



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

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WELLS
CATHEDRAL



The Ordination of Deacons

Sunday 27th September 2020

2.00 pm

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

Welcome to Wells Cathedral and to the Ordination of Deacons.

The President of the Eucharist today is the Bishop of Taunton, the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, assisted by the Reverend Prebendary Sue Rose, Vocations Team Leader, and the Reverend Mandy Priestly, IME 2 Officer. The Deacon is the Reverend Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle, Precentor of Wells Cathedral.

As part of our commitment to the safety of all in the Cathedral, at this service:

- Only the candidates will receive holy communion.
- The collection will be taken as you leave the Lady Chapel.
- The congregation will be invited to leave the Cathedral row by row by stewards after the service.

As part of our commitment to eradicating the Covid-19 virus, all present need to register their presence here by filling in the last page of the service booklet with name and contact details. **Please use the pen on your chair to fill it in and then leave this booklet on your chair when you leave.**

The collection at today's service is shared between the Bishops' Ordination Candidates Fund and the Cathedral's Bounce Back Appeal. If you are a tax payer, please fill in and use the special Gift Aid envelope in your order of service or available from a service steward, which will enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation from HM Revenue & Customs. The Collection is taken as you leave at the end of the service.

The Cathedral has a loop system.

Hearing aids may be switched to the position T.



Please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off.

The Cantor is Naomi MacLeod-Jones, and the Organist is Alex Hamilton, Assistant Director of Music, Wells Cathedral.

The Reverend Canon Nicholas Jepson-Biddle, *Precentor*

Welcome – and thank you!

A message from the Bishop of Taunton

Welcome to this inspirational place and thank you for coming today in this highly unusual situation.

This service is such an important moment for those who are being ordained deacon, and they will be glad that you are here to support them. You may be a family member, a friend or a parishioner. Perhaps you have known them for many years and followed their journey to this very significant service today. Whatever your reason for being here, thank you for making the effort!

Bishop Peter would love to be with us today and can't be because of his illness, yet he is with us in prayer. He will be remembering each of the ordinands in the services over the next few days. Our prayers are for him too.

Our service today is one that combines high ceremony and deep prayer. We will read the scriptures, pray together and remember Jesus' call to men and women to follow him. As bishops we have the humbling task of leading the laying on of hands that signifies God's calling of a woman or a man to the ministry of his Church. But as fellow-worshippers and supporters, you have the task of holding these deacons in prayer. You may know them well, and I hope you will continue to support them – both in prayer and in practical ways – as they embark upon the ministry to which God has called them.

This cathedral offers an awe-inspiring space in which to reflect on the person you have come to support, and on your own walk in the way of faith. Whether or not you are a regular churchgoer, I hope you find inspiration in the music, the words, and the sheer beauty of the place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Ruth Worsley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

To be ordained Deacon

At 10.30am on Saturday 26th by Bishop Ruth Worsley

Samuel Healey	Isle of Wedmore Benefice
Philip Hopper	Benefice of Pilton with Croscombe, North Wootton and Dinder
Susan Hoskins	Benefice of Wrington with Butcombe and Burrington
Michèle Kitto	Benefice of Glastonbury St John and St Benedict with Meare and Chaplain of Millfield Preparatory School
Dorothea Oliver	Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke

At 3pm on Saturday 26th by Bishop Trevor Willmott

Philip Albrow	Isle Valley Benefice
Louise Bale	Benefice of Taunton St Mary Magdalene and St John the Evangelist and the Benefice of Taunton St Andrew and Chaplain of Musgrove Park Hospital Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
Janet Church	Benefice of Cannington, Otterhampton with Combwich and Stockland
Richard Kelley	Benefice of the Wellington and District Team Ministry
Emma Kendall	Benefice of Milverton and Halse Fitzhead and Ash Priors

At 2pm on Sunday 27th by Bishop Ruth Worsley

Christopher Absolon Benefice of Combe Down with Monkton
Combe and South Stoke

Andrew Avramenko Benefice of Charlcombe with Bath St
Stephen

Joanne Robinson Hardington Vale Benefice

David Wilkie Benefice of Taunton St James

At 4.30pm on Sunday 27th by Bishop Trevor Willmott

Julian Davies Benefice of Timsbury with Priston,
Camerton and Dunkerton

Suzy Kirkham Benefice of Clevedon Christchurch

Shaula Reilly Benefice of Saltford with Corston and
Newton St Loe

We also remember and give thanks for the life and ministry of Steve Rogers who was also to be ordained deacon this weekend. Sadly, Steve died earlier this year and we pray for his family and friends. The Bible that would have been presented to him at this service will be presented to his wife.

Music before the service

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV 662
Vater unser im Himmelreich
Komm, Heiliger Geist, BuxWV 199

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Georg Böhm (1661-1733)
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

BEFORE THE SERVICE

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. This is the text of the declaration and oaths which have already been taken by the Ordinands.

