

Diocese of Canterbury

Celebration of a New Ministry

The Licensing of
The Reverend John Ainslie
as Priest-in-Charge

of

St Michael and All Angels
Maidstone

by

The Right Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin
Bishop of Dover

in the presence of

The Right Reverend Norman Banks
Preacher

The Bishop of Richborough

and Installation by

The Venerable Andrew Sewell
Archdeacon of Maidstone

Thursday 21st March 2024
7.00 pm

About this Service

Welcome to this Service of Licensing and Installation. Today we mark a special moment in the life of this parish and a new stage on our journey of discipleship, which brings a new priest to work alongside the many people who are already called to serve in the mission and ministry of the church in this place.

About this parish

St. Michael and All Angels is a traditional Anglo-Catholic parish church, serving a parish of some 6,500 souls in West Maidstone and working as part of the Deanery of Maidstone and within the Diocese of Canterbury. Since the consecration of the church in 1876 St Michael and All Angels' has made a distinctive contribution to the spectrum of Anglican life and worship in the county town under the influence of the Oxford Movement emphasis on prayer and spirituality, pastoral care and the centrality of the Eucharist. The parish contains several schools, including the nearby Infants and Junior Schools of the St Michael's Church of England Schools' (VC) Federation. St Michaels' is affiliated to the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda and is under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Richborough in the Diocese of Canterbury.

Mass is held regularly on Sundays and Thursdays, both at 10.30am. A full programme of worship and liturgy will be available to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday on 24th March.

About our new priest

Fr John read physics at Cambridge University and then worked for over 30 years in the electricity generating industry developing renewable energy systems including onshore and offshore wind farms. He trained for the Ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon and was ordained Deacon in 2017 and Priest in 2018, serving his curacy in The Cookhams on the River Thames in Berkshire. Most recently, he has served as NSM Assistant Priest at All Saints Church Boyne Hill in Maidenhead, and has served on the Oxford Diocesan Environmental Task Group. He lives with his rescue dog, a Lurcher called Rosa, and loves country walks with his canine companion and with friends. He is devoted to the Eucharist and to pastoral care. He can be contacted at revjohnainslie@gmail.com

Before the Service begins

The Area Dean of Maidstone, Rev Gareth Dickinson, will give out any notices, including the invitation to the reception, and announce the Processional Hymn.

There are no toilet facilities in the church, but they are available in the parish hall; please ask a steward. The deaf loop covers the whole of the nave area of the church; please switch to position 'T'.

Refreshments will be served in the parish hall after the service.

Bishop's Justice Appeal

A collection will be taken for the Bishop's Justice Appeal, which will support our vital work with refugees in Kent and Calais, offering help, support and hope to those displaced from their homes by violence, war and oppression. You can also send a cheque made payable to Canterbury DBF, with "Bishop's Justice Appeal" on the back and send to Bishop's Justice Appeal, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ.

Service material provided by the Diocese of Canterbury; bible passages from the NRSV (anglicised) translation. Hymns: CCL licence no. 1206118.

The Procession

Choir
Readers
Visiting Clergy
Readers/Clergy of the Parish
The Area Dean and Lay Chair of Deanery Synod
The Archdeacon
The Churchwardens
The Bishop of Richborough
The Bishop of Dover
The Bishop of Dover's Chaplain

All stand to sing

The Processional Hymn

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and they fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

(Latin trad. before 9th century, trans. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866)

Welcome and Introduction

The Bishop greets the congregation

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

and also with you.

The Bishop welcomes the people and introduces the service.

Brothers and sisters, we have come together to worship Almighty God, who has called us into the fellowship of his universal Church through baptism. God has given us the gifts of word and sacrament and entrusted us with the work of mission and service in the communities where we live and work.

Over the years God has been working among his people here and has now brought us to this important moment in our life together. He has also been walking with John in his life and ministry bringing him to this new point along the way. As these two journeys now converge, it is good that those who have worshipped and witnessed with John have come to commend him to us.

So we welcome John, who has been chosen as the new priest of this parish, and we celebrate all that his coming among us will mean.

Presentation and Commendation

The Archdeacon, the new Priest-in-Charge, a representative of his previous sphere of ministry, and the churchwardens stand before the Bishop.

Archdeacon

Right Reverend Mother in God,
I present to you The Reverend John Francis Ainslie
who has been chosen to serve as priest in this parish,
and I ask you to license him to this parish.

A representative of All Saints, Boyne Hill

Right Reverend Mother in God, I, Jeremy Harris, Vicar of All
Saints Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead in the Diocese of Oxford,

who have shared John's ministry in the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill, warmly commend him to you and to the people of this parish.

Bishop I thank you and all who, with prayer, have been involved in the appointment of John.

The person presenting returns to their seat

John, do you believe, as far as you know your own heart, that God has called you to serve here?

Priest I do believe that God has called me here.

Bishop Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the people in this place to further the kingdom of God?

Priest With the help of God I will.

Bishop Christian ministry is a partnership John, will you work with your colleagues in this team and deanery to build up the body of Christ?

Priest With the help of God I will.

The Bishop addresses those in the parish and deanery who will share with the new Incumbent in this work, in both ministry and administration,

Members of the ministry team, will you welcome John 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?
With the help of God we will.

The new minister turns to face the congregation, whom the bishop addresses as a whole.

Bishop People of God, is it your will that John should serve with you in this parish?

All **It is.**

Bishop Will you support and uphold him in this ministry, now and in the years to come?

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

Bishop Brothers and sisters in Christ,
because John cannot fulfil this ministry
without the help of God,
let us pray that he may be a faithful pastor
and a true shepherd of God's people.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
we thank you that through your Son
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal church.

