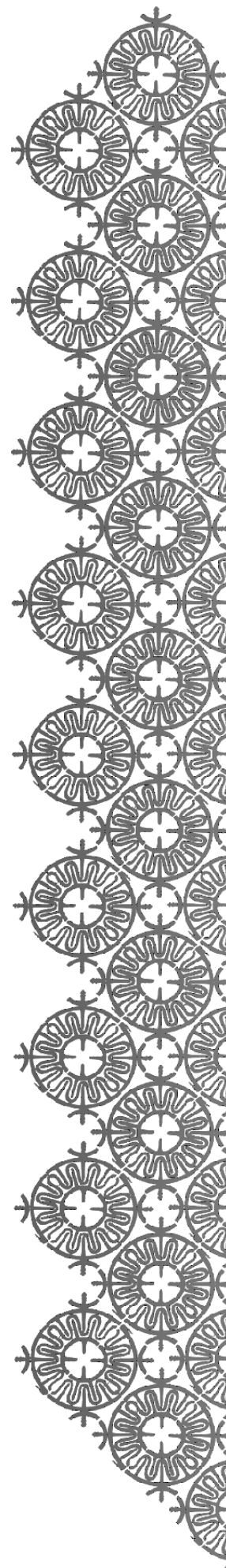




Licensing of Lay Ministers

Saturday 11th May 2024
at 1430
in the Nave



Growing in Christ since AD604

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Posture The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however, please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.



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To be admitted and licensed as Diocesan Lay Ministers

Pippa Hillen	Bidborough St Lawrence & Southborough St Peter
Louise Shrubsole	Chatham St Mary & St John
Jaki Musker	Kent Downs & Malling Team
Robert Dammers	Pembury
Martin Clay	Southborough St Thomas
Antonietta Adeboye Ogundimu	Strood St Francis

The Ministry of a Diocesan Lay Minister

A Licensed Lay Minister in the Diocese of Rochester is a lay person who has been licensed by the Bishop to undertake ministry in and on behalf of the church. The types of role, responsibility and duty of a LLM will vary according to the gifts and abilities of the individual, the needs of their parish or ministry setting, and the context of their life. Training for LLM includes developing capacity in Christian leadership and gaining knowledge and skills in different expressions of ministry, as preparation for the candidate's particular situation.

The expectation is that a Licensed Lay Minister will be:

- Theologically articulate
- A reflective practitioner
- A leader alongside others in mission and ministry

Candidates being licensed today have simply completed one stage of their development. Learning for ministry is a never ending process, and we trust that their training will give the foundations for continued learning and growth in ministry with colleagues in the parish and the other settings in which they are called to serve.

The Declaration of Assent

The Declaration of Assent is made by lay ministers when they are admitted and licensed along with deacons, priests and bishops of the Church of England when they are ordained and on each occasion when they take up a new appointment.

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, A B, 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, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

The Declaration of Canonical Obedience

Before the service the candidates for admission and licensing as lay ministers swear the oaths prescribed as follows:

I, A B, will give due obedience to the Bishop of Rochester and his successors in all things lawful and honest.

I, A B, about to be licensed to the office of Lay Minister in the Diocese of Rochester, do hereby promise to endeavour, as far as in me lies, to promote peace and unity, and to conduct myself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church, and for the spiritual welfare of all people. I will give due obedience to the minister in whose cure I may serve, in all things lawful and honest.

What this day means...

It means a lot which is a good thing as it has taken the whole of my Christian life to get to this point. As I am 67 that's quite a long time! There is also the joy of both receiving and finding a gift that was placed there for you to find like treasure or the little easter eggs dotted around our church garden at St Thomas's; the children are meant to find them easily and to share if someone else hasn't found any as yet and I like that analogy. I feel a lot of people have been willing to support and help me to find mine! It is nearly 20 years since I was first 'authorised' as a Pastoral Assistant and 9 years since I first started thinking about making this transition to LLM. I will also be joining my wife Tina who is a Reader and that means a lot to us we will be on the same footing and it feels more like a partnership than it did when our ministries seemed very different (and for me hard to explain). I still have a few modules to complete but it's nice to feel worthy of being licensed now [and that I will continue learning and developing rather than being a 'finished product'], which is exciting and challenging too. It has been a delight to meet new people along the way and share our continuing journeys. **Martin Clay**

"Some forty years ago, excited when a good friend started his ministry as a Reader, I explored the possibility of doing the same myself, and even began the training process. But I really wasn't ready, and the whole process ended within the first term - my proper calling at that time (or shortly afterwards) was to lead the music in that parish.