Declaration of Assent

The Bishop reads:

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?

The ordinand 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 Gathering

Before the service begins, the Precentor welcomes the congregation.

Please stand at the Quarter-bell.

GREETING

The Bishop greets the people

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.**

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 a variety of ministries. Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving. Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission; as he washed the feet of his disciples, so they must wash the feet of others.

The Bishop welcomes all present.

All sit as the ordinands are presented to the Bishop by the Vocations Team Leader. Members of the congregation are encouraged to stand when the ordinand whom they support is presented.

Each ordinand is presented with the words

Bishop Ruth, I present N to be ordained to the office of deacon in the Church of God; s/he is to serve in the parish/benefice of N.

When the ordinands have all been presented, the Bishop asks these questions, to which the appropriate persons respond.

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

The Vocations Team Leader replies

They have.

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

The Vocations Team Leader replies

They do.

The Bishop turns to the ordinands and says

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

Ordinands I do so believe.

Bishop Will you confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

VTL 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 *special prayer for the day*

The Bishop introduces a short period of silent prayer with the words

Let us therefore pray for these ordinands
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

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 ordinands sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

read by one of the ordinands.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (2.1-11)

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

All remain seated as the Cantor sings

I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord, of thy mercies, O Lord, my Saviour,
and of Thy faithfulness evermore.

Words: Psalm 144
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-44)
from the Oratorio, St Paul

Following the Gradual, all stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL READING

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia. The words that I have spoken to you:
are spirit and they are life says the Lord.

All **Alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

After the introductory sentence, all sit for

THE HOMILY *The Bishop*

Following the sermon, silence is kept.

The Liturgy of Ordination

THE DECLARATIONS

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

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

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

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

The Bishop addresses the ordinands directly

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

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

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 Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it, and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?

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

Bishop Will you strive to make the love of Christ known through word and example, and have a particular care for those in need?

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

Bishop Will you be a faithful servant in the household of God, after the example of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve?

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

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 the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those in authority?

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 grow in holiness and grace?
Ordinands **By the help of God, I will.**

The Bishop addresses the congregation

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 (loudly) **It is.**

Bishop Will you continually pray for them?

All (loudly) **We will.**

Bishop Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All (loudly) **We will.**

The Bishop addresses the ordinands

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

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

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All then kneel or sit and a period of silence is kept.

THE ORDINATION PRAYER

All remain kneeling or sitting, the ordinands kneeling before the 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 sent your only Son Jesus Christ,
to take the form of a slave;
he humbled himself for our sake,
and in obedience accepted death,
even death on a cross.

We praise and glorify you
because in every age you send your Spirit
to fill those whom you have chosen,
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called these your servants,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as deacons in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

After a moment of silence, the Bishop lays hands on the head of each ordinand, and says

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

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

Make them faithful to serve
and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.

May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son,
who washed the feet of his disciples,
and set the needs of others before his own.

May their life be disciplined and holy,
their words declare your love
and their actions reveal your glory,
that your people may walk with them in the way of truth
and be made ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

A stole is placed on each deacon by the IME 2 Officer.

THE GIVING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The newly ordained deacons hold the New Testaments given to them before the service.

The Bishop says

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand as the Bishop introduces the Peace saying

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 the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange an appropriate sign of peace with their neighbours.

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.**

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.**

The Bishop continues

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 disciples 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Bishop continues

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 Mary, Andrew 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.

All sit or kneel.

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 forever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE 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.**

Bishop Lamb of God,
All **you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bishop The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

On this occasion, only the Bishop and the candidates receive Holy Communion.

During the administration the Cantor sings

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

I have no help but thine; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

Music: Barry Rose (b. 1934)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

The Bishop says

Let us pray

We thank you, gracious Father,
for welcoming your children to feast
in your kingdom:
by your love unite us,
and with your Spirit send us,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

THE WELCOME

The deacons turn to face the congregation.

The Deacon says to the newly ordained deacons

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

All

**We welcome you as ambassadors for Christ:
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

The Bishop addresses the congregation and invites the people to greet the newly ordained deacons with applause.

The Sending Out

Bishop God 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 among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Bishop leads the newly ordained deacons out through the Great West Doors of the Cathedral.

The collection is taken as you leave the Lady Chapel and will be divided between the support of ordinands in training in the diocese and the Cathedral's Bounce Back Appeal. If you are a tax payer, please fill in one of the special Gift Aid envelopes that have been provided, which will enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation from HM Revenue & Customs.

Please remain standing as the Procession leaves the Lady Chapel.

You are welcome to join the new deacons outside the Cathedral.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Alla Marcia

John Ireland (1879-1962)

