



**Welcome to the Licensing of  
The Rev'd Oliver Harrison  
as Team Vicar  
in the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle.**



**St Mary's Church, Kidlington  
Thursday September 4th 2025  
7.00pm**

## WELCOME!

We are excited to join together in this service which is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of Oliver's ministry in Kidlington with Hampton Poyle and a new stage in the life of this parish, for which we give thanks to God.

We welcome Oliver and Jessica. In some ways this is a home-coming for Oliver who was born in Oxford and grew up in Witney; many family members are local. Oliver and Jessica have two grown up daughters: Daisy, who lives in Oxford, and Lucinda, who currently works in Egypt. In his spare time Oliver likes fly fishing, reading old novels, listening to the radio, tortoises (slow) and motorbikes (fast). We are looking forward to working together with him and we want to make sure that he has some time for these pursuits too!

Oliver comes to us with rich experience of parish ministry and community involvement in the UK and Holland. It is wonderful to welcome tonight representatives from Holy Trinity, Wilnecote (Tamworth, NE of Birmingham) where Oliver has been their vicar for 17 years; saying goodbye is hard for everyone and we continue to pray for them, for the process of finding their new vicar, and the next chapter of their ministry.

We do not pass around a collection plate during services but you are invited, if you wish, to give tonight to the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund by cash in the brass plate or card reader by the door. Gift-aid envelopes are available - please use one if you are a UK tax payer. Thank you for anything you can give.

*The Team Rector welcomes everyone.*

## Hymn

Praise to the Lord!  
the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him,  
for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord!  
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings,  
yea, so gently sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires have been  
granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord!  
who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy  
here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord!  
Oh let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

*Text Catherine Winckworth Music JS Bach*

*The Bishop greets the people.*

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

*The bishop introduces the service*

We have come together in the presence of God  
to welcome Oliver and Jessica to this parish,  
to licence him to the ministry he will share,  
to pray for Oliver and for those who minister with him,  
and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God  
in this community and to the call which God makes of  
each one of us.

Heavenly Father, we hold before you this parish  
and all who minister here,  
that, with Oliver, they may fulfil your loving purposes  
for those who live and work in this place.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence:**

*The curate leads the prayers of penitence*

Let us therefore wait humbly upon God,  
giving thanks for all that God has done,  
and asking forgiveness for those ways in which we have  
failed each other, our communities, and God.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:  
'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
we know that the harvest is plentiful  
but the labourers are few.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you appointed us to go out and bear fruit that will last.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love  
Bring you back to himself,  
Forgive your sins  
And assure you of his eternal love  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

The Presentation of the New Minister:  
*The Team Rector leads the new minister to the bishop*

Bishop Steven,  
after due consultation and prayerful consideration,  
Oliver has been nominated and has accepted to be  
Team Vicar of this parish.  
I now present him to you to be licensed.

*The bishop replies*

I thank you and all those who with prayer have been  
involved in the appointment of Oliver to this parish.

*The bishop addresses the new minister*

Oliver, do you believe, so far as you know your own  
heart, that God has called you to serve here?  
*Oliver:* I believe that God has called me.

Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the people in this place to further the kingdom of God?  
*Oliver:* With the help of God, I will.

*The members of the ministry team step forward  
and the bishop says to them*

Members of the ministry team, will you welcome Oliver to the team, and work creatively and faithfully with him, meeting regularly for prayer, study and fellowship, and doing all in your power to support each other in fulfilling the ministry of Christ?

*Team:* With the help of God, we will.

*Oliver turns to face the congregation*

People of God,  
will you welcome Oliver and support and uphold him in his ministry now and in the years to come?

**With the help of God, we will.**

The Collect:

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 your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servant Oliver  
now to be licensed  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word:

Reading: *Isaiah 55.6-11*

*read by a member of Hampton Poyle church*

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord,  
that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there  
until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Music: 'Come Healing' by Leonard Cohen  
Sung by the Music Group

*O, gather up the brokenness, bring it to me now  
The fragrance of those promises  
you never dared to vow*

*The splinters that you carried, the cross you left behind  
Come healing of the body, come healing of the mind*

*And let the heavens hear it, the penitential hymn  
Come healing of the spirit, come healing of the limb*

*Behold the gates of mercy, an arbitrary space  
And none of us deserving the cruelty or the grace*

*O, solitude of longing where love has been confined  
Come healing of the body, come healing of the mind*

*O, see the darkness yielding that tore the light apart  
Come healing of the reason, come healing of the heart*

*O, troubled dust concealing an undivided love  
The heart beneath is teaching  
to the broken heart above*

*And let the heavens falter, let the earth proclaim  
Come healing of the altar, come healing of the name*

*O, longing of the branches to lift the little bud  
O, longing of the arteries to purify the blood*

*And let the heavens hear it the penitential hymn  
Come healing of the spirit, come healing of the limb*

*O let the heavens hear it, the penitential hymn  
Come healing of the spirit, come healing of the limb*



Reading: *Hebrews 12. 1-2*

*Read by a member of St John's church*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the sake of the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*The Right Rev'd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.*



*Image: 'Redemption' - bronze. Private collection.*

*Photo: Justin Scroggie*

# Hymn: *At the Cross*

## At the cross

Words: Rev. Oliver Harrison  
Music: Aaron Graeme Nelson



1. At the cross, at the cross, See the man who is cursed,



When all powers of darkness did their best to do their worst,



And when they were spent God still had power to spare,



At the cross, at the cross, See God take all our sin there.



2. At the cross, at the cross, See the man who is blessed,



With all the grace of heaven, With all forgiveness,



God pays himself The debt that we owe,



It is cancelled, it is finished, Sin and death are over-thrown.



