



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

June 2018



BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND DEACONS

The Orders of ministry within the Church are often poorly understood. As Patrick is to be ordained priest this month, I thought I'd try to throw a little light on the matter. Although I've tried to use accessible language, the technicalities still need a careful eye!

Last year we looked a little at the Reformation you might recall that following the reforms launched by Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, while declining the title of Supreme Head, was declared to be "Supreme Governor of the Church of England". Although the CofE was regarded back in the C16th as a church of the Reformation, it nonetheless maintained the historic church structure including the maintenance of the threefold order of the ministry, with bishops, consecrated in apostolic succession, ordaining deacons and priests. Thus, Anglican ordained ministry resembles that found in churches of the Catholic tradition.

In Anglican sacramental theology, certain ministerial functions can only be performed by individuals ordained into one or more of the three holy orders. There are two kinds of ministers in this sense. The **ordinary minister** of a sacrament has both the spiritual authority to perform the sacrament (thus making the sacrament valid) and the ecclesial authority to perform the sacrament (thus making the sacrament legal). An **extraordinary minister** has the spiritual authority but may only perform the sacrament in certain special instances, for example, in emergencies. If a person who is neither an ordinary nor an extraordinary minister attempts to perform a sacrament, in the eyes of that Church, that sacrament would be invalid.

Within the Anglican Church, the following ministries are performed by those listed...

- **Baptism:** clergy (laity may administer only in cases of emergency);
- **Confirmation:** bishop;
- **Eucharist:** bishop or priest (consecration); clergy or laity licensed by the diocesan bishop;
- **Reconciliation of a Penitent** (Sacramental Confession): bishop or priest;

- **Healing** (Anointing): bishop or priest;
- **Matrimony:** the individuals to be married (presided over by clergy);
- **Holy Orders:** at least one bishop ordains deacons and priests; three or more bishops consecrate other bishops.

Bishops provide the leadership for the Anglican Communion. Bishops have a variety of different responsibilities, and in these some bishops are more senior than others. All bishops, of diocesan rank and below, are styled the **Right Reverend**; more senior bishops and archbishops are styled as **the Most Reverend**. Most bishops oversee a diocese, some are consecrated to assist diocesan bishops in large or busy dioceses (such as Lichfield). A few member churches of the Anglican Communion (including the CofE) now ordain women as bishops, many more have prepared the legislation for women to become bishops but have not yet ordained a woman to such office.

Bishops are often identified by the purple clergy shirt and cassock they are entitled to wear. However, bishops are permitted to wear other colours, our present Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is frequently seen wearing black (as indeed at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan). Bishops also usually wear a pectoral cross and Episcopal ring. Bishops carry a crosier as the sign of their ministry, and, on formal occasions, often wear a mitre and cope. When presiding at the Eucharist, most Anglican bishops now wear albs, stoles and chasubles.

The overwhelming majority of ordained ministers in the Anglican Communion are priests (also called presbyters). Priestly ministry is derived from that of bishops in that they are licensed to a *cure of souls* by a diocesan or area bishop. The collegiate nature of this office is acknowledged every time a new priest is ordained as other priests share with the ordaining bishop in the laying on of hands. You will witness this at St. Giles' on 24th June when Patrick is ordained priest. All priests are entitled to be styled **The Reverend** and many male priests are called **Father**. Some senior priests have other titles. Many member churches of the Anglican Communion ordain women to the priesthood. There is as yet no widely used alternative title to "Father" for female

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priests. Priests traditionally wear a (usually) black cassock or clergy shirt - although many now wear clergy shirts in other colours, particularly if they are from within the evangelical tradition. In worship, the traditional vesture for Anglican priests is their choir dress comprising cassock, surplice, academic hood (if one has been awarded) and a black prayer scarf. However; at the Eucharist, the revived pre-Reformation vestments of alb, stole and chasuble are worn in large sections of the Anglican Communion. Even in cases where a priest is not presiding at the Eucharist, he or she may wear a surplice or alb with a stole. Although deacons are fully members of the clergy (they wear clerical collars and are styled *The Reverend*), they are not permitted to preside at the Eucharist, bless people or absolve sins. As these ministries were, and in many ways still are, essential in the life of the church, deacons usually are ordained priests after about a year in the diaconate — they are *transitional deacons*. The term is somewhat misleading, since the order is never superseded — all priests are also deacons, and occasionally act in this role in worship. Most deacons serve as assistant curates in parish churches, a ministry that usually continues through into their ordination to the priesthood. Some deacons serve as minor canons in cathedrals or as assistant chaplains in a wide range of non-parochial ministry.

The responsibilities of deacons involve assisting at worship - particularly setting up the altar for the Eucharist and reading the Gospel. They are also accorded responsibility for pastoral care and community outreach, in keeping with their traditional role of manifesting the church in the world.

So-called *permanent deacons* are individuals ordained with the intent of staying in the order rather than seeking the priesthood. Such deacons often have secular careers. In these cases, the vocational deacon has the same responsibilities as their transitional colleagues, but without the element of apprenticeship. Many vocational deacons have careers in the social services, where they can employ their particular ministry of care and outreach.

Well, I hope that has been somewhat enlightening. Another question I'm often asked concerns the titles of Rector, Vicar, Priest-in-Charge, Chaplain, Padre, etc. I usually answer that all these are generally priests by office but have different titles depending on where they exercise their ministry. Vicars, for example generally lead parishes, chaplains work in hospitals and prisons whereas padres can be found in the Armed Forces.

Blessings *Terry*

★ Open House – Church Queen ★

On Sunday, 3rd June, from 2.00pm onwards in support of our Church Queen, you can visit an OPEN HOUSE at the home of Diane and Alan; 1 May Ave. There will be a cake stall, tombola, a raffle, games and refreshments available.

Admission – £1.00

Worship Services during June

3 rd	1 st after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) 'First Sunday' with HC Theme = Dementia
6 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th	Stewardship	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
13 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
17 th	3 rd after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Worship
20 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th	John the Baptist	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) * Holy Communion *
27 th	S. Cyril	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer

* = Patrick will preside at these Eucharists following his ordination to the priesthood the previous day.

Diary Dates for June

2 nd	Saturday	12.00pm	Table-Top Sale.
10 th	Sunday	4.30pm	Shallowford House gathering for the Community of St. Chad.
12 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Pilgrim Course (Session 1).
14 th	Thursday	7.30pm	Deanery Sub-meeting (Vestry).
16 th	Saturday	3.00pm	Licensing at Knutton.
		7.30pm	Summer Music / Cheese & Wine.
19 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Pilgrim Course (Session 2).
24 th	Saturday	4.00pm	Patrick's Ordination at St. Giles'. Followed by a party-tea in our hall.
26 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Pilgrim Course (Session 3).
27 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening.

Early July

3 rd	Tuesday	7.30pm	Pilgrim Course (Session 4).
7 th	Saturday	1.00pm	Queen Crowning & Garden Party.

★ Stewardship ★

This year's STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY will be held on 10th June – an opportunity to look again at our commitment and use of resources.

★ Church Gardens ★

Donations to help the lads get our bedding plants sorted are requested. Let's help the team 'Go for Gold'!

★ Ordination and Party ★

be sure to have Patrick's ordination to the priesthood in your diaries: St. Giles' at 4.00pm on Saturday, 24th June followed by a bring-n-share part tea in our church hall. There is a sign-up sheet to help coordinate the food being brought in.

pilgrim

A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

On Tuesday evenings from 12th June (see above) we're offering six-week course to look at The Bible. A sign-up sheet is available as we need to order booklets at £5.00 each.