

THE LICENSING AND WELCOMING SERVICE

THE GATHERING

The Entrance Hymn

During which the representatives of the sponsoring Churches of XXX Local Ecumenical Partnership enter:

Xxx (Church of England)
Xxx (Methodist)
Xxx (United Reformed Church)
Xxx (Roman Catholic Church)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee
Then to thy need He like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen sound from His people again
Gladly for aye we adore Thee.

J Neander (1650-80) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Remain standing

Introductory Sentence

Bishop

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

1 Peter 2:9

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

All **And also with you.**

The Bishop introduces the service, setting the licensing within the context of the ecumenical life of the Church in this place

Bishop

We have come together to worship God, to encourage the mission of the people of the Church in xxx and to license xxx as priest-in-charge within this Local Ecumenical Partnership

So let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the whole Church of God.

Silence

Bishop

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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION

STATEMENT AND NARRATIVE

Overseen by xxx (United Reformed Church)

- Statement by [the minister being licensed] - about his/her call to this ministry*
- Narrative of the Call - representatives of the local Church tell the story of the appointment*

THE PROMISES

Introduced by the Chair of the Methodist District

[Name],
will you hold before us
the story of God's Love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you be among us
as one who preaches the word of God,
administers Baptism,

presides at the Lord's Supper,
teaches the faith,
and cares for the flock?

Minister

I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.

All Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Chair of District

Will you hold before us God's call to holy living and be among us as one who awakens the careless and strengthens the faithful?

Minister

I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

All May we reveal Christ's way through words and example.

Chair of District

Will you hold before us
God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods
and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Minister

I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

All May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

The Patron of the living – or an appointed representative - says:

Reverend Father in God, I present [name] as a person trusted and approved by myself and by the representatives of [name of the local Church], to be admitted to this cure of souls.

Bishop

Dear friends in Christ I welcome [name]. I am willing to admit him/her to this office, and I commend him/her to you.

[Name], do you believe that you are called by God and his Church to accept this ministry?

Minister I do.

Bishop

As minister within this Local Ecumenical Partnership will you pledge yourself to the service of God in the Church in this place?

Minister With the help of God, I will.

Bishop

As minister within this Local Ecumenical Partnership will you play your part in the life of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches of this area?

Minister With the help of God I will.

Bishop

Let the oaths be taken and the declaration made in accordance with the law and practice of The Church of England.

The Patron returns his seat

THE OATHS

Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen

The new minister, holding a Bible, faces the people and says:

I, [full name], 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

The minister then faces the Bishop and says:

I, [full name], do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Derby and his successors in all things lawful and honest, so help me God.

Declaration of Assent

Bishop

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?

Minister

I, [full name], 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 oaths are signed by the new minister

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading Isaiah 40 v 21-31 Read by ...

Hymn

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought in the day or the night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true Son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee One.

Be Thou my breast plate, my sword for the fight
Be Thou my armour and be Thou my right
Be my soul's shelter and Thou my high tow'r
Raise Thou me heavenwards, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not; nor man's empty praise
Thou my inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only, Thou first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done
O grant heaven's joy to me, bright heaven's Sun
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, Thou ruler of all.
Ancient Irish tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)

Sit

Reading Mark I v 29-39 Read by ...

Sermon [Name of preacher]

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Hymn

(during which the Representatives of the Sponsoring Churches, Churchwardens, new minister, and Rural Dean move to the font)

King of Kings, majesty,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,
Strong deliverer, beginning and end,
All within me falls at Your throne

*Your majesty, I can but bow, I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve, I live to praise Your majesty
(repeat verse and chorus)*

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
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand Nothing compares to the promise I have in
You!
Darlene Zschech

King of Kings, majesty... *(repeat chorus only)*

All turn to face the font

Bishop

Our vision is to be a Christian community, recognised as experiencing and sharing God's salvation. We pursue this vision as we celebrate our new life in Christ, our growing in Christ, and our living in Christ.

New Life in Christ

Rural Dean

Paul said: "You were baptised into union with Christ, and now you are clothed with the life of Christ himself. *Galatians 3:27*

Baptism is the outward sign by which the People of God receive for themselves what Christ has done for us all. We are united with him in his death; we are granted the forgiveness of sins; we are raised with Christ to new life in the Spirit, within the family of his Church.

Water is presented to the new minister who pours it into the font

[RC Priest] Father, for your gift of water in creation:
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

[RC Priest] For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life:
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

[RC Priest] For your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit:
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

[RC Priest] For your grace poured upon us your children:
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

**Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit
that we who are born again
may serve you in faith and love,
and may grow into the full stature
of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The procession moves to the lectern

Growing in Christ

Rural Dean

Jesus said: "The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you." *John 14:26*

The Bible is the inspired record of the revelation of God's love, reconciling the world to himself. Placing ourselves continually under the direction and encouragement of the Scriptures, we receive grace and truth from God. Together in the light of his Word, we grow into the abundance of life in Christ.

