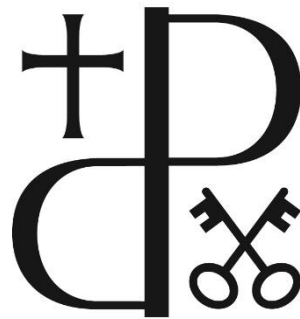




PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL



The Diocese of
Peterborough

Celebration of Lay Ministry

Saturday September 27th 2025

1.15 pm

Order of Service

*The Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough,
welcomes the congregation*

Processional Song

Stand

*Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

*Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman Copyright © 2011 Thankyou Music

Greeting & Gathering

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough, introduces the service

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him our worship and praise, to rejoice in the gift of Jesus his Son, and to seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit to live faithful and fruitful lives for his glory.

In particular we meet to commit ourselves to serve and support the whole people of God as we work together to bring people to Christ, grow his Church and see his kingdom come in the world.

But we are frail earthen vessels, and we have marred the image of his glory. Therefore let us examine our consciences and in silence call to mind our sins.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil;
hold fast to what is good.
Let us seek God's mercy and help
To live a new life in Christ.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name:
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Psalm 19

Read by Maria Porter and Louise Lawson

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.
- 5 In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
- 13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

Testimony

*Riaan Niemandt tells us about his journey towards
being commissioned as a Lay Minister today*

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-13

Read by Jane Allen

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members

one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rt Revd John Holbrook,
Bishop of Brixworth

Stand

Hymn

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let us all Your love accepting,
Love You, ever all our days;
Let us seek Your kingdom only,
And our lives be to Your praise;
You alone shall be our glory,
Nothing in the world to see;
You have cleansed and sanctified me,
You alone have set me free.

William Rees (1802 - 1883)

The Renewal of Ministries

The congregation sit.

All those renewing their ministry remain standing.

The Bishop addresses them

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Apostle Paul has taught us that within the Church there is a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; that there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and that to each of us is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good, so that we may share in Christ's ministry for the building up of his body, the Church. Through his ministry of word and deed and through his dying and rising Jesus Christ fulfilled his service to the Father.

Will you always hold before you the pattern of his ministry as your inspiration?

By the help of God, I will.

In your ministry will you always remember that you serve God's own people and that you are called to build them up in faith, hope and love?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you seek by word and deed, at all times and in all places, to show forth the Gospel to all people?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you always remember that in your own strength you can do nothing, and that you must always call upon God to stir up the gifts he has given you?

By the help of God, I will.

Those to be re-commissioned as Lay Ministers sit.

Those to be re-licensed as Readers and Lay Workers remain standing.

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

Archdeacon They have duly taken 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.

Bishop My brothers and sisters, I hereby grant you our licence to exercise the office of Reader and the office of Lay Worker. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord and all those to whom he calls you.

Those who have been re-licensed as Readers and Lay Workers sit.

Those being recommissioned as Lay Ministers stand.

My brothers and sisters, I hereby commission you as a Lay Minister. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer as you offer yourselves in God's service.

All those renewing their ministry stand.

Almighty God, give you grace to fulfil all you have promised, that your ministry may build up his Church and advance his Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All Sit

The Commissioning and Licensing of New Ministries

The Bishop recommissions the Wardens of Lay Ministry and prays for them

God be in your head and in your understanding.

God be in your eyes and in your looking.

God be in your mouth and in your speaking.

God be in your heart and in your thinking.

May the God of grace, mercy and peace
fill you with his love for all those he calls to his service
in the power of his Spirit and for the glory of his Son.

Amen

The Wardens of Lay Ministry & Secretary to Readers then present the candidates to the Bishop, giving the name of each candidate and the parish(es) or benefice in which they will serve. The candidates stand as their name is read.

Bishop Debbie, we present these persons to be commissioned as Lay Ministers, licensed as Lay Workers and admitted & licensed as a Reader. We present...

The Bishop asks David Morton, the Lay Ministries Officer

Have those whose duty it is to inquire about these persons and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

Lay Ministries Officer

They have.

The candidates turn to face the congregation and the Bishop says

We believe these candidates to be devoted servants of Christ and his people, and believe them to be duly called to serve God in these ministries.

Is it, therefore, your will that they should be commissioned and licensed?

All It is.

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

All We will.

The candidates turn to face the Bishop

Those who are called to be Lay Ministers, Lay Workers and Readers are to share in caring for the people of God in peace and love, supporting and enabling the ministry of the Church; they are to share in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, inviting people to commit their lives to the Lord Jesus and to participate in God's mission in the world. Readers have a particular call to share in leading worship, preaching the word of God, teaching the Christian faith, and assisting in the pastoral and evangelistic work of the Church.

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

I believe that God has called me.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

I do so accept them

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?

By the help of God, I will

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you promote unity, peace and love among all people, and especially among those whom you serve?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to work in harmony with all who share in Christ's ministry?

By the help of God, I will.

May God, who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them, that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bishop addresses each candidate in turn

N, I commission you as a Lay Minister,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

N, I licence you as a Lay Worker,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

N, I admit you to the Office of Reader in the Church,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Reader is vested with the scarf by the incumbent.

N, I license you to serve as a Reader in the parish of Longthorpe.

The new Ministers are presented with a Bible and the Bishop blesses them

Receive this book as a sign of the authority given you this day
to proclaim and minister Christ to his people.
Build them up in love and serve them in his name.

The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you and all whom you serve in his name.

All Amen.

The Bishop invites the congregation to welcome the new Ministers.

How great is our God,
sing with me how great is our God
All will see how great,
how great is our God (rpt)

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash © 2004 worshiptogether.com

My Jesus, my saviour,
Lord, there is none like you;
all of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King:
mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
for ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand;
nothing compares to the promise I have in you.*

Darlene Zschech © 1993 Hillsongs Australia/Kingsway's Thankyou Music

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel for the prayers, led by Amanda Jarman & Eva Lane

The response is

Lord, hear us
All Lord, graciously hear us.

The prayers conclude with the Lord's prayer

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.**

Stand

The Sending Out

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Bishop says

Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
by His power which is at work in us,
to Him be glory in the Church
and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ

All **Thanks be to God.**

Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees
A need that undiminished rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee, renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee to go and make Thee known

Where other Lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway
Where forces that defied Thee defy Thee still today
With none to heed their crying for life and love and light
Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night

*We go to all the world
With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save
But Jesus Christ the Lord*

We bear the torch that flaming fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition to Thee we yield our powers

*We go to all the world
With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save
But Jesus Christ the Lord*

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired
Saviour, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired
From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us to labour for Thy sake

*We go to all the world
With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save
But Jesus Christ the Lord (rpt)*

*Text: Frank Houghton (1931)
Additional lyrics: Keith & Kristen Getty (2016)*

*Group photographs of
Lay Ministers, Lay Workers and Readers
will follow the service.*

*Please remember to collect your paperwork
from the tables at the back of the Cathedral before leaving.*

Action to be taken on hearing the fire alarm:

- 1 Calmly leave the Cathedral by the nearest fire exit
- 2 Stewards will direct persons in wheelchairs to the appropriate fire exit
- 3 Assemble on the green outside the West Front