



The Parish of Abbots Langley and Bedmond

**Eucharist for the Feast of Candlemas, and the
Ordination of Maxine Howarth to the Priesthood.**



9.30am Sunday, 31st January

**President and Preacher:
Rt. Rev'd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford.**

Welcome to this service whether you are present in St. Lawrence, or (sadly, much more probably!) watching from home.

This morning, we mark two great moments.

The first is Candlemas, or the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. We tell the story of the infant Jesus being brought to the Temple, and being hailed by Simeon and Anna as the fulfilment of all that holy place meant.

The second is the ordination of the Revd. Maxine Howarth to the priesthood. All Christians are called to serve Jesus Christ as they live their daily lives. Priests are called to serve their communities through leadership and revealing God's blessings in people's lives through preaching and the sacraments (which include holy communion and baptism). Today through prayer and the laying on of hands, we will ask God's Holy Spirit to empower and inspire Maxine to serve as a Priest in the Church. We, in turn, promise to support her in this work.

In addition, there is a legal component to the service. Maxine will make her Declaration of Assent to the Bishop of St Albans and to the Queen, affirming her loyalty to the Church of England's inherited faith and promising to honour her responsibility to proclaim that faith 'afresh in each generation'. A copy of Declaration of Assent may be found on the inside back cover of this order of service.

Maxine will preside at the Eucharist for the first time next Sunday morning at 9.30am in St. Lawrence.

The Greeting and Presentation

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

All **There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

All **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop invites the congregation to sit and introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

Bishop

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness,

But shall have the light of life.’

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light,

And confess them in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Liturgy of Ordination

Bishop:

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given a variety of ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow priests, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Vicar, acting as Archdeacon's Commissary, introduces the candidate to be ordained priest.

Reverend Father in God, I present to you Maxine Howarth to be ordained to the office of priest in the Church of God.

Bishop Have those whose duty it is to know this ordinand and examine her found her to be of godly life and sound learning?

Comm. They have.

Bishop Do they believe her to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

Comm. They do.

The Bishop turns to Maxine and says:

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

Maxine I do so believe.

Bishop I invite the Diocesan Director of Ordinands to confirm that the ordinand has taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

DDO She has duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop. She has affirmed and declared their 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'.

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray for Maxine
and for the ministry of the whole people of God:

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 now to be ordained
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,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We are seated for:

A READING FROM THE PROPHET MALACHI

Read by Mrs Carol Higgs, Churchwarden

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand at the Gospel fanfare. The Gospel is read by the Vicar.

Alleluia, alleluia.

This child is the light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

All: Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all

peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon
The Bishop

The Declarations

Maxine stands before the Bishop, who says:

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death.

Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Maxine **I do so accept them.**

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

Maxine **By the help of God, I will.**

The Bishop invites the congregation to stand. Maxine turns and faces them.

Bishop Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that Maxine is ready to undertake, and you have heard her declarations. Is it now your will that she should be ordained?

All **It is.**

Will you continually pray for her?

All **We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage her in her ministry?

All **We will.**

Maxine turns back to face the Bishop, who continues:

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Please kneel or sit. Silence is kept.

The Veni Creator is sung. (Soloist: Mr Chris Sanders).

The image shows a musical score for a soloist. It consists of three staves of music in G minor (one flat). The first staff contains the first line of music. The second staff begins with the instruction "After v. 4" and contains the second line of music. The third staff contains the final line of music, which ends with a double bar line. Below the third staff, the word "Amen." is written, with a hyphen between "A" and "men.".

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.

*Words: John Cosin, based on Veni, Creator Spiritus
Tune: Veni Creator (Mechlin)*

The Litany
Mrs Carol Higgs

Please remain kneeling or seated as the Litany is said, and join in with the responses.

Let us pray.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the members of the Church in their vocation
and ministry,
that they may serve him in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Alan, Michael and Richard our bishops
and for all bishops, priests and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after
righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Maxine, called to be a priest in his Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness we may proclaim
the gospel of reconciliation to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are lost and for those who have
strayed,
that they may return to the way of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering, for the aged and infirm,
for the lonely and neglected,
and for all who remember and care for them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the hungry,
for the homeless and the oppressed,
for all prisoners and captives,
and for all who are persecuted for their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations,
and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves;
for grace to repent and amend our lives,
that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with Mary, Alban, Lawrence
and all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;

All **to you, O Lord.**

The Ordination Prayer

Maxine remains kneeling. The Bishop stands to pray.

Bishop We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because in your infinite love
you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you
because you have given us your only Son Jesus
Christ,
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,
the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.
We praise and glorify you that by his death
he has overcome death;
and that, having ascended into heaven,
he has given his gifts abundantly,
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called this your servant,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as a priest in the ministry of the gospel of
Christ,
the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,
and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

The Bishop and other priests lay hands on Maxine's head:

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Maxine
for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give to your servant grace and power
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.
Renew her in holiness,
and give her wisdom and discipline
to work faithfully with those committed to her
charge.

In union with her fellow servants in Christ,
may she reconcile what is divided,
heal what is wounded, and restore what is lost.

May she declare your blessings to your people;
may she proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of
darkness,
and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him
in faith;
so shall a people made whole in Christ
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you,
our God and Father,
to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now
and for ever.
ALL: AMEN.

*The Bishop anoints Maxine's hands, as a sign of her authority
as a minister of the sacraments and of God's blessing.*

Please stand.

Maxine turns to face the congregation.

The Bishop says

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

All **We welcome you as an ambassador for Christ:
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

The Peace

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what
is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

Preparation of the Table and
Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Bishop takes the bread and wine and says the following prayer

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing.

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ,
who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as
the light to lighten the nations,
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your
redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high on the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these your gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ;

Who in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness
of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith!

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of all,
rejoicing at his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup,
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we,
in the company of Mary, Alban, Lawrence, and all the
saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through him from whom all good things come,
Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please kneel or sit.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Bishop We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Bishop Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion is given in the bread only. Please remain in your pews, and the Bishop will come to you. If for any reason you would rather receive a blessing, please hold this booklet as a sign to the Bishop that that is your preference.

Communion hymn

May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favour,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.

John Newton, 1725-1807
2 Corinthians 13:14

*Organ music during communion: 'Meditation on Veni Creator'
(Rawsthorne)*

Prayer after Communion

Please remain kneeling or seated. Silence is kept.

Bishop Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
 who lived to welcome the Messiah:
 may we, who have received these gifts beyond
 words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus
 when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
 for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever

All **Amen.**

The Giving of the Bible

Maxine stands before the Bishop, who says

Receive this book,
as a sign of the authority
which God has given you this day
to preach the gospel of Christ
and to minister his holy sacraments.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Bishop God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

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The Declaration of Assent and Oaths

Before the service the Bishop reads the Preface to the candidate

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. Let 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 candidate replies

I, *(Name)*, 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 authorized or allowed by Canon.

The candidate then swears the oath of allegiance and the Oath of Canonical Obedience.

I, *(Name)*, 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.

I, *(Name)*, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of St Albans and his successors in all things lawful and honest: So help me God.

We all have a calling. Has something in today's service particularly affected you and made you wonder about your's?

It is possible God is calling you to ministry within the Church.

Find out more at
www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/vocations

Or contact Barbara Young, Vocations Team Administrator on
byoung@stalbans.anglican.org or 07884 736 546.

