

## **The Institution and Induction of a new priest.**

### ***About this service***

This service marks the beginning of a new phase of ministry for priest and people. It is one to which all come with a high sense of anticipation of God's blessing on the years ahead, and it is right that this beginning is marked by a special service both of celebration and of dignity.

Some features of this service have their origins in the Middle Ages; others are comparatively new. This reminds us that Christian ministry has been offered in this area for a score of generations and more, whilst at the same time, that the unchanging Gospel has to be made fresh for each succeeding generation.

At the beginning of a new ministry, a priest is sometimes instituted and inducted; sometimes collated and inducted; sometimes licensed. In this last case, the priest will be made Priest-in-charge rather than Rector or Vicar, and will not be inducted by the Archdeacon. The difference between institution and collation is technical – in the latter case the Bishop is Patron, in the former case he is not.

The role of Patron is an ancient one, and it is the Patron who is responsible for nominating a priest to the Bishop. Where the Bishop is Patron, he customarily asks the Lay Chairman of the Deanery to take the role of the Patron in the service.

Once a priest has been collated or instituted – given by the Bishop the 'cure of souls' – the Bishop invites the Archdeacon to induct the Priest into the 'possession' of the benefice(s). In this short ceremony, the Priest is in effect given a church building and a home to help in the task given by the Bishop.

After a welcome from churchpeople, a representative of the local community also welcomes the Priest, since the role of the Anglican parish priest is not only to nurture the faithful, but also to care for the whole community. The sharing of the Peace then signifies the drawing together in service of the priest, the regular worshippers, and the wider community.

The final section of the service (the Family of God) sets out the responsibilities which priest and people hold together in collaboration within the Christian community and beyond. All present are sent out for service in the community with the blessing of the Bishop.

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

*The processional hymn is announced and the congregation stands*  
*Processional hymn*

The Introduction

*The Bishop greets the congregation saying*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
all  
People        And also with you

*The congregation sits*

*The Bishop introduces the service. There may be a commendation of the Priest from the previous sphere of ministry*

### **The Presentation and the Declarations**

*The Patron leads the Priest before the Bishop who stands at his chair*

Patron        Reverend Father in God, I present to you A.B. to be admitted to the cure of souls in this parish(es).

Bishop        We thank you for your presentation. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and as your Bishop, I intend to admit A.B. to the cure of souls in this parish(es). Let the Declaration of Assent be made and subscribed and the Oaths taken according to law.

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 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 Priest, facing the People, makes the Declaration of Assent*

Priest        I, A.B., 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 use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

*The Rural Dean hands the Priest the Bible. Facing the people, the Priest holds the Bible and makes the Oath of Allegiance*

Priest I, A.B., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God.

*The Priest turns towards the Bishop for the Oath of Canonical Obedience*

Priest I, A.B., do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Ely and his successors in all things lawful and honest. So help me God.

*The Declarations are then subscribed*

**The Prayers**

Bishop Let us pray.

*All kneel or sit. The Priest kneels before the Bishop*

Bishop Lord, have mercy upon us,  
People Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Bishop Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Bishop Remember, Lord, what you have wrought in us, and not what we deserve, and as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
People Amen.  
Bishop Except the Lord build the house:  
People Their labour is but lost that build it. (Psalm 127:1)  
Bishop God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably upon your whole Church and make it the instrument of your saving purpose for the world; that the life of all humanity, redeemed in Christ, may everywhere be renewed, and all things may return into unity through him from whom they took their origin, even the same your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
People Amen.  
Bishop The Lord has declared his salvation:  
People His righteousness he has openly showed in the sight of the people. (Psalm 98:2)  
Bishop Lord, you have called us to be your witnesses to all the nations; cleanse us from unbelief and sloth, and fill us with hope and zeal, that we may do your work, and bear your cross, and bide your time, and see your glory; who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, world without end.  
People Amen.  
Bishop In God is my health and my glory:  
People The rock of my might and in God is my trust. (Psalm 62:7)  
Bishop Bless and strengthen, Lord, your servant A.B. with your heavenly grace. Grant diligence in prayer and in the study of your Holy Word, guidance to your people by example, and

faithful labour for the extension of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
People Amen.

### ***The Institution or Licensing***

*The congregation stands*

*The Bishop, seated in his chair, reads the Deed of Institution or Licensing, the Priest continuing to kneel before him and holding the seal in his hands. The Bishop then delivers the Deed, saying*

Bishop Receive the cure of souls, which is both yours and mine. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Bishop, taking his staff, blesses the new Priest*

Bishop The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

*Hymn*

### ***The Induction***

*This section is omitted in the case of a licensing*

*The Bishop gives the Mandate for the Induction to the Archdeacon*

Bishop Mr Archdeacon, receive this Mandate by which we empower and require you to induct A.B. into the possession of the benefice of .... with all the rights and responsibilities of this office, and to defend A.B. so inducted.