A Bible is presented to the new minister who places it upon the lectern

URC Moderator Father, we give you thanks and praise for your Word, Jesus Christ, the true light coming into the world. Jesus, light of the world: lead us in your way.

URC Moderator

To all who receive you, you give power to become children of God.

Jesus, light of the world:

All **lead us in your way.**

URC Moderator

The Word was made flesh and lived among us. We have seen your glory, as the only Son of the Father full of grace and truth.

Jesus, light of the world:

All **lead us in your way.**

**Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn
and inwardly digest them
that, through patience,
and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The procession moves to the holy table

Living in Christ

Rural Dean

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy. Know that the Lord he is God, it is he who has made us and we are his. *Psalm 100: 1,2a*

Worship unites us in the presence of God. He calls us together as his Church, one great company of disciples to feed on him. Christ is known among us in the breaking of the bread. He takes what we are and renews us with his life. He makes us one in him. Together we follow our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life.

Bread and wine are presented to the new minister who places them on the altar

Methodist District Chair

Christ Jesus was in the form of God:
All **but did not cling to equality with God.**

Methodist District Chair

He emptied himself taking the form of a servant:
All **and was born in human likeness.**

Methodist District Chair

Being found in human form, he humbled himself:
All **and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.**

Methodist District Chair

Therefore God has highly exalted him:
All **and bestowed on him the name above every name,**

Methodist District Chair

that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow:
All **in heaven, and on earth and under the earth;**

Methodist District Chair

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **to the glory of God the Father.**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Bishop

Gracious Father,
in Christ you make all things new.
In him we live and grow.
Strengthen us by your Spirit
that we may fulfil our vocation
to be his body in the world.
To you be glory for ever.
All Amen.

The Rural Dean and Churchwardens return to their seats

Hymn

(during which the new minister comes to stand before the Bishop, accompanied by the Representatives of the Sponsoring Churches)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all-in-all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of Hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!
Stuart Tawnend © 2001

Sit

THE LICENSING

The new minister stands before the Bishop, who reads the Licence. The Bishop gives him/her the Licence, saying:

[Name], receive this cure of souls, which is both mine and yours. God give you grace to fulfil your ministry, reverence in celebrating the sacraments, faithfulness in proclaiming the word, diligence in pastoral care, tenderness in comforting, power in healing the wounds of his people, and humility, self-sacrifice and courage in all things. May you follow the steps of our Lord Jesus and lead others in the way to eternal joy. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

PLEDGES OF AUTHORISATION FOR MINISTRY *follow from the representatives of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches and a commitment to partnership is expressed by the representative of the Roman Catholic Church*

Prayers for the new minister are led by the Roman Catholic Priest ending with:

Heavenly Father, giver of all good things, may your blessing rest upon [name] in his/her home. When there is much coming and going, may your peace be known, and at all times may your joy be found and your love bring unity and strength, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

Bishop

Rural Dean, I have licensed [name] as Priest in Charge of the Church on Oakwood and I now ask you to install him/her and, with ecumenical colleagues, support her so installed.

The Rural Dean installs the new minister.

Rural Dean

[Name], I place you in your stall as Priest in Charge of the Church [name of church]. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.

Presentations are made by the Churchwardens to the minister including a map of the parish, the copy of the Membership Roll, the keys of the church and the foundation documents of the Local Ecumenical Partnership, saying:

Take these to guide your way as you begin your ministry with the people of this parish.

The Rural Dean turns to the congregation and says:

[Name] has been licensed and installed. No one can bear the weight of ministry alone, but only with the grace and power of God, and in fellowship with the body of Christ. Will you uphold him/her and serve with him/her?

All **By the grace of God, we will.**

Rural Dean

May the Holy Spirit enlighten our understanding and inspire our faith that we may give ourselves wholly to God's service. **Amen.**

Sit

THE WELCOME

The County Ecumenical Officer introduces those who bring greetings

The new minister announces forthcoming services and then leads the intercessions

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The new minister leads the prayers, concluding with the words:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

(during which a collection will be taken for xxxx)

To God be the glory! great things he hath done;
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father, Through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory Great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord,...

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord,...

Frances van Alstyne (1820-1915)

The offertory is received in the sanctuary by the new minister

THE DISMISSAL

All remain standing

The Bishop blesses the people
May the God of love
stir up in us the gifts of his grace
and sustain each of us
in our discipleship and service;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
remain with us for ever.

Amen

(from the Methodist Worship Book)

The new minister, standing at the Bishop's side, says:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The procession leaves the church