

Christ Church with St Laurence Brondesbury



**A Service of Celebration of New Ministry
Evening Prayer with the Licensing of the Rev'd Natasha Woodward as Interim
Priest-in-Charge (Transition Minister)**

*8pm, Wednesday 2 September 2020
by the Rt Rev'd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden
with the Ven Catherine Pickford, Archdeacon of Northolt
Pianist: Alex Foord
Cantor: Dominic Foord*

Tonight Natasha will be licensed and installed as interim Priest in Charge of the parish of Christ Church with St Laurence Brondesbury.

The post is 'interim' because it is for a limited period, and especially focused on helping the church to deal with a time of transition and to prepare for the future.

The Bishop's aim for this time is for the congregation to work together with Natasha to recapture and resource its mission, and in particular to consider:

- *How to develop its mission to the parish*
- *How to develop the connection with Christ Church Primary School beyond involvement in governance*
- *How best to maintain and use the church building and hall.*
- *What models of co-operation and working together can be put in place with neighbouring parishes*

The outcomes the Bishop is looking for include:

1. *A process of healing for past hurts and difficulties*
2. *Production of a new mission action plan (or similar document) to which the congregation is committed*
3. *Production of a parish profile for the appointment of an incumbent*

As you prepare for the service tonight, please hold in your prayers all whose lives have been or will become part of the story of this parish.



Please stand when the bell is rung

The Greeting

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Amen.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

The Bishop introduces the service.

Opening Prayer

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, and give to your servant Natasha now to be licensed the needful gifts of grace; 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**

Psalm 62

- 1 On God alone my soul in stillness waits; ◆
from him comes my salvation.
- 2 **He alone is my rock and my salvation, ◆
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**
- 3 How long will all of you assail me to destroy me, ◆
as you would a tottering wall or a leaning fence?
- 4 **They plot only to thrust me down from my place of honour; ◆
lies are their chief delight; ◆**
they bless with their mouth, but in their heart they curse.
- 5 Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul; ◆
for in him is my hope.
- 6 **He alone is my rock and my salvation, ◆
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

- 7 In God is my strength and my glory; ♦
 God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.
- 8 **Put your trust in him always, my people; ♦
 pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**
- 9 The peoples are but a breath,
 the whole human race a deceit; ♦
 on the scales they are altogether lighter than air.
- 10 **Put no trust in oppression; in robbery take no empty pride; ♦
 though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**
- 11 God spoke once, and twice have I heard the same, ♦
 that power belongs to God.
- 12 **Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, ♦
 for you repay everyone according to their deeds.**
 Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
 As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be
 with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not
 overwhelm you;
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
 I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,



I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Here ends the first reading.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 3.1–9

³And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Here ends the second reading.

Sermon

Confession and Forgiveness

We come to God from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for forgiveness and peace.

Silence



Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Come Holy Ghost

Sung by Dominic Foord

The Presentation

The Area Dean and Churchwardens present the Priest to the Bishop, saying

I present to you Natasha Woodward to be licensed as Priest in Charge in this parish.

The bishop describes the aims of this period of ministry (printed in the front of this order of service).

Bishop: People of Christ Church, I present to you Natasha Woodward. Will you support her and uphold her in her ministry?

ALL: With the help of God, we will.

The Declaration and the Oaths

The Bishop says to the Priest:

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?

The Declaration of Assent

I, Natasha Caroline Woodward, 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 will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

Then the Priest takes the oaths, holding the New Testament in the right hand.

The Priest faces the congregation for:

The Oath of Allegiance

I, Natasha Caroline Woodward, swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors, according to law.

The Priest faces the Bishop for:

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, Natasha Caroline Woodward, swear that I will bear true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of London and the Area Bishop of Willesden, and their successors, in all things lawful and honest.

The Bishop reads the Licence and delivers it to the Priest saying:

Receive this Licence, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bishop blesses the Parish Priest in appropriate words

Bishop: Archdeacon Catherine, I ask you to install Natasha as Priest in this parish.

The Archdeacon escorts the Priest to a seat designated for her.

The Archdeacon says:

Natasha, I install you as the Priest of this parish. The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

The Archdeacon then places into the hands of the Priest the keys of the church and says:

Natasha, you are now the Priest of this Parish.

(The Priest then goes to the Church Bell and tolls it as a sign of the start of her ministry in the Parish.)

An Act of Commitment

All stand. The Bishop addresses the priest and congregation:

I now invite you to affirm together your commitment to the task of ministry, witness and service to which God is calling you all.

Priest We are to baptise

All and make new disciples.

Priest We are to read God's holy word

All and join together in prayer.

Priest We are to attend to God's word

All and proclaim it in the world.

Priest We are to celebrate the Eucharist

All and be formed as the Body of Christ.

Priest We are to care for this community

All and show the love of Christ to all in need.

Priest We are to seek the Kingdom of God

All and bring God's grace to human lives.

Priest We are to nurture our children

All and awaken in them a living faith.

Priest We are to lead all people to Jesus Christ

All and prepare them to enter his heavenly kingdom.

All pray in silence for a while before saying together:

**We declare this day
that the Lord is our God:
we will walk in his ways,
we will keep his decrees,
we will obey his commands,
and live in the power of his Spirit.**

The Bishop extends his hands over Priest and people and says:

The Lord declares this day
that you are his own, his treasured possession;
work together as a people holy to the Lord your God,
and may God meet all your needs
from his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Magnificat

Sung by Dominic Foord

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Including this response:

In faith we pray

We pray to you our God

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
 which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sending out

Please stand

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your glory.

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