



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong

with Licensing of Readers



Eve of Michael and All Angels

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025

5.30pm

Quire

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Readers are theologically trained licensed lay ministers; they are ministers of the Word with a passion for sharing the Gospel. All sorts of people are called to Reader ministry because disciples of Jesus come from all walks of life.

The Office of Reader is a voluntary lay ministry within the Church of England that is nationally recognised and licensed under canon law. Readers are also known as Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM).

There are currently around 110 active Readers in our diocese. Readers play a vital role in the public ministry of the Church by leading worship, teaching and preaching, as well as being engaged in outreach to the wider community.

As local lay theologians Readers offer a ministry that is church-focused, community facing, and world-affirming. They work collaboratively in ministry teams alongside clergy and other lay colleagues.

## Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation.

By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.



As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



**Large print** orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

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Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:

[precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org)

01227 865281

[www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)

## **Those to be admitted and licensed as a Reader**

Susan Brearley	Eastry and Woodnesborough (Sandwich Deanery)
Vicky Friedrich	Folkestone St Mary and St Eanswythe, and St Saviour (Elham Deanery)
Ruth Jones	Folkestone St John the Baptist (Elham Deanery)
Stephen Ringer	Hawkhurst (The Weald Deanery)
Andrew Snowdon	North Downs (North Downs Deanery)

## **Those Readers to receive a new licence and a welcome**

Angela Frost	Maidstone St Martin (Maidstone Deanery)
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### **Welcome:**

Julia Cernoch	Wantsum Group (Thanet Deanery), also licensed in the Diocese of Southwark
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## **Those Readers to be remembered in memoriam:**

Ken Adams  
Maureen Thomas  
Ray Pinder

## **Some questions to ponder...**

Where am I noticing God at work in my own life or in the wider world?  
Who can I tell about this?

What might God be asking of me?  
Who can I talk to about this?

Is God calling me?

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## Order of the Procession

*Cross and Lights*

*The Choir*

*Virger*

*Existing Readers*

*Representative of St Augustine's College of Theology*

*Warden of Readers*

*Supporting clergy and incumbents*

*The Precentor*

*Archdeacons*

*The Chapter*

*Virger*

*The Dean*

*The Bishop*

*The Bishop's Chaplain*

*Readers to be licensed and welcomed*

*Readers to be admitted and licensed*

*All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire as we sing*



Lord, you give the great commission:  
 "Heal the sick and preach the Word."  
 Lest the Church neglect its mission,  
 and the Gospel go unheard,  
 help us witness to your purpose  
 with renewed integrity;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>2</sup>Lord, you call us to your service:  
 "In my name baptize and teach."  
 That the world may trust your promise,  
 life abundant meant for each,  
 give us all new fervour, draw us  
 closer in community;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>3</sup>Lord, you make the common holy:  
 "This my body, this my blood."  
 Let us all, for earth's true glory,  
 daily lift life heavenward,  
 asking that the world around us  
 share your children's liberty;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>4</sup>Lord, you show us love's true measure:  
 "Father, what they do, forgive."  
 Yet we hoard as private treasure  
 all that you so freely give.  
 May your care and mercy lead us  
 to a just society;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

<sup>5</sup>Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
 "I am with you to the end."  
 Faith and hope and love restoring,  
 may we serve as you intend,  
 and, amid the cares that claim us,  
 hold in mind eternity;  
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
 for the work of ministry.

Words: Jeffrey W Rowthorn (b. 1934)

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

AM 499

*A welcome is offered*

*The Cantor and choir sing the* **Preces**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
*and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Praise ye the Lord.  
*The Lord's name be praised.*

Music: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

*Sit as the choir sings*

**Psalm 91**

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High :  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my strong hold :  
my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter :  
and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings,  
and thou shalt be safe under his feathers :  
his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night :  
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

For the pestilence that walketh in darkness :  
nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand :  
but it shall not come nigh thee.

Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold :  
and see the reward of the ungodly.

For thou, Lord, art my hope :  
thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

There shall no evil happen unto thee :  
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee :  
to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee in their hands :  
that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder :  
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him :  
I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him :  
yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

With long life will I satisfy him :  
and shew him my salvation.

*Stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Sit*

**Reading** *Matthew 18.1-6, 10*

*Read by Lynne Watson, Assistant Warden of Readers Ashford  
Archdeaconry*

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

*All stand as the choir sings*

**Nunc Dimittis**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*Music: Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)*

*Sit*

**Homily** *The Bishop of Dover*

## **The Admission and Licensing of Readers**

*The congregation remains seated, the candidates come forward and stand in front of the Bishop*

*The Bishop says*

My brothers and sisters, God has called us into the fellowship of the universal Church.

As members of his body, Christ calls us to minister together in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world.