A number of friends had suggested more recently that I should consider LLM training, so three years ago I put my toe in the water, not committing to more than the Bishop's Certificate. I have been confounded completely - this is absolutely what I should be doing, and I find myself astonished and excited to be preparing for a ministry in Anna Chaplaincy, as well as ministry within my parish. What a joy this process has been, and what a fantastic opportunity to grow in faith and understanding." **Robert Dammers**

This day marks a significant point in my journey with Christ. It is the end of a blessed three years of training alongside wonderful people who have become special friends and prayer partners. We have been led, taught, and supported by inspirational role models, including Jane, our learning advisors, module leaders, and Ethlyn. I have learnt so much from each module and from the accompanying practical work including a wonderful placement in year two.

It has been a privilege to spend so much time in the liminal place of St Benedict's and to go on three residential weekends, including this year's retreat at beautiful Worth Abbey. I am so grateful to all who have supported me including my family, church family, formation team and spiritual director – and I look forward to seeing where God leads me in service as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM).

Please keep us all in your prayers as we start a new adventure with God as LLM's. **Pippa Hillen**

I had not imagined I would be here today because my journey to this point has been very challenging and also full of surprise. As I move forward from here, I anticipate the journey will continue in much the same way, and this is okay, because over the last few years I have learned to trust that God is in it all. It has been clear to recognize God in the many joy-filled, extraordinary moments but God has also been tangibly present in the dark and devastating moments, through timely meetings, conversations, and encounters. God has been with the people who have come alongside me, especially those with the skills and expertise to listen deeply, to know the next right step and who have guided me gently onwards; I am very grateful to them.

My family and friends and my church community have lived through a journey with me over the years and what has been developed through the Lay Ministry Formation, is my passion for people, particularly their stories of loss. This leads into the thin places where God's Holy Spirit can be felt or known in a particular way. It is not an easy place to be but it is where I feel God has been calling me over recent years. I am delighted to be here with my cohort today and give thanks to all the wonderful people who have prayed for me and with me. I am excited to serve in our new team of churches and my personal prayer is to follow in Jesus's footsteps as others have done before me. **Jaki Musker**

Getting to the point where I'm being licensed as a LLM is awesome. I'm still pinching myself! It has taken three years; however, I have seen God's hands, leading and guiding me through. I have made new connections from my study group, and I know that we will carry on supporting one another in the journey ahead. My friends, family and church family will certainly be looking forward to having a conversation that does include the words 'I have another assignment to turn in'.

I'm truly blessed to be here and blessed to have had the support of my vicars, the ministry team and all the wonderful teachers who have supported my learning. **Antonietta Adeboye Ogundimu**

I have long had a sense that God wants to use me in a more formal way, to be able share the knowledge of the Bible, with those who have found God as their personal Lord and Saviour and particularly who are new to faith.

During my teens as a new believer, I received good teaching from an older generation of Christians, which provided me with a solid theological understanding of the Bible. From my experience I feel privileged to have had this strong foundation and I would like to share this with others who have not had this opportunity. This is the reason I felt God calling me to Licensed Lay Ministry.

The road to today's licensing has taken longer than I expected with a few stops and starts along the way. During this time, it has been my delight to have met so many encouraging people as part of this journey.

I am looking forward to seeing what areas of ministry God will lead me into following my licensing today. **Louise Shrubsole**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Any notices are given out and period of silence is introduced before the service begins. Stand as the procession enters

Hymn



**¹ Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluya,
Jesu, true and living bread!**

**² Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya,
Thou art here, we ask not how.**

**⁴ Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fulness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluya,
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**³ Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's Stem.
Alleluya,
We in worship join with them.**

**⁵ Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluya,
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

St Helen (296) ~ George Martin (1844 – 1916)

George Hugh Bourne (1840 – 1925)

Preparation

Greeting

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Bishop Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Bishop God has claimed us as his own.

All He has made us light to the world.

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sit

The Bishop welcomes the people and introduces the service

Prayers of Penitence

Bishop Jesus said to his apostles,
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.'
Let us now confess our disobedience to him.

After a short silence:

Minister Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Minister Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Minister Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Bishop 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.

All Amen.

Bishop Let us pray for the ministry of Christ's people.