Hear our prayer for your faithful people
that each in their vocation and ministry
may be an instrument of your love;
and give to your servant John,
now to be licensed as the Priest-in-Charge
the needful gifts of grace
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

All sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 55:1-3a, 6-11

Read by Margaret Gatehouse, member of St Michael and All Angels' Church

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

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.

Matthew 14:14-21

Read by Eleanor Relle, Reader and PCC Secretary, St Michael and All Angels' Church

When Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Sermon

The Rt Revd Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

*(Henry Francis Light, 1793-1847
based on Psalm 103)*

The Declarations and Oaths

John stands before the Bishop and is joined by the Churchwardens.

The Bishop introduces The Licensing and says:

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 minister makes the declaration of assent

I, John Francis Ainslie, 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.

Taking a Bible in his hand, he turns to the people and swears the oath of allegiance

I, John Francis Ainslie, 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.

Continuing to hold the Bible, John turns to the bishop and swears the oath of canonical obedience

I, John Francis Ainslie, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and his successors in all things lawful and honest: so help me God

The Priest signs the Declarations.

Bishop We now ask God's blessing
 upon John's ministry among you.

All kneel, the minister kneeling before the Bishop

Silence is kept.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Rabanus Maurus, c. 776-856,
trans John Cosin, 1594-1672)*

Remain kneeling

Bishop Almighty Father,
give your servant John grace
to fulfil his calling in this parish.
Give him reverence in ministering the sacraments,
faithfulness in proclaiming your word,
diligence in pastoral care,
tenderness in comforting,
power in healing the wounds of Christ's people,
and humility and self-sacrifice in all things:
that, following the steps of your Son,
he may guide your people towards eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop reads the licence and then says to the new priest,
Receive this charge, which is both mine and yours;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

and he answers,
Amen.

The Bishop stands and, taking her pastoral staff, blesses the new priest,
saying:

God give you the spirit of holy discipline, of faithfulness, and of
love for all his people; and the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain
with you always.

All **Amen.**

All stand

The Installation

Bishop Archdeacon Andrew, I have licensed John to ministry in this
parish. I ask you to install him, in the presence of this
congregation, and to support him in his ministry.

The Archdeacon conducts the Priest-in-Charge to his stall and places him in,
saying

John, by virtue of the authority given to me, I place you in the
stall of the Minister of this parish. The Lord guard and guide you
in his service; and 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. **Amen.**

The Welcome

The new Priest-in-Charge then stands with the Bishop, facing the congregation.

Bishop People of this parish, I present to you your new Priest-in-Charge, and invite you to greet him in the name of Christ. I commend him to your love and prayers.

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

The Area Dean welcomes the new Priest-in-Charge and introduces others who offer a brief word of welcome.

Anthem - Ave verum corpus

Ave verum corpus natum ex Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine,
cujus latus perforatum vero fluxit et sanguine,
esto nobis praegustatum mortis in examine.
O clemens, O pie, O dulcis Jesu, Fili Mariae.

Hail true body of the virgin Mary born,
thou who truly hanged weary upon the cruel cross
thou whose sacred side was riven
whence the stream of water and blood did flow;
O mayest Thou, dear Lord be given
at death's hour to be my food.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Jesus, Son of Mary.

(words 14th Century, music Edward Elgar)

The Celebration of Shared Ministry

The Bishop addresses the minister and the congregation:

I now invite you to affirm together your commitment to the task of ministry, witness and service to which God is calling you all.

The minister stands at the front of the church. A flagon of water is presented to the priest.

Lay person be among us as a person who rejoices to bring new Christians to

Baptism and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ himself.

A lay person receives the flagon from the minister, pouring the water into the font, as the minister says:

Will you share with me in the ministry of making new disciples to which we are called together?

All **Together, by God's grace, we will share the good news of Christ with the world and make new disciples.**

A Bible is presented to the minister.

Lay person Be among us as a person who studies the Scriptures, proclaims the Word and teaches the faith.

A lay person receives the Bible from the minister, placing it upon the lectern, as the minister says:

Will you share with me in the regular study and proclamation of God's word that together we may bring the light of faith to those in darkness, kindle the fire of love upon earth, and open the door of hope to the world?

All **Together, by God's grace, we will go deeper into God and share the Good News of Christ with the world.**

A lay person presents Bread and Wine.

Be among us as a person of the Eucharist, presiding among us when we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection.

A lay person receives the bread and wine from the minister, placing them upon the altar, as the minister says:

Will you share regularly with me in this Sacrament of Holy Communion that we may grow in unity and love, and together proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes?

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

The Prayers

The new priest leads the prayers, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All

**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.**

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

Conclusion and Blessing

Bishop May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
to serve and worship God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Priest Go in peace and joy as the servants of the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Bishop and the new Priest-in-Charge process out together. Applause may be appropriate. Please start the refreshments, the Bishop and the new priest will join you there shortly.

Fr John and the PCC of St Michael and All Angels' thank you for your attendance at this service. We are particularly grateful to Bishop Rose, Bishop Norman, and to all those who have contributed to this evening by providing music or helping with the refreshments, or in any other way.

Holy Week and Easter

This most important part of the Christian year is almost upon us. You would be most welcome to join us at St Michaels' as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter:

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday procession and Sung Mass, 10.15am.

Stations of the Cross 5pm.

Monday 25th March – Said Mass and Homily, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 27th March – Said Mass and Homily, 10.30am.

Thursday 28th March

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper 7.30pm.

Watch of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight.

Good Friday 29th March – Good Friday Liturgy 3pm.

Holy Saturday evening, 30th March

Vigil and Easter Ceremonies, 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday 31st March – Sung Mass for Easter Day 10.30am.