





A Diocesan Celebration of Lay Ministry

with the Admission and Licensing of Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers,

the Recognition of Pathways completed and the Celebration of Lay people nominated by Parishes for their leadership and volunteering over the past year.

By

The Right Reverend Sophie Rebecca Jelley, Bishop of Coventry

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

The Church is the body of Christ. Just as a human body consists of a wide range parts, so the Church is made up of people from all walks of life, with a huge variety of gifts and talents, which they offer in the service of God, to make the Church complete.

Today, we celebrate the lay ministries of sisters and brothers across the churches and worshipping communities in our Diocese, who serve God and us in different ways. Each has offered their gifts in their local community and in various ways have been encouraged, nurtured and affirmed in those ministries. We are so grateful to them for giving time to discern, train and use their gifts in growing the Church and helping each of us to follow Jesus.

For over 150 years there has been an acknowledged role for licensed Lay Readers within the Church of England, who work alongside clergy across our parishes, in leading worship, preaching and sharing in pastoral care. Annually we have given thanks for them and licensed those who have recently joined their number. Today we do so again and extend that welcome and celebration of ministry to all those who have discovered the part that they can play in the life and mission of their worshipping community.

If you have yet to discover what that might mean for you then do take the opportunity to explore the possibilities on offer to learn, ask questions of those whose ministries we celebrate here today, and be open to the Spirit of God to lead and guide you into all that He has for you.

There are fun activities for young children available in our children's corner and please do participate in this service in a manner that you are comfortable with.

With thankfulness for the gift you are to the Church of God!

Candidates to be admitted and licensed as a Lay Ministers/Readers

Name

Church/benefice

Anthony Rich

Debbie Rumsby

Geoff Wiggin

The Berkswell Benefice

The Bridge Benefice Coventry

Lillington and Old Milverton Benefice

Lay Ministers/Readers to be re-licensed

Name

Church/benefice

Julie Batchelor

Amanda Di Giovanni

Andrew Giles

Karen Hatch

David Harrison

Richard Hollingdale

Jo King

Sue Masters

Sue Morris

Gail Richmond

Claire Russell

Suzanne Sapiano

Phil Sewards

Richard Spicer

Nigel Stallard

Jan Walker

Richard Woodfin

Benefice of Harbury and Ladbroke

Leamington, St Marks

Warwick, All Saint's Parish

The Leam Valley Benefice

The Benefice of Stratford-upon-Avon,

The Berkswell Benefice

Cubbington, St Mary's

Eastern Green Benefice

Stoke, St Michael

Rugby East Benefice

Leamington St John the Baptist

Coventry Stoke St Michael

St John (Benefice)

The Offchurch Group

Leek Wootton Benefice

Shottery Benefice

Newbold Pacey

Readers renewing Permission to Officiate (PTO)

Name Church/benefice

Malcolm Aldridge Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden

with Ullenhall

Heather Alford Kenilworth: St Nicholas

Judith Cox Alcester Deanery

Ann Fawcett Barford

Raymond Filby Budbrooke

David Gadsby Wolston and Church Lawford

Paul Gifford Stratford-Upon-Avon, Luddington

and Clifford Chambers

Chris Haines Leek Wootton

Mick Harling Coventry: All Saints

Colin Holtum Allesley

Fey Holtum Allesley

Terry Lenton Nuneaton: St Nicolas

Terry Morris Long Itchington and Marton

Clement Wedderburn Keresley with Coundon

Pat Wheeler Arden Marches

Readers who have moved to Emeritus:

Sue Goddard

Joan Wilkinson

Kath Farmer

Steve Bell

Gill Laughlin

lan Host

Len Dixon.

We remember with thanksgiving those Readers who have died this year:

Paul Murran (Emeritus)

Margaret Douglas (Emeritus)

Bob Bayford (Emeritus)

Janet Pocklington (Reader with PTO)

Kemble Everitt (Emeritus)

Andrew Barclay (Reader with PTO)

Elaine Hobday (Emeritus)

Lay people who have completed Pathways:

Name	Church/benefice	Which Pathway
Uzezi Ajijola	All Saints, Coventry	Preaching
Karen Armbrister	Draycote and Leam Valley	Preaching
Heather Boyd	St. Michael's, Bishop's Itchington	Preaching
Jane Cornwall	St. Nicholas, Alcester	Preaching
Nicola Everall	Ferncumbe Group	Bereavement ministry

Emma Hunt	St. Leonard's, Ryton-on-Dunsmore	Children, youth & families
Anthony Rich	St. John the Baptist, Berkswell	Preaching
		Leading worship
		Pastoral ministry
Debbie Rumsby	St. Stephen's, Canley	Bereavement: Funerals
		Pastoral ministry
		Preaching
Alisdair Rusk	St. Oswald's, Rugby	Preaching
Suzanne Sapiano	Stoke, St. Michael's	Children, youth and families
Allan Steven	St. Laurence, Bidford-on-Avon	Bereavement ministry
Stuart Tilsley	St. Nicholas, Alcester	Preaching

The Gathering

Before the service, a band from Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, will lead a selection of worship songs.

Shortly before the service begins, Dean John Witcombe welcomes the congregation. Followed by the opening hymn while the procession enters from the North Choir Aisle and moves to the front of the Nave and Chancel.

The Great Cross

Candidates to be Admitted as Readers

Incumbents supporting new Readers

Readers to be granted Permission to Officiate

Readers renewing Permission to Officiate

Readers to be Re-Licensed

Members of the Reader Committee

The Warden & Assistant Warden of Readers

Lay Learning & Training Lead

Director of Ministry and Leadership

New Ministries Lead & Director of Vocations

The Dean of Women's Ministry

The Dean of Coventry

The Bishop of Coventry

Chaplain

Hymn

We remain STANDING to sing the opening song:

Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock, from age to age; the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page; thy people owned thy goodness, and we their deeds record; and both of this bear witness: one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings to greatest, as to least; they bade all rise, and hasten to share the great King's feast; and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word, to all alike proclaiming one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness, through many a scene of strife, the faithful few fought bravely, to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, life restored, was all in this enfolded: one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us, nor leave thy work undone; with thy right hand to help us, the victory shall be won; by mortals and by angels, thy name shall be adored, and this shall be their anthem: one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Words by E.H. Plumptre (1821-1891) Tune CP 606 Thornbury Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

The Welcome and Introduction

The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, invites everyone to SIT. Jo King, Warden of Readers, introduces the service.

The Bishop also welcomes all present and then continues:

My sisters and brothers, through baptism, God welcomes us into the fellowship of the universal Church. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to their gifts, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the Church.

We gather to celebrate lay ministry; to admit and license those called to the ministry of Reader.

We gather to recognize those who have completed the Learning Pathways in response to God's call to deeper service and discipleship and equipping for ministry.

We gather to celebrate the women and men nominated by their respective parishes/benefices in recognition for their faithful witness and ministry within their local faith community and their encouragement of the ministries of God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all.

All of this flows from our shared calling to live as people of reconciliation, rooted in God's grace and mercy.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and welcome leads the litany.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class.

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own.

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth.

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, **Father, forgive.**

Bishop Sophie pronounces the absolution, saying

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Bishop introduces a time of silent prayer, before saying the Collect.

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

"Called": About Reader Ministry

Readers are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and other licensed lay ministers. They are to lead public worship, to preach and teach the Word of God, to assist at the Eucharist and to share in pastoral and evangelistic work. As authorized lay ministers, they are to encourage the ministries of God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission to the world

The First Reading

Read by Heather Alford.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiahl: 4-8

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
⁷But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you, ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Fiona Trewick, Assistant Warden of Readers, offers a brief reflection on the Scripture reading.

About Readership

Nigel Stallard, Karen Hatch and Amanda Di Giovanni share brief insights into the role and ministry of a Reader in the diocese.

The Presentation of the Candidates for Admission

The congregation SITS. The candidates for admission remain STANDING and Anthony Rich, Debbie Rumsby and Geoff Wiggin are presented to the Bishop by the Warden of Readers, who says,

Bishop Sophie, I present Anthony, Debbie and Geoff to be admitted to the office of Reader:

The Bishop asks these questions, to which the Warden and the Secretary of Readers respond:

Have Anthony, Debbie and Geoff made the Declaration of Assent, and thereby 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?

