

Admission of Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Sidesmen/women will be admitted to office in their own parish church on an appropriate Sunday, following the Archdeacons' Visitation, arranged by the Incumbent and new Churchwardens.

This is intended to enhance and strengthen the office of sidesman/woman in the local church. It presents to the local congregation the responsibilities and significance of the sidesman/woman's role in the support of their own Churchwardens and other leaders in the church. It is hoped that all sidesmen/women will be able to attend their own Parish Church for this ceremony.

It may also be an opportunity to affirm others in the life of the church who hold responsibility, PCC, Children's workers, Choir, musicians etc.

Admission Service of Sidesmen/women in their own Parish Church on a Sunday following the Archdeacons' Visitation

At an appropriate moment in the main Sunday Service.
(All Sidesmen/women must have signed the nomination form.)

The Sidesmen/women are invited to the front of Church and face the Incumbent and the newly appointed Churchwardens.

Collect:

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
we thank you that 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 servants now to be commissioned
the needful gifts of grace:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Churchwarden reads:

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.

A second Churchwarden reads:

Churchwardens are to further the mission of God, and his purposes for the world, promoting true religion. They are to care for the fabric and property of the church, ensuring its proper upkeep and repair.

The Incumbent admits the sidesmen/women:

Sidesmen and Sideswomen are called to assist the churchwardens in these various duties.
Will you undertake this task as a spiritual calling, and seek through the power of the Holy Spirit, in word and action, to promote true religion, unity and peace ?

I will, the Lord being my helper

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

The Incumbent and Churchwardens greet the newly appointed sidesmen and women.