

The Licensing of the Revd Claire Robertson as Team Vicar

in the Lordsbridge Team of Churches,
and serving Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield

by The Bishop of Ely, The Rt Revd Stephen Conway &
The Archdeacon of Cambridge, The Ven Dr Alex Hughes

On Zoom

7 March 2021



About this service

This service marks the beginning of a new phase of ministry and mission in the Lordsbridge Team as we welcome a new minister. We come with a high sense of anticipation of God's blessing on the years ahead. Holding this special service entirely on Zoom enables as many people to participate as possible, despite the limitations of our current context, and it in no way takes away from its celebration and dignity. As well as Bishop Stephen, Archdeacon Alex and Claire, we also welcome a number of guests, both friends and colleagues, to celebrate with us today.

About the Lordsbridge Team of Churches

The Lordsbridge Team or benefice is a network of worshipping communities, covering 11 villages and parishes west of Cambridge, in an area of about 9 by 5 miles. We are looking forward to the resumption of in-person services in our ancient buildings, as well as in more experimental forms outdoors and in various other venues, before too long. In the meantime, we continue to be active in digital and print forms of worship with our 'Worship at Home' and Zoom services, shared across the Team and on social media. Over the last year, many in our church communities have been actively involved in serving friends and neighbours including via village support networks and food distribution projects of various kinds, and we have supported our primary schools and young people in a range of ways.

About key people

Revd Claire Robertson is the new lead minister (vicar) for Barton, Coton, Harlton & Haslingfield. **Revd David Newton** is lead minister for Caldecote, Comberton and Toft. **Revd Charles Fraser** is lead minister for Great & Little Eversden. **Revd Paul Garnell** is Team Curate. **Canon Alison Myers** is lead minister for Hardwick and Dry Drayton, and is Team Rector for the Lordsbridge Team. And there are many other lay and ordained ministers who make up the Chapter of the Lordsbridge Team and serve particular communities.

About Claire Robertson

Claire studied theology at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and recently served her curacy in six beautiful villages around Steeple Bumpstead, in rural Essex, ending with placements at Bassingbourn and Whaddon (Ely Diocese) and Thaxted, The Sampfords, Radwinter and Hempstead (Chelmsford Diocese). Previously she trained as a classical musician at the Royal College of Music, London and has been a concert pianist, performing internationally with her twin sister Antoinette. Claire also has experience of working in both Church and State schools, including running choirs and leading assemblies, and enjoys working in partnership with other Christian denominations. She is married to Paul, who lectures in engineering at Cambridge University, and they have two grown up sons. She and her husband will be living in the Vicarage in Haslingfield.

The Introduction

Revd Canon Alison Myers, Team Rector, welcomes all present and introduces the service.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

David Evans © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

The Church of England, working with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music, is delighted to be providing music for use on streamed services.

The Presentation

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All And also with you.

The Bishop introduces the service.

Bishop We have come together to worship God and to celebrate the ministry of the whole people of God in this place. God blesses his people with a rich variety of gifts. It is our duty and our joy to use those gifts as we work with God for the coming of his Kingdom. Today we welcome Claire Robertson to the Lordsbridge Team, to serve in the parishes of Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield, and we license her at the beginning of her ministry among us. Together we are united to dedicate ourselves to the service of God and listen afresh to God's call to each one of us.

A short time of silent prayer is kept, followed by a Collect.

Bishop Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ sent his disciples into the world to preach the gospel of your Kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to love the good news which we proclaim; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Bishop I now invite Canon Alison Myers, Team Rector of this benefice, first to relieve of their responsibility those who have taken the role of interim minister during the vacancy, and then to present Claire to the Team.

Team Bishop Stephen, on behalf of the Lordsbridge Team, I thank Priscilla Slusar who has been interim minister in Haslingfield, Paul Garnell who has been interim minister in Coton, Charles Fraser who has been interim minister in Harlton, and the interim team of Corin, Ruth and Anne, in Barton and relieve them of their responsibilities as interim lead ministers.

Team Bishop Stephen, it is my pleasure to present to you Claire Robertson to be licensed to this charge.
Rector

Sarah Rittman, trainee Licensed Lay Minister and one of the members of the advisory group involved in the appointment, speaks on behalf of all.

Advisory We also, as those sharing in making this appointment, are delighted to confirm our Group acceptance of this presentation.