After a short silence:

Bishop Loving Father,
thank you for your Holy Spirit
who leads your Church and guides us each day;
hear our prayer for those being licensed today,
that in their vocation and ministry
you will multiply their gifts to serve you in holiness and truth
proclaiming the glory of your name,
and taking your message far and wide,
through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Word of God

First Reading: Isaiah 43. 1-7 read by Pippa Hillen

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia* and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand

Hymn



**Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold,
Pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You my master,
Ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin,
Deep within.**

Purify my heart (SOF 475)

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

Sit

Second Reading: Matthew 11. 25-12.8 read by Robert Dammers

A reading from the gospel according Matthew

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

by the Bishop of Rochester

Stand

Hymn



**O thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.**

Hereford (431) ~ Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sit

Admission and Licensing

The Presentation of Candidates for Admission and Authorisation.

Warden of Lay Ministry

Bishop Jonathan, I present these persons to you to be admitted as Licensed Lay Ministers

The Warden of Lay Ministry reads out the names of the candidates and the places where they are to serve, each candidate stands

Bishop I invite the Acting Director of Mission and Ministry Development Team to confirm that the candidates have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

Act.Dir. They have.

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

Act.Dir. They have.

Bishop Are the candidates women and men of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith?

Act.Dir. They are.

The Questions

The Bishop addresses the candidates and asks

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

Do you believe that God is calling 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 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.

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

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.

The candidates turn and face the congregation and the Bishop says

Bishop Brothers and sisters,
these men and women have been chosen for the office of Lay Ministry.

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?
All We will.

Bishop Will you continue to pray for them?
All We will.

The clergy of the new Lay Ministers' parishes and ministerial contexts stand

The Bishop addresses them, asking

Bishop Will you work closely with your new Lay Ministers and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

Clergy We will.

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

Clergy We will.

The clergy sit

The candidates turn back to face the Bishops

The Admission

Bishop You have promised to be diligent in reading Holy Scriptures, which bestow our inheritance of faith and provide us with the meaning and purpose of our life and ministries. Now, as you are admitted as Lay Ministers, receive into your hands the word of life.

The Bishop admits each candidate as a Licensed Lay Minister and gives each a copy of the Holy Scriptures with these words

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

All Amen.

The Licensing

The Bishop gives each newly admitted Lay Minister their licence with these words

Bishop Receive authority to exercise the office of Lay Minister in this diocese.

May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards.

All Amen.

When all have received their licences the Bishop blesses the new Lay Ministers in these words

Bishop May the Lord give you wisdom,
 courage, strength and love to do his will,
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 rest upon you, and on your work done in his name,
 now and always.

All Amen.

All stand

The new Lay Ministers turn to face the congregation

Bishop We welcome you as ministers in God's holy Church.

All Christ bless your witness in the world.

The new Lay Ministers are greeted with applause and presented with a badge by their parish clergy

The Peace

Bishop We are fellow-citizens with the saints
 and of the household of God,
 through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace
 to those who were far off and those who were near.

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

Bishop Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may share a sign of peace with their neighbour.

Hymn



Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Prayers

Kneel or sit

Prayers led by the Acting Director of Mission & Ministry Development Team

At the end

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.**

Thank you to Karen

Stand

Hymn during which the procession moves to the Great West Doors and the congregation turns to face the Bishop



**Here and now we're bound together:
held in one divine embrace.**

**Help us see, in one another,
difference as a gift of grace.**

**As each passing generation
worships you in fresh new ways,
join our songs with all creation,
lift our voice to sing your praise.**

**Lord, affirm our shared vocation:
may we bring your plans to birth,
build your church on sure foundations,
fit to serve a troubled earth.**

**Growing, praying, sharing, learning,
deep in wisdom, broad in scope,
love-revealing, truth-discerning,
living out the gospel hope.**

**In your work of transformation
you are making all things new.**

**Stir our hearts' imagination,
call us now to work with you.**

**Send us out to share your mission;
show us each our part to play
as we live the Great Commission
joyful in the world today.**

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(tune: Abbot's Leigh, or any suitable 8787D trochaic tune)

Blessing and Dismissal

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Bishop God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations,
bring you, with all the saints,
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;
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 into the world and live the good news. Alleluia, Alleluia.
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Organ Voluntary ~ Grand Chœur alla Händel: Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

There will be a retiring collection for the work of this Cathedral, which is open daily and without charge for both local people and out of area visitors, to come inside and spend time here.

**If you have been moved by this service to consider how God might be calling you, please contact your parish priest or go to the Everyday Faith section of the Diocese of Rochester website.
<http://www.rochester.anglican.org>
Then click, *God's plan for you* or scan this code.**



The Cathedral Church of Christ
and the Blessed Virgin Mary

