

The Commissioning of the St.David's with St.Michael and All Angels' Mission Community. (March 2009)

1. Introduction:

The Bishop introduces the Commissioning and a brief account is given of the story of the two churches and the distinctive contributions they will bring to the new Mission Community...

2. Act of Recommitment

The bishop addresses the whole assembly:

Bishop Brothers and sisters,
the Church is the family of God and the Body of Christ through which he continues his reconciling work on earth. This is the mission to which we have all been called in our baptism; the shared purpose which has been entrusted to us all: to minister Christ's reconciling love.

But for the local church to be an effective instrument of God's mission it must embody and display all the essential marks of the Church in its fullness, and ensure that all necessary resources are available to enable it in that mission.

Today we thank God, that in seeking his purposes, through a journey of prayer, reflection and planning together, you have come to a stage at which you are ready as a community to commit yourselves anew to the task of mission.

And so I invite you to renew the promises made at your baptism,
and to reaffirm your commitment to Christ.

The water may now be blessed.

Let us pray to God our Father, who has called us in baptism to be his people.

God our Father, bless ✕ this water, and let it be a reminder of our baptism.

Renew within us the abundant gifts of your grace.

Help us to live as people of the light, pure and blameless in your sight.

All honour and praise be yours, God our Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

At your baptism God called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask

All Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

All Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

All Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
I repent of them.

All Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

All Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

All Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Brothers and sisters, I invite you to profess the faith of the Church in which you were baptised.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

All Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

All Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

All

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

All

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All

With the help of God, I will.

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All

Amen.

The water of baptism remains near the communion rail. For those who wish, as they come up for Holy Communion, they may use the water to make the sign of the cross on their foreheads as a sign of reaffirming their vows.

3. Commissioning of Simon Harrison as Parish Missioner

Bishop

God has given to the church various ministries for the building up of God's people. You have been chosen to serve as a Parish Missioner in this Mission Community. I ask you these questions:

Do you believe that God has called you to this ministry within the family of this Mission Community?

All

I believe that God has called me

Will you be faithful in your own prayer, preparation and study so that you are better equipped for this ministry?

All

With God's help, I will

Will you try to share the good news of the Gospel, and guided by the Holy Spirit live your life according to the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ?

All

With God's help, I will

Prayer of dedication said by the Parish Missioner

**Almighty God, thank you for calling me to your service;
And for the gifts and knowledge you have given me.
Teach me to serve you faithfully within this church.
Help me always to give of my best in worship;
And may my life as well as my lips show forth your
praise.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Bishop I now ask the congregation:

Will you support and encourage Simon in his ministry?

All **We will, with our love and prayers**

I commission you as a Parish Missioner in this Mission Community, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayer for Simon

The Lord give you courage and strength to work together to do God's will, humility to learn from one another, love to forgive and refresh one another; and wisdom that you may know what is important in God's eyes. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

4. Particular Ministries will be celebrated, recognised and prayed for.

As the ministries are read out, please stand if you are involved in them.

5. Commissioning

The bishop says:

Bishop Let us pray that God may bestow upon you the needful gifts of his grace.

May God the Father, Lord of all the world,
who, through his Son, has called you
into the fellowship of his universal Church,
grant you every needful gift of his grace;
that together, in the vocation and ministry you share,
you might be an effective instrument of his love,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns, with the Father,

All in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The local parish priest says:

God our Father...

All **...in the name of Christ,
and in the power of the Spirit,
we commit ourselves
to you, and to one another,
to live and work as one body in Christ.
Give us vision,
give us courage,
and give us joy,
in service to you,
that the world may believe
that Jesus Christ is Lord
to your eternal glory.
Amen.**

*The **Sign of Peace** may follow.*