



Service of
celebration and commitment
to launch the

Bishop's Certificate in Lay Ministry

Southwell Minster
7.30pm 2nd October 2001



Welcome to the Minster for tonight's service which marks the beginning of the new Bishop's Certificate Course in Lay Ministry.

What's going to happen in the service?

Preparation

Welcome

Song - *Praise to the Lord*

Confession

Absolution

Presentation - *Celebrating lay ministry*

Song - *Christ's is the world*

Ministry of the Word

Collect

Reading

Sermon - The Bishop of Southwell

Song - *I will offer up my life*

Inauguration of the Course

Commissioning

Prayers

Song - *I the Lord of sea and sky*

Lighting of tutorial group candles

Blessing and dismissal



PREPARATION

*All stand for the entry of the Bishop of Southwell and Andrew David,
Chair of the Lay Ministry Committee.*

The Bishop says

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

All **and also with you.**

Andrew David introduces the service.

All stand and sing

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
all that is needful hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work,
and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew
all the almighty can do,
he who with love doth befriend 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 ay we adore him.

J. Neander trans. C. Winkworth

All sit or kneel for prayer. Andrew says

Jesus said:

Before you offer your gift,
go and be reconciled,
As brothers and sisters in God's family,
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

All **O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Bishop says a prayer of absolution.

*Sit for a presentation, **Celebrating lay ministry**, introduced by Patrick Dennis.*

All stand and sing

Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
And Christ is the One who calls us here.

*To the lost Christ shows His face;
To the unloved He gives His embrace:
To those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes with His friends
A touching place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid,
Strange or bereaved or never employed;
Feel for the women, and feel for the men
Who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
Feel for the women whom men have defiled,
Feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
And feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,
Riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
Which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

J. Bell & G. Maule

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We remain standing while the Bishop says the Collect

Almighty God,
source of all knowledge, wisdom and holiness
give us grace,
to discover your truth in scripture and in your creation
to seek your will in our lives
and so to obey your commands,
that we may bring light and love
to those in darkness or despair,
and glorify the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We sit to hear Christine Russell-Lumby read Ephesians 4: 7 - 16.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the

truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Sermon - the Bishop of Southwell

All stand to sing

I will offer up my life
in spirit and truth
pouring out the oil of love
as my worship to you.
In surrender I must give
my every part;
Lord receive the sacrifice
of a broken heart.

*Jesus what can I give, what can I bring
to so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour what can be said, what can be sung
as a praise of your name
for the things you have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,
of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

You deserve my ev'ry breath
for you've paid the great cost;
giving up your life to death,
even death on a cross.
You took all my shame away,
there defeated my sin,
opened up the gates of heav'n
and beckoned me in.

M. Redman

THE INAUGURATION OF THE COURSE

*All sit except for the course organisers, wardens and tutors.
The Bishop asks them*

Do you commit yourselves to serve God and his church in the faithful preparation and delivery of this course?

We do.

Will you give help and support to the candidates, help them to discover their gifts, and equip them more fully for the work of lay ministry?

With the help of God we will.

Will you continue to grow and develop in your own faith, finding fresh insights and constant renewal so that you may offer more to others in Christ's name?

This is our vision and our desire.

*Course members for the various lay ministries stand in their places.
The Bishop asks them*

Do you commit yourselves to continue to serve God through lay ministry in his world as members of his church?

We do.

Will you seek God's grace to develop your gifts and be more fully equipped through your participation in this course?

With the help of God we will.

Will you continue to grow and develop in your own faith, seeking fresh insights and constant renewal so that you may offer more to others in Christ's name?

This is our vision and our desire.

The whole congregation stands. The Bishop asks

People of God you are here as those who affirm the value that every member of God's church has a ministry to offer as part of the body of Christ. Will you support those who begin this course to be better equipped for the ministry that you have helped them to identify?

We will

Will you support them with your prayers and in practical ways during the course and will you honour their ministry as it develops among you?

With the help of God we will

Will you continue to grow and develop in your own faith, finding fresh insights and constant renewal, so that you may offer more to others in Christ's name?

This is our vision and our desire.

Prayers are led by Janet Richardson, concluding with 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.**

All stand and sing

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry;
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If You lead me;
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them –
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them –
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?

D. Schutte

A representative of each tutorial group receives from the Bishop a candle which will be lit during worship when the group meets.

The Bishop blesses the people.

Andrew David says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Minster.



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This service launches a new initiative which will enable lay people, commissioned by Bishop George, to use their gifts and talents in the parishes and deaneries of the diocese across a wide spectrum of Christ-centred activities.

The Bishop's Certificate in Lay Ministry will be awarded on successful completion of a two year high-quality training programme operated by a sub-committee of the diocese's Lay Ministry Training Group under the chairmanship of Andrew David.

Bishop George has commented: "I am delighted to welcome the Bishop's Certificate in Lay Ministry. It is a much needed development in the life of the Diocese, and I hope that laity and clergy will find that it inspires them to create new patterns of ministry in their parishes and deaneries."

Christine Russell Lumby, Lay Chair of the Working Party which developed the programme originally initiated by Diocesan Synod, added: "The new initiative we are now launching has the potential to tap a massive resource of gifts and talents that lay people have to offer in the service of Christ."

The Bishop's Certificate course was evolved as a response to challenges highlighted in the "Developing Ministry" exercise carried out throughout the diocese. It covers nine vital areas of lay ministry which will be reviewed in the light of experience.

Readers

Youth work

Ministry in the world

Witness and evangelism

Music-leading in worship

Children's work

Pastoral Care

Helping others learn

Social action

Response to the Bishop's Certificate course has exceeded expectations and nine groups based in deaneries throughout the diocese will provide training for just under 100 people in the first year of operation. The course starts later this month.

We ask for your prayers for the candidates and all those involved in running the Bishop's Certificate in Lay Ministry.

