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**The Order of Service for**

## The Licensing of a Minister

**Authorised by the Bishop of the Diocese**

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*The church family gathers with the Bishop, Archdeacon and Area Dean.*

*A hymn/song may be sung.*

***The Greeting***

*Bishop* In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

***All*** **Amen.**

*Bishop* Peace be with you

***All***  **and also with you.**

*The Bishop introduces the service. Then all say together the Diocesan Vision Prayer*

**Heavenly Father,**

**we embrace Your call for us to make disciples,**

**to be witnesses to grow leaders**

**and to 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.**

# The Order of Licensing

*The Bishop sits. The person to be licensed stands before the bishop and is presented to him*

Bishop *N*, I present *N* to be licensed as….

*Bishop* Thank you for your presentation, which I accept.

*The candidate turns to face the congregation*

*Bishop* It is my pleasure to introduce *N* to you who is to be your new ...

People of *this parish/these parishes* and all who share in Christ’s ministry here, will you support each other in that ministry and now welcome *N* among you?

*People* **In Christ’s name we will.**

***Collect***

*Bishop* Almighty and everlasting God,   
by whose spirit the whole body of the Church   
is governed and sanctified:   
hear our prayer for all Your servants,  
especially for Your Church in this place;

that each of us in our vocation and ministry   
may serve You in holiness and truth,   
to the glory of Your name and the good of Your Church   
and give to Your servant *xxx,* now to be licensed, the needful gifts of grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*The candidate sits.*

# *A Bible reading may follow, followed by a talk and/or hymn/song.*

*The candidate stands before the bishop.*

***Declaration and Oaths***

*The Declaration of Assent*

*Bishop* 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 born 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 candidate makes the following declaration:*

I, *N,* 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, I will only use the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

*All stand*

*The candidate takes the Oaths, holding the Bible in his/her right hand*

*The Oath of Allegiance*

I, *N*, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, King Charles the Third, his heirs and Successors, according to Law; so help me God.

*The Oath of Canonical Obedience*

I, *N*, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Blackburn and his Successors in all things lawful and honest; so help me God.

*The Bishop then replies*

Thank you for this declaration of loyalty. On behalf of our diocese I, with all God’s people here, undertake to support and uphold you in your new ministry. In token of this we will now sign the Declaration and Oaths.

*(If the candidate is part of a Ministry Team the other ministers stand with*

*him/her before the Bishop and the following is said:*

*Bishop* In a team, clergy and lay workers collaborate to serve their congregations.

*N* will you work with your colleagues in the service of Christ and support them in their ministry?

*Priest* By God’s grace, I will.

*Bishop N & N*, will you take care with *N* to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and together build up the common life?

*Team* By Gods’ grace, we will.

*The other ministers return to their places.*)

***The Licensing***

*All kneel, the candidate kneeling before the Bishop.*

*Bishop* Let us pray  
 Heavenly Father, bless *this parish* and those who

minister here, that with *N* they may fulfil your   
loving purposes for those who live and work in this place. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

*Bishop* *N*do not forget the trust of those who have chosen

you. In your work and ministry, and with your colleagues, care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.

By your words and in your life preach the gospel.  
 Give time for yourself, your family and friends.  
 Love and serve Christ’s people. Nourish them  
 (*by word and sacrament)* and strengthen them to glorify  
 God in this life and in the life to come.

*The Bishop sits and reads the Licence and gives it to the candidate.*

Receive your Licence;

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

*Taking his staff, the Bishop blesses him/her saying:*

*N*, the Lord give you courage, wisdom, strength and

love to do his will:

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

***The Minister is then welcomed* minister** is then welcomed.

*The minister may lead the people in prayer, ending with the Lord’s Prayer.*

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| --- | --- |
| 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.** | Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us    *All*  **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.** |

*A hymn/song may follow.*

*The bishop gives the Blessing and the people depart.*