

THE ARCHDEACONS' ANNUAL VISITATION SERVICE

June and July 2021



God has called you and will not fail you

Worshipping God

Making New Disciples

Transforming Communities



WELCOME

OPENING RESPONSES

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

All And also with you.

Area Dean Spirit of God,
flickering over our heads,
illuminating our faces,
inspiring our thoughts,
give us now, we pray,

All words of joy and praise.

Spirit of God,
filling our hearts with hope,
steadying our nerves with peace,
comforting our lives with love,
give us now, we pray,

All words of joy and praise.

Spirit of God,
come to us now-
surging through the darkness of our lives,
sweeping over our weariness-
so that the sparkling light of faith,
the rushing wind of hope
and the joyful sound of praise
may echo round the world,
may echo in the church,
and find their response in us.

**All Spirit of God, give us now, we pray,
words of joy and praise.**

All **Father, pour out your Spirit upon us,
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your word,
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Area Dean God has called us to follow Christ,
and has formed 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.

Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:
You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Area Dean May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Common Worship, 2000, Archbishop's Council

Area Dean Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

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,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading: 1 Peter 4 vv 1-2, 8-11

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

THE CHARGE: The Venerable Sue Field, Archdeacon Pastor

TIME FOR REFLECTION – silence

THE COMMISSIONING AND ADMISSION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Archdeacon Missioner The office of Churchwarden is an ancient one, dating from the early middle ages. As officers of the Bishop, and members of the Parochial Church Council, Churchwardens are charged with cooperating with the incumbent and leading the laity in the promotion of the mission and ministry of the church in the local parish.

In doing so, Churchwardens offer a ministry of welcome and pastoral care to church members, their parish clergy and the families of clergy.

In Churchwardens is vested the property in the plate, ornaments and other moveable goods of the church, of which they are asked to maintain an inventory and report on them annually to the Bishop and Parochial Church Council.

They are also asked to maintain order and decency in the church, especially during public worship. It is to this important ministry that you have been elected at your annual parish meeting.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, each of you has been chosen to serve God and his people as a Churchwarden in this Diocese of Coventry. Will you commit yourself to the work of the Kingdom, in worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities?

Wardens **With the help of God, I will**

Archdeacon As Churchwardens, you are representatives of the laity in your parishes and serve as officers of the Bishop. You are to do all you can to promote peace and unity and to be partners in the message and ministry of reconciliation. Will you seek to be faithful in this ministry?

Wardens **With the help of God, I will**

Archdeacon Your service is a form of leadership. You are called to cooperate with your clergy and you are to be an example and encouragement to your congregation in their faith. Will you continue to be obedient to God's will and offer yourselves in humble service?

Wardens **With the help of God, I will**

Archdeacon Clergy and people of these parishes, will you support your Churchwardens, pray for and care for them in their ministry as they enable you in yours?

All With the help of God, I will.

Wardens I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the office of Churchwarden in the parish in which I have been duly chosen, according to the best of my skill and knowledge. May God give me grace to fulfil these duties.

Archdeacon I now duly and canonically admit you as Churchwardens to serve in your respective parishes within the Diocese of Coventry.
God has called you and will not fail you.
The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance and give you peace.

**All God of power,
through your Spirit you promote peace and reconciliation,
partnership and encouragement.
In our work together,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
the gifts of your spirit equip us
to serve and worship you
now and always. Amen.**

Prayers for the Mission and Ministry of the Church

using the response

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer

As members together of the Body of Christ, 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.**

Commissioning of the People of God (*Area Dean*)

Area Dean Christ, you call us.
All **Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.
We will follow your call to be your people:
our hands will do your work,
our feet will walk your way.
Christ, you call us.

All **Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call each one to be your child for the world,
may our hearts search for your truth,
may our souls listen for your voice,
may our lives follow in your path.
Christ, you call each one of us.

All **Help us respond to your call.**

All Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.
We are the body of Christ.

The Blessing (*Area Dean*)

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
to serve and worship God;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen