## Welcoming and Commissioning

of

## OTA_26DParish Visitors/ Lay Pastoral Assistants

##

Date

Deanery/Benefice of ABC

Diocese of Bath and Wells

## Welcome!

## Today is an important day in the life of our Deanery/Benefice. We are gathering to worship together and to welcome and pray for our new Parish Visitors/ Lay Pastoral Assistants.

## Through prayer we are engaging in the friendship that God wants with us. Through prayer we are able to experience the love God has for us. Through us, God can show his love and friendship to others.

## We hope and pray that through this service we will all encounter God’s love as support, encouragement or challenge according to our need.

## Please join in the responses throughout this booklet in bold.

## Children are welcome, there are some books and toys available if needed.

## WA_088

## Gathering to worship God

## Greeting

## We are gathered here today to welcome X,Y and Z as Parish Visitors/ 5 new lay Pastoral Assistants. In a moment of silence, let us thank God for them and for his call upon their lives.

As God’s people we have gathered:

***All:* let us worship him together.**

## Opening prayer

Lord, speak to us

***All:* that we may hear your word.**

Move among us

***All:* that we may behold your glory.**

Receive our prayers

***All:* that we may learn to trust you. Amen.**

## Hymn (tune Abbotsleigh)

God, our gifts we lay before you,

gifts of hand and heart and mind;

these we offer to adore you-

may you ever in us find

willing hands for costly giving,

spirits faithful, spirits true,

shaping our daily living

gifts of worth to honour you.

Jesus Christ you come to greet us

stooping as a servant low –

bring the ways of God to meet us,

of his grace the fullness show.

Mystery of love’s outpouring,

deep beyond our human sight,

send our earthbound spirits soaring,

re-create us in your light.

Spirit of the Son and Father,

come and fill us here and now,

as with open hearts we gather

ready to renew our vow.

Fuse the gifts our lives now offer

with the gift come from above,

seal the sacrifice we proffer

in your living deathless love.

## Presentation of the Parish Visitors/LPAs

## Parish Visitors come forward accompanied by Churchwardens

***Churchwardens:*** We present to all who are gathered here:

X,Y and Z. who have indicated their willingness to serve as Lay Visitors/Lay Pastoral Assistants, been approved by our PCCs, have completed the Deanery Exploring Pastoral Care course [and the Diocesan requirements for commendation].

***Rector:*** People of this Deanery/benefice will you uphold and support our Parish Visitors/ LPAs in their new role?

***All:*** We will

***Rector:*** X,Y and Z, are you willing to serve as Parish Visitors/ Lay Pastoral Assistants in the Benefice of ABC

***Parish Visitors/ LPAs:*** I am, with the help of God.

***Rector:*** Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

we thank you for the life of your Church in this place.

Hear our prayers, as together we seek to

live out the love of Christ.

May our Parish Visitors be a sign

of your love and care for all people;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All:* Amen**

***Hearing and responding to the word of God***

## Reading

Matthew 25. 34-40

Jesus said: “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” 37Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” 40And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,\* you did it to me.” 41

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

## Address

## Commissioning

X,Y and Z, do you believe that God has called you to serve as Parish Visitors/LPAs?

***Parish Visitors/LPA's:*** I do

Will you, as far as you are able, make Christ central in your lives, letting his peace rule in your hearts and his Word dwell in you richly?

***Parish Visitors/LPA’s:*** With the help of God, I will.

Will you clothe yourselves with Christ’s compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as you minister in his name to others?

***Parish Visitors/LPA’s:*** With the help of God, I will.

Do you commit to showing the love of God by accompanying people in times of sorrow and of joy?

***Parish Visitors/LPAs:*** With the help of God, I do.

You do not fulfil this ministry on your own. Will you endeavour to work faithfully as a member of the as a member of the Pastoral Team in your churches under the guidance of your incumbent?

***Parish Visitors/LPAs:*** With the help of God, I will.

We warmly welcome you into this role and I commission you to serve God as Lay Pastoral Assistants in your respective benefices.

(*Round of applause*)

Let us now pray for our Parish Visitors/ LPAs.

Heavenly Father

By your grace, may X,Y and Z

serve you faithfully in their roles as Parish Visitors/LPA.

By your Holy Spirit give them your wisdom and your strength so that in all they say and do and are they will be

instruments of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

***All:* Amen**

## Hymn

Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav’llers on the road.
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we’ve known together
of Christ’s love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

## OTC_TSDAffirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life,

the one for whom we exist?

***All:* We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature,

died for us and rose again?

***All:* We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

***All:* We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

***All:* This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,

no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking,

and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts,

Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled

at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours,

and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts,

Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,

your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing,

and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts,

Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,

whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping,

and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts,

Lord, at the end of the day.

## Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

***All:* hear our prayer.**

## The Lord’s Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.**

## Going out to serve God

## Hymn

*During which the collection is received*

Will you come and follow me
 if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown

in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare,

will you let me answer prayer

in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the ‘you’ you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you’ve found

to reshape the world around

through my sight and touch and sound

in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

## Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus

draw you to himself,

the power of the Lord Jesus

strengthen you in his service,

the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

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



Common Worship 2000

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