Readers are called to a ministry of the word, preaching and teaching, inspiring others to follow the way of Christ, and calling them to share in the good news of the kingdom.

They are called to a liturgical ministry, leading worship, proclaiming the gospel story and helping God's people to greet their living Lord, so that they may worship him, praise him and live by his commands.

*The Warden says*

Bishop Rose, I present to you these persons who have satisfactorily completed their training.

They have made the Declaration of Assent and the declaration of obedience to the Archbishop.

They are people of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith.

They have been sufficiently well prepared for the duties of the office.

I recommend that they be both admitted to the office of Reader and licensed to their deaneries under the nomination of their incumbents.

*The Bishop turns to the candidates and says*

In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Reader, you must now answer the questions we put to you.

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

R. *I do so believe.*

Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

Will you promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world, and especially among those whom you serve?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*



Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

R. *By the grace of God, I will.*

*The supporting priests stand and the Bishop asks them*

Will you work closely with your new Readers and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

R. *We will.*

Will you commend them to the people amongst whom they will minister?

R. *We will.*

*The candidates turn and face the congregation.*

*The congregation stands.*

*The Bishop says to the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, these candidates have been chosen for the office of Reader. Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

**We will.**

Will you continue to pray for them?

**We will.**

*All sit*

*The Bishop greets the candidates and presents them with a Bible, their certificate of admission and licence saying*

N, I admit you as a Reader in the Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*When all have received their Bibles, certificates and licences the Bishop continues*

You have received these books as a sign that we admit you as a Reader in the Church. Speak God's word to his people, build them up in his truth, and serve them in his name.

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards. **Amen.**

We welcome you as ministers of God's word.

**May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

*The newly admitted Readers return to their places where their Parish Priest place their scarf upon them.*

*The Readers to be issued a new licence and a welcome stand before the Bishop, the Warden commends them to the Bishop, who then presents the new licence saying*

Receive authority to exercise the office of Reader in this diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards. **Amen.**

*All Readers stand as the Bishop says*

My brothers and sisters, in the name of the Church I thank you for your faithful ministry as Readers. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you and invite you to renew your commitment to the ministry entrusted to you.

*Readers respond together saying*

God our Father, we offer our lives to do your work in your Church and in the world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to hear more clearly your call to deeper commitment to your service, and give us grace to respond with gladness; for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The congregation applauds all the Readers*

*The congregation remains seated as the choir sings*

## **Anthem**

Plebs angelica, phalanx et  
archangelica principans turma.  
Virus Uranica. Ac potestas  
almiphona.  
Dominantia numina divinaque  
subsellia. Cherubim aethereal ac  
Seraphim ignicoma.  
Vos, O Michael coeli satrapa.  
Gabriel que vera dans verba nuntia.  
Atque Raphael vitae vernula  
transferte nos in Paradisicolas.

*Angelic host, phalanx and squadron of  
the Prince-Archangels, Urainian power,  
Strength of the gracious word.  
Spirits that have dominion, Cherubim,  
Divine tribunal of the air, And  
Seraphim with flaming hair.  
And you, O Michael, Prince of Heaven,  
And Gabriel, by whom the word was  
given.  
And Raphael, born in the house of Life,  
Bring us among the folk of Paradise.*

Words: Latin, *translated*: Helen Waddell

Music: Michael Tippett (1905-98)

*Sit or Kneel*

**Prayers**      *led by the Minor Canon, concluding with*

**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.**

## *Stand to sing*



Around the throne of God a band  
of glorious angels ever stand;  
bright things they see, sweet harps they hold,  
and on their heads are crowns of gold.

<sup>2</sup>Some wait around him, ready still  
to sing his praise and do his will;  
and some, when he commands them, go  
to guard his servants here below.

<sup>3</sup>Lord, give thy angels every day  
command to guide us on our way,  
and bid them every evening keep  
their watch around us while we sleep.

<sup>4</sup>So shall no wicked thing draw near,  
to do us harm or cause us fear;  
and we shall dwell, when life is past,  
with angels round thy throne at last.

*Words:* John Mason Neale (1818-66)

*Tune:* SOLOTHURN

AM 322

## *Remain standing for*

### **The Blessing**

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All remain standing as the procession departs*

### **Organ Voluntary**

*Cross and Lights*  
*The Bishop*  
*The newly admitted and licensed Readers*  
*The Existing Readers*  
*The Warden of Readers*  
*The Bishop's Chaplain*

*Virger*  
*Representative of St Augustine's College of Theology*  
*Supporting clergy and incumbents*

*The Choir*

*The Minor Canon*  
*Archdeacons*  
*The Chapter*  
*Virger*  
*The Dean*

*A retiring collection is made for Readers' Ministry in the Diocese*