3. At the dawn near the grave, See the man live a - gain,



Mer-cy tri-umphs o'er judge-ment, God's King is raised to reign



Christ lives in us, — And we live — in him,



He's our strength and sal - va - tion, And the song that we sing.



4. At the end of — the age, — See the man come a - gain,



Judge the dead and the liv-ing, Burn the chaff like a flame,



He will make all — things new, Re-con-ciled and re-stored,



An-gels join with cre - a - tion, To pro-claim that he is Lord!



An-gels join with cre - a - tion, To pro-claim that he is Lord!

# The Liturgy of Licensing

## The Declaration and Oaths

*The people sit and Oliver stands before the 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?

*Oliver makes the Declaration of Assent.*

I, Oliver Harrison, 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.

*Oliver turns and faces the people and, taking a Bible in his right hand, swears the Oath of Allegiance*

I, Oliver Harrison, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

*Facing the bishop, and still holding the Bible, Oliver swears the Oath of Canonical Obedience*

I, Oliver Harrison, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

*Oliver signs the declaration and oaths.*

**The Licensing** *The congregation stands.*

*The bishop reads the Deed of Licence and gives it to Oliver, saying*

Receive this 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.**

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins, that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples.

*The bishop commends Oliver and the ministry team to the prayers of the people.*

*The bishop anoints Oliver with the oil of Chrism*

Oliver, remember your baptism into Christ.

Remember your ordination in the Church of God.

May God who anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit anoint and empower you for the blessing of God's people.

**Amen.**

*The ministry team and other licensed ministers of the parish join Oliver and they stand / kneel before the bishop.  
Taking his pastoral staff, the bishop blesses them*

The God of all faithfulness  
strengthen you for your ministry  
and in commitment to one another;  
the God of all grace give you vision, courage and joy;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and upon all your work done in his name,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Dedication of the Minister and People

*Representatives of the church community gather around the new minister with symbols of ministry.*

*The Assistant Archdeacon says:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as fellow servants we share in the task of proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating the Sacraments, making new Christians, building up each other in the life of faith, and caring for all, especially those in need. Let us commit ourselves afresh to the ministry to which God calls us.

*Presenting water for baptism:*

Oliver, please be someone who shares Jesus with people and helps lots of people get baptised.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will grow in our faith and discipleship.**

*Presenting the Oil of Healing:*

Oliver be among us as a man of reconciliation, showing God's forgiveness and healing.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will be a Christ-like community of love.**

*Presenting a Bible:*

Oliver, be among us as a man who studies the Scriptures, proclaims the word and explores the faith.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will tell the good news of Christ to the world.**

*Presenting a copy of 'Common Worship':*

Oliver, be among us as a man of prayer,  
offering the Church's liturgy  
and interceding for God's people.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will worship God in spirit and in truth.**

*Presenting bread and wine:*

Oliver, be among us as a man of the Eucharist,  
presiding among us when we celebrate the Lord's death  
and resurrection.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will seek to be the living body of Christ.**

*Presenting a map, as a symbol of the community:*

Oliver, please be someone who builds us all up together  
and helps us welcome everyone like Jesus did.

**Together, by God's grace,  
we will seek to be a Church without walls and a  
blessing in our locality.**

*When all the symbols have been presented, Oliver responds*

I pledge myself to care for the community that gathers here, to share with them the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with them the sacraments of the new covenant, and to encourage them in their discipleship. Together may we make this a place where Christian people are equipped for their life and witness in God's world.

**Amen.**

*Taking his pastoral staff, the Bishop says*

Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake this ministry, give you also grace and strength to perform it; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## The Welcome

*The bishop presents Oliver to the people, saying*

People of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle,  
I present to you your new Team Vicar,  
now duly licensed,  
and I invite you to greet him and his family  
in the name of Christ.  
I commend them to your love and prayers.

**We welcome you!**  
**May the Lord richly bless you**  
**and make you a blessing among us.**

*The congregation greets Oliver with a warm round of applause.*

Anthem; 'Behold the Tabernacle of God' by Harris  
sung by St Mary's choir.

*Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you. For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. For the love of whom ye do this day celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity, Alleluia.*

*Representatives of the deanery and community welcome Oliver.*



## The Peace

*Bishop:* We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*The Curate:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*We exchange a sign of peace.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Led by Oliver and 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.**

## Notices

*This is Oliver's chance to say what he wishes, but Felicity and the church wardens would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the running of this service in any way, and to the refreshments afterwards.*

*Most of all, thank you to you all for being here to share this momentous evening and to pray for Oliver and Jessica.*

## The Dismissal

Almighty God,  
who for the salvation of the world  
gives to his people many gifts and ministries  
to the advancement of his glory,  
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,  
and sustain each one of you in your own ministry;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
You behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

*Oliver:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

Organ Voluntary: *Sheep May Safely Graze* by J.S. Bach  
*Organist: Dr David Hewett*

*Thank you for coming tonight - please stay  
for refreshments now in the side hall.*

*If you are visiting you are especially  
welcome.*

Food For Thought  
from Marilynne Robinson's novel "Gilead"

*Calvin says somewhere that each of us is an actor on a stage and God is the audience. That metaphor has always interested me, because it makes us artists of our behavior, and the reaction of God to us might be thought of as aesthetic rather than morally judgmental in the ordinary sense. How well do we understand our role? With how much assurance do we perform it? [...]*

*I do like Calvin's image, though, because it suggests how God might actually enjoy us. I believe we think about that far too little. It would be a way into understanding essential things, since presumably the world exists for God's enjoyment.*