Bishop Thank you for this presentation. Claire comes to us from the Two Rivers benefice in Chelmsford Diocese. She is commended to us now by Jane Slade, church warden at St Andrew's Church, Helions Bumpstead.

Jane Slade commends Claire.

Bishop Let the Declaration of Assent now be made and subscribed and the Oaths taken according to law.

Arch-deacon 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?

Claire I, Claire Mary Robertson, 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 Minister takes the Bible and makes the Oath of Allegiance.

Claire I, Claire Mary Robertson, 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.

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

The declarations are then subscribed (signed) by Claire.

The Ministry of the Word

Philippians 4:4-9.

Read by Revd Alexandra Clarke, Associate Minister in the Lordsbridge Team Chapter, member of the local ministry team in Haslingfield and chaplain to St Bede's school.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

All This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Bishop preaches.

The Sermon

A short time of quiet reflection follows, and the following hymn is sung.

This hymn has been specially recorded by Helen Strudwick and Peter Haselden from the parish of Whaddon, where Claire was on placement.

Lord Jesus Christ

You have come to us
You are one with us
Mary's son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for You we sing
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray
Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of You
Into our lives Your power breaks through
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one of us
Mary's son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to You
Live my life for You
Son of God
All Your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life Your power breaks through
Living Lord

Patrick Appleford © 1960 Josef Weinberger Ltd.

The Licensing and Welcome

A short time of silent prayer for Claire follows. The Bishop reads the Deed of Licensing and then says

Bishop Claire, receive the cure of souls which is both yours and mine, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bishop then blesses Claire.

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.

All Amen.

Bishop God has called the whole body of the Church to share in his mission to the world. Within that body, he calls some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all his people for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

The Bishop prays for the ministry and mission of the whole Church in the area west of Cambridge.

Bishop God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for those called together in this place
to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and grant to those who serve in ministry here
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Installation

Arch-deacon Claire, you are about to take up the role of parish priest and incumbent for each of Barton, Coton, Harlton and Haslingfield. As you do so, may God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in the ways of truth and peace.

All Amen.

The Archdeacon addresses the people.

Arch-deacon 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.
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

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

The Archdeacon addresses the minister.

Arch-deacon And we would urge you, Claire, 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)

Claire Amen.

Claire Let us pray.

Claire leads us in prayer for the parishes and worshipping communities she will now serve.

Then Alison leads us in prayer for the other worshipping communities of the Lordsbridge Team.

Alison Lord God,
in your love you sent your Son.
In your grace you called us back to you.
In your mission you placed us where we are
and formed us into a team.
Call us onward into your purposes and growth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lordsbridge Team Prayer

**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 forever. Amen**

People Fully Alive in Christ

We are led in a re-commitment to life in Christ, using the themes of the Ely2025 Diocesan Strategy; to deepen our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer; to grow God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders; and to engage fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally.

Gill King is an Authorised Lay Minister and member of the ministry team in Coton; Diane Raiola is a churchwarden in Harlton; Revd Corin Redsell is an Associate Minister in the Lordsbridge Team and a member of the local ministry team in Barton.

Gill We believe that God calls us to discover together his transforming presence in our lives and in every community, and that we are called as followers of Christ to deepen our commitment to God through communion, worship and prayer.

Diane We are called as the baptised people of Christ to dwell in the word and to grow together as God's church, finding disciples and nurturing both leaders and the gifts of all God's people.

Corin We are called as a people who pray to be fully alive in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, to engage fully and courageously in sharing God's goodness with everyone.

**All We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
For all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow traveller and
faithful companion on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;
And grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us, in Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen**

Sent in Christ's Name

Alison leads the Lordsbridge Team Chapter, Deanery Chapter, ecumenical partners and local community representatives in welcoming Claire.

The new minister gives out any essential notices.

Bishop We pray to be the people of Jesus Christ. In him we have our peace, and by him we are sent out to share that peace with the world, with those who are far off and those who are near. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Bishop Eternal God, giver of love and power,
 your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
 to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
 confirm us in this mission,
 and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

This version of the hymn was recorded in lockdown last November for the annual Churches West of Cambridge multi-denominational service on the feast of Christ the King. The musicians and vocalists come both from churches in the Lordsbridge Team and from our ecumenical partners across this area.

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Traditional Irish Tune; Lyrics by Jan Struther, 1931

Claire Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

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