They have.

Have they also made the declaration of obedience to the Bishop and the declaration which must be made before a Reader is licensed?

They have.

Are they people of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith?

They are.

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

They have.

The Questions

The Bishop says to the candidates:

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

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

I do so believe.

Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the Word to them?

By the grace of God, I will.

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?

By the grace of God, I will.

Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

By the grace of God, I will.

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

By the grace of God, I will.

Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

By the grace of God, I will.

The candidates turn to face the congregation, and the Bishop says,

Sisters and brothers, Anthony, Debbie and Geoff have been chosen for the office of Reader. Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All: We will.

Will you continue to pray for them?

All: We will.

The Bishop invites the clergy of the new Readers' parishes to come forward and asks:

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

I will.

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

I will.

The Admission

The candidates stand before the Bishop, who admits each them to the office of Reader by the delivery of a copy of the Bible in accordance with Canon E5, with these words:

I admit you as a Reader in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The new Readers are vested with a blue preaching scarf by their Incumbents. The Bishop blesses them in these words:

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. **Amen**

The new Readers turn to face the congregation and are greeted with applause.

The Re-Licensing of Readers

The Warden presents those who are renewing their licence or Permission to Officiate in the Diocese, who stand as their name is read out.

Bishop Sophie, I present to you those to be relicensed as Readers in this Diocese:

The Warden then reads their names. The Warden then says,

Those who are renewing their Permission to Officiate in the Diocese:

The Warden then reads their names.

When all those to be relicensed are standing, the Bishop confirms their ministry:

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this Diocese.

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

All: Amen.

Song

Over all the earth, You reign on high Every mountain stream, every sunset sky But my one request, Lord, my only aim Is that You'd reign in me again

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour 'Cause You are the Lord of all I am So won't You reign in me again

And over every thought, over every word
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing
So won't You reign in me again

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour 'Cause You are the Lord of all I am So won't You reign in me again

Brenton Brown © 1998, by Vineyard Songs

At the end of the hymn, we all SIT. The Reverend Nitano Muller introduces "About Pathways"

"Learning": About Pathways

'Pathways' is designed to help those called to lay ministry feel confident and equipped in the places God has called them to: at work, at church and in the local community. Today we are celebrating people who have completed Pathways in Children, youth & families, Leading worship, Pastoral ministry and Preaching. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission to the world.

The Second Reading

Read by Rosie Lee

A Reading from the Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Anna Naish, Lay Learning and Training Lead, offers a brief reflection on the Scripture reading.

About Pathways

Uzezi Ajijola and Nicola Everall share experiences of the Pathways programmes.

The Presentation of the those who have Completed Pathways

Those who have completed Pathways are called forward by Anna Naish, Lay Learning and Training Lead, and presents them to the Bishop saying,

Bishop Sophie,

I present those who have successfully completed their respective Pathway programs.

As the name of each person and the respective pathway completed is read, they move to stand before the Bishop to receive their certificate.

The cohort turn to face the congregation and are greeted with applause.

The cohort return to their seats.

Song

We all STAND to sing the hymn.

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness Opened my eyes, let me see Beauty that made this heart adore You Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

And here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted Glorious in heaven above Humbly You came to the earth You created All for love's sake, became poor.

Chorus

I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross.

Songwriters: Tim Hughes, Darlene Zschech. © 2000 Thankyou Music Ltd

The Intercessions

Everyone SITS or KNEELS for the prayers. The Bishop says:

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The prayers are led by Debbie Rumsby and Geoff Wiggin. After each petition, the following response is used.

Father God in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in any language or version you prefer. Anthony Rich says:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

The Bishop's Address

An address is delivered by the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, followed by a moment of reflection.

The Reverend Nitano Muller introduces the "About the Celebration of local Lay Ministers.

"Celebrate": About the Celebration of local Lay ministers

As a Diocese, we celebrate all that lay people give to the life of the church and to their community. We give thanks to God for the children, women and men who respond to God's call and generously offer their skills, gifts and ministries, acknowledging their immense contributions to the building up of God's Kingdom and their faithful witness and work among us.

Lay leaders and volunteers are invited to stand when an area of ministry or service that they are involved in is mentioned by the Reverend Rob Harrison, Director of Ministry & Leadership.

The nominated volunteers are called forward to stand before the Bishop, who offers a word of appreciation and encouragement to them

An organ fanfare is sounded as nominated volunteers, licensed lay ministers and those who have completed Pathways step forward and are applauded.

The Renewal of Commitment

The Bishop invites the congregation to stand.

My sisters and brothers, in the name of the Church I thank you for your faithful ministry. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you and invite you now to renew your commitment to the respective ministry entrusted to you.

Therefore, I ask:

Do you pledge to stay faithful to the Gospel and the Church's teachings in your ministries and life?

With God's help, I will.

Do you pledge to work collaboratively and serve with humility, integrity, love and devotion, persevering in prayer while working for justice?

With God's help, I will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you to make Christ known to all? With God's help, I will.

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

All: Amen.

The congregation says together:

God our Father,
we offer our lives to do your work
in your Church and in the world.
Help us by your Holy Spirit
to hear more clearly your call
to deeper commitment to your service,
and give us grace to respond with gladness;
for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Everyone STANDS to sing as the procession moves to the West Screen.

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name, baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward, asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Words Jeffry Rowthorn (b. 1934) Copyright © 1978 Hope Publishing Co, Carol Stream, IL 60188. Tune CP 418 Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)

The Blessing

The Bishop pronounces the blessing from the Chi-Rho, saying

Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

May the gifts God has entrusted to you be a blessing to the Church and to the world.

May Christ, who calls you friends, strengthen you in discipleship and service.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Warden of Readers says,

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

All: In the name of Christ.

Amen.

The Organ Voluntary

Performed by Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music.

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance. Thank you for your support.





What is a Reader? Readers are theologically trained and licensed by the Bishop, and are normally based in a parish church, leading services and preaching.

What else do Readers do? Readers undertake a wide range of tasks. These include chaplaincy; community involvement including in schools and food banks; leading home groups; prayer co-ordination; church support via creative and administrative tasks and funeral ministry including interment of ashes.

What should I do if I want to become a Reader? Information about the vocations process can be found on the Diocesan Website: The Vocation Process - Diocese of Coventry

More information about Reader ministry can be found on the following websites:

Diocese of Coventry - https://www.coventry.anglican.org/info-for-ministers/info-for-readers/

National Reader Website - https://layministry.org.uk

A good way of starting is to sign up to some training. This may help you decide and will provide you with more information. To find out more look at the following website: <u>Home Page - Equip Hub</u>

More Questions? Contact Jo King (jo.king@coventry.anglican.org or via phone: 01926 332263 or 07709 686351)



Pathways are a combination of training, learning and formation alongside practical experience in your church. They are designed to help you feel more confident and equipped in the ministries God has called you to; at work, in church and in your community.

Need more information?

Use the QR code or link to find more information and how to join a Pathway.

Interested in occasional training?

You can attend any training event or learning course without being on a Pathway.

Pathways in...

Bereavement ministry
Children, youth & families
Leading worship
Pastoral ministry
Preaching
Reconciliation ministry



equiphub.org.uk

Interested in Becoming a Lay Chaplain at the Cathedral?

Lay Chaplains are a visible, welcoming presence in the Cathedral, offering a ministry of listening, care, and prayer to visitors, pilgrims, and worshippers. This is a ministry of hospitality and quiet witness, helping all who come through our doors to encounter something of God's love and peace.

If you are interested in exploring this calling, please sign up below.

You will be invited to attend an **information-sharing and training session** in the autumn, where you can find out more before making any commitment.

For questions, please contact:

Canon Nitano Muller, <u>Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org</u>

Jackie Skipp, Volunteer Lead, <u>Jackie.Skipp@Coventry.Anglican.org</u>

Sign-up Sheet	
Name:	
Phone / Email:	
Parish / Church (if applicable):	
I am interested in attending the information session	
<i>□</i> Yes	
\square I'd like to find out more first	

Please tear this off and return it to the Lay Chaplains or stewards at the door.