

## Primary Visitation 2022

### Order of Service



**“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”**

**The Apostle Paul - Romans 1:16**

## **Welcome to this year's Visitation service**

Thank you for being here this evening and for your commitment to taking on the role of churchwarden in your local church for the year ahead. It is humbling to know how you all in your various ways have served the communities of our diocese through the last year, which has been the most remarkable year most of us will ever live through.

I would like to thank those of you who have served as a warden for the past year, and welcome those of you who are new to the role.

We are now in a time of unlocking our society after an experience which will live for us with us for the rest of our lives. The church has continued to serve local communities, even though at points in the past two years we have been forced to close our doors because of COVID-19. We have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to being the parishes of England in that time and that has been most marked in this Diocese of Blackburn.

At time of preparing this order of service, we are also facing a crisis in Europe, following the invasion of a sovereign nation by an aggressive neighbour and this is no doubt going to colour and influence our mood and view of the world for years to come.

We are at the moment not just unlocking a local church but unlocking and refreshing our diocesan vision 2026 with all that means. So, we seek to be healthy churches, transforming communities.

With your archdeacons and my episcopal colleagues, I am seeking to help and support you in helping you develop your commitment to joining in with God's mission. Our theme for this year's Visitation about the gifts God gives to both lay and ordained for the work of ministry is reflected in our scripture passage.

**Bishop Julian**

**Hymn: To God be the Glory (HOAN 695 Fanny Crosby)**

**To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

***Chorus***

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice;  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.**

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

***Chorus***

**Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.**

***Chorus***

**Parish Priest:       The Lord be with you  
                          And also with you.**

**O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**In your resurrection, O Christ,  
Let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the deep waters of death  
you brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
Through him dark death has been destroyed  
and radiant life is everywhere restored.  
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light  
may our lives reflect his glory  
and our lips repeat the endless song.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you conscious we  
need your forgiveness. We confess those times when we have got in Your way  
and prevented Your Spirit working in us and through us.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We confess those times when we have not trusted You or Your promises and  
acted without faith.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We confess those times when we have relied upon our own strength and  
grieved Your Holy Spirit.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We confess those times when our eyes have not been fixed on eternal things  
and our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant *you* pardon and forgiveness of all *your* sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

## **READING Romans 12: 1-8** the Lay Chair of a Deanery

### **The New Life in Christ**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection** – Bishop Julian

*Musical Interlude*

**ADMISSION OF CHURCHWARDENS:**

*Churchwardens to be admitted stand*

***Bishop Julian:***

Churchwardens are called to represent the people of God; to work with the leadership of the parish, ordained and lay; to be an example and encouragement to their fellow Christians; and to promote unity and peace.

As you come to be admitted, I ask you to affirm your commitment to this calling, and to seek God's grace and the power of his Holy Spirit to fulfil it.

Will you, as Churchwarden, seek to work with the Bishop, the Parish Priest, the Parochial Church Council, and all those who exercise leadership in your parish, to further the mission of God and his purposes in the world?

**I will, the Lord being my helper.**

Will you undertake your task as a spiritual calling, and seek, through the power of the Holy Spirit to promote true religion, unity and peace?

**I will, the Lord being my helper.**

Will you care for the fabric and property of the church, as stewards under God, and make it your responsibility to ensure its proper upkeep and repair?

**I will, the Lord being my helper.**

God give you grace to serve him with dedication, cheerfulness and humility, and may his all-powerful Spirit direct your paths throughout the coming year, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Bishop then invites prayer for the Churchwardens and asks them to make the following declaration.*

**I do solemnly and sincerely declare  
that I will faithfully and diligently  
perform the duties of the office of Churchwarden  
to the best of my skill and understanding.**

*The Churchwardens are then collectively admitted to their office by the Bishop*

**Vision Prayer**

**Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses, to grow leaders and inspire children and young people. Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**HYMN Come down, O Love divine (HOAN 114, Bianco da Siena trans Littledale)**

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far surpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

## **The Archdeacon's Charge**

*Intercessions, led by the Assistant Archdeacons, starting with the Collect and ending with the Lord's Prayer*

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ  
reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**



**HYMN Bless the Lord, O my Soul (10 000 reasons) (Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin)**

***Chorus***

**Bless the Lord O my soul  
O my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
O my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes**

***Chorus***

**You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find**

***Chorus***

**And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore**

***Chorus x2***

*Please remain standing*

The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Thank you to our host church for its welcome and organisation

## Our Charity this year is Bible Society

**Bible Society** <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

Working in over 200 countries, Bible Society is a charity on a global mission to bring the Bible to life for every man, woman and child. When people engage with the Bible, lives can change – for good.

To donate, use this link <https://bit.ly/3DEVYFO>

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**If you use a yellow envelope on the pew, please place in the plate on leaving the church.**

The Service includes material from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)* and *Common Worship: Times and Seasons (2006)* and *Common Worship: Festivals (2008)*.

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To God be the Glory (HOAN 695 Fanny Crosby) Come down, O Love Divine (HOAN 114 Bianco da Siena trans Littledale)  
Bless My Soul (10000 reasons) CCLI Song No: 6016351 Key: G Major Writer(s): Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman



## ***The Bible Course***

### **The Bible Course for groups**

An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story

Whether you're well versed in Scripture or new to the Bible, *The Bible Course* offers a superb overview of the world's best-selling book.

The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. Over eight interactive sessions, it combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings.

Meeting people in groups, where everyone shares their thoughts and experiences, lies at the heart of *The Bible Course* as everyone learns from each other.

#### **A typical session includes:**

- Welcome from the course host, Joanna Adeyinka-Burford
- An introductory teaching video
- Six interactive lessons encouraging you to read, review and reflect on scripture
- Q&A conversation video with Andrew and Joanna (after lessons three and six).

**Find out more at [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk)**