*The Archdeacon conducts the Priest to the main door of the church and lays the Priest's hand upon the handle of the door*

Archdeacon A.B., by virtue of this mandate, I, ....., Archdeacon of ....., induct you into the possession of the benefice of ....., The Lord himself is your keeper, the Lord is your defence upon your right hand. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; yes, it is he who shall keep your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth for evermore.

People Amen.

*The Priest tolls the bell to signify taking possession*

*The Archdeacon leads the Priest to the chancel step to be presented by the Churchwardens with the keys of the church and of the parsonage house, together with the church inventory*

### **The Installation**

*The Archdeacon places the Priest in the customary stall. The Priest kneels  
Archdeacon (to the people)*

We beg you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who are working among you, and in the Lord's fellowship are your leaders and counsellors. Hold them in the highest possible esteem and affection for the work they do. You must live at peace among yourselves. (1Thessalonians 5:12-13)

People Bear one another's burdens -  
And so fulfil the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Archdeacon (to the Priest)

And we would urge you, A.B., to admonish the careless, encourage the faint-hearted, support the weak, and to be very patient with them all. Be always joyful; pray continually; give thanks whatever happens; for this is what God in Christ wills for you.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:14,16-18)

Priest Amen.

Priest Let us pray.

*All kneel or sit. The Priest says a prayer for the parish(es), and then the people join in the words of the Lord's Prayer*

People 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.

### **The Welcome**

*The congregation sits. A welcome may then be offered by the Churchwardens on behalf of the Parish; by any other parochial ministers; by the Rural Dean and Lay*

*Chairman on behalf of the Deanery; by representatives of other Christian denominations; and by representatives of the local community  
The congregation stands. The Bishop invites the congregation to share the Peace, which he introduces with appropriate words and then says*

Bishop        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People        And also with you.

*All may share a sign of Peace*

*Hymn*

## **THE SERMON**

### **GOD'S FAMILY – THE CHURCH**

#### **Entry into God's family**

Hymn

*During the hymn, the Rural Dean, Lay Chairman, Archdeacon, Priest, Churchwardens and the Bishop proceed to the font, the place of baptism, and the people turn to face them*

Bishop        Hear the words of Scripture: Come to Christ, the living stone. Come yourselves as living stones, and be built up into a spiritual temple. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the glorious deeds of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:4-5,9)

Rural Dean    Will you encourage both adults and children to come to Baptism and Confirmation? To that end, will you provide Christian nurture for their growth in faith, so that together all may grow into the full stature of Christ?

Priest        With the help of God, we will.  
and people

#### **Learning in God's family**

*Then they move to the lectern and pulpit, where the Gospel is proclaimed; the people turn in that direction, and the Priest stands in the pulpit.*

Archdeacon    Hear the words of Scripture: The scriptures have power to make you wise and lead you to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All inspired scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, or for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that God's people may be capable and equipped for good work of every kind. Proclaim the message, press it home in season and out of season, use

argument, reproof, and appeal, with all the patience that teaching requires. (2 Timothy 3:15-17;4:2)

Lay Chairman Will you read, proclaim, and receive the Word of God, that by his Holy Spirit you may grow in your faith, and encourage one another to live your lives according to the will of God?

Priest and people With the help of God, we will.

### **Fellowship in God's family**

*They then move to the Sanctuary. The Bishop faces the people in front of the Holy Table. The people turn in that direction*

Archdeacon Hear the words of Scripture: On the night of his arrest the Lord Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is for you; do this in memory of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said: "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me." For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Rural Dean Will you together frequently celebrate the Holy Communion, giving thanks and praise to God, to nurture you in your faith and to deepen your unity with the risen Christ and with one another

Priest and people With the help of God, we will.

### **The witness of God's family**

*They then move to the Chancel step, and the people face that direction*

Bishop Hear the words of Scripture: The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me; he has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to let the broken victims go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19.)

Lay Chairman Each of us is called by Christ to work together in carrying forward the Church's mission in evangelism and service to others. Will you be faithful and witness to your faith in Christ both in the words you speak and by acts of loving service to others?

Priest and people With the help of God, we will.

*The people then join with their Priest in saying:*

Almighty God,  
by whose grace alone

we are accepted and called to your service;  
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit,  
and make us worthy of our calling;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord  
Amen.

*All return to their places and the people sit. The Priest invites the parishioners to join in worship on the following Sunday, and makes any other necessary announcements.*

*Hymn            During the hymn a collection will be taken.*

*THE BLESSING - given by the Bishop, followed by the dismissal:*

Priest            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
People            In the name of Christ. Amen.

*The procession leaves the church, the Priest accompanying the Bishop at his right hand.*