hands once more and then continues the ordination prayer.

Bishop Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give your servants grace and power
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.
Renew them in holiness,
and give them wisdom and discipline
to work faithfully with those committed to their charge.

In union with their fellow servants in Christ, may they
reconcile what is divided, heal what is wounded and restore
what is lost.

May they declare your blessings to your people;
may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of
darkness, and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him
in faith;
so shall a people made whole in Christ
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you, our God and
Father,
to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Giving of the Bible

The congregation sits, and the newly ordained priests stand and each rearrange their own ordination stole to be worn priest-wise.

The Bishop, wearing a face mask, gives the Bible to the newly ordained priests, saying to each one

Bishop N, receive this book

After all have received their Bibles, the Bishop continues

Bishop as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day
to preach the Gospel of Christ
and to minister his Holy Sacraments.

The Welcome

The newly ordained priests turn to face the congregation. On behalf of the clergy of the diocese, one of the home clergy welcomes them, saying

Minister God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

All **We welcome you as an ambassador for Christ:
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

*The congregation greet the newly ordained priests with applause.
The newly ordained priests turn back to face the Bishop.*

The Peace

The congregation stands.

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us,
and as a pledge of what is to come
has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

All may greet those around them with a suitable socially-distanced sign of peace, such as a bow, smile or the sign of peace in BSL, and say, 'Peace be with you.'

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The choir sing 'Give us the Wings of Faith'
Sir Ernest Bullock (1890-1979)

The Bishop takes the bread and wine.

Bishop Pour upon the poverty of our love,
and the weakness of our praise,
the transforming fire of your presence.
All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

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 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:

All **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.**

Bishop We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Bishop Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy
will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Frideswide, Birinus and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The congregation kneels or sits.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop breaks the consecrated 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.**

Giving of Communion

The Bishop invites the people to communion. All those sharing in the service online are invited to make a spiritual 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.**

The Bishop and people receive communion. The Bishop and any assisting with the administration of communion wear masks. Communion is offered in one kind only and those present in the building should follow the one-way system to receive.

If you normally receive communion in your own church, you are most welcome to receive it here. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask the minister when you come forward. All others are most warmly invited 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.

Music during the receiving of communion:
Agnus Dei (3 part Mass) - William Byrd (1593-1623)
Holy Eucharist - Sir William Harris (1883-1973)

The Sending Out

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Let us pray
A moment of silence is kept.
Bishop Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

All stand.

Bishop God who has called you is faithful.
May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

Bishop 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.**

Recessional Organ music:
Carillon - Louis Vierne

Oxford Diocese Priests 2021

Please pray for all those deacons being ordained priest. Pray too for their families and all who support them, for their parishes, training incumbents and all with whom they serve.

Berkshire Area

To be ordained priest by the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading,
at 11 am on Saturday 26th June at Reading Minster

Angela Hazel McSweeney Brennan

to serve in the Benefice of Thatcham

Carol Anne Cooper

to serve in the Benefice of Furze Platt

Paulette Evadne (Polly) Falconer

to serve in the Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen

Jacqueline (Jackie) Fountain

to serve in the Benefice of Newbury St Nicolas and Speen St Mary

Sarah Elizabeth Mortimer

to serve in the Benefice of Sunninghill and South Ascot

Cara Louise Jane Smart

to serve in the Benefice of Wokingham St Paul

Phyllis Jessica (Phyl) Sopp

to serve in the Benefice of Maidenhead Saint Luke

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