



*Going Deeper into God * Transforming Communities * Making New Disciples
leading to Spiritual and Numerical Growth*

Collation
by the Lord Bishop of St Albans
The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith

and

Installation and Induction by the
Archdeacon of Bedford, The Venerable Dave Middlebrook

of
The Reverend Alex Leslie Wheatley

as
Rector for Potton with Sutton and Cockayne Hatley

Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.30pm

Please join us online with Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89618174133>

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 1817 4133



*Please note, we will be recording this service and it may be uploaded to an online public forum.
Do please leave your video link turned off if you do not wish to share your image.*

*You are encouraged to put any welcome messages that you have in the Zoom chat,
these will then be collected and presented to Alex.*

Introduction

Welcome to this service, which marks both a new sphere of ministry in the life of your new Rector and a new chapter in the worship and life of this parish. It is fitting, therefore, that we come together with the Bishop and representatives of our partner churches to offer ourselves afresh to God for the work of the Gospel.

We approach God most appropriately at the beginning of worship in praise and confession. The new Rector designate is then introduced and presented to the Bishop and people. The Declaration of Assent and the Oaths to the Sovereign and Diocesan Bishop are required by law and give us assurance of the trustworthiness of his ministry.

A reading from God's word to us from the Bible is followed by a sermon, in which the same word is given relevance for this time and place.

As we pray together for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, the Bishop licenses the new Rector designate and blesses him, together with all who minister here. As the Bishop is Patron, he then collates the new Rector by praying together with him to the Holy Spirit and giving him the Cure of Souls. Following the installation of the new Rector, he is welcomed by the community and all are invited to greet one another in the exchange of the Peace.

Because ministry and mission is not the prerogative of one person but the privilege of all the baptised, the following Act of Commitment reflects this collaboration between priest and people. It is meaningful that your new Rector is described sometimes as an evangelist or a teacher or as president during this act of commitment. These titles emphasise the differing gifts that are needed by the people of God in their Christian witness. Because your Rector is described as 'among the people', it emphasises the responsibility of the whole worshipping community to work together for spiritual and numerical growth.

Water, representing our baptism at the start of our Christian journey, is brought forward to the new Rector and then poured into the font.

All commit themselves to making new disciples as partners in mission.

The Bible, in which God's word is uniquely revealed to us in Jesus the Word of God, is brought forward to the new Rector and then placed upon the lectern.

All commit themselves to going deeper into God as partners in mission.

Bread and wine, recalling the Holy Communion, in which Jesus the Bread of Life comes to us, are presented to the Rector and then placed upon the altar.

All commit themselves to the transformation of our communities by the presence of Christ in us as Christians together.

Prayers are then led by the new Rector and lay people. The service concludes with the blessing by the Bishop of the people and parish.

Order of Service

The Gathering

The Rural Dean, the Revd Graham Buckle, welcomes those joining online and in person

Silence is kept.

The Greeting

The Bishop greets the people

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

All **And also with you**

Preface

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
and it is our duty and our joy to use those gifts
to extend God's kingdom in the world.

Today we welcome Alex and Emily to this benefice and license
Alex at the beginning of his ministry among us.
Together we dedicate ourselves to the service of God
in these communities, and listen afresh to God's call
to each one of us to go deeper into God,
make new disciples and transform the community.

So let us first wait humbly upon God,
giving thanks for all that He has done to bring us to this moment.

Silence is kept

Confession

Mindful of God's blessings, let us now ask forgiveness for those times we have neglected God's call or failed in our service of one another and our communities.

Please sit or kneel

Rural Dean Christ came in humility to share our lives;
forgive us when we make it hard for others to share our worship.
Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy**

Rural Dean Christ came to proclaim good news for all people;
forgive our silence in a world that does not understand good news.
Christ, have mercy

All **Christ, have mercy**

Rural Dean Christ came in love to a world of suffering;
forgive our self-centred hoarding of riches we have received.
Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy**

Bishop May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All **Amen**

Silence is kept

Bishop Heavenly Father,
we gather in your name with thankfulness and praise
for the continuing ministry of your Church in this place,
for all who have been raised up in times past to serve you here,
and for your servant Alex, called by you to this present task.
Guide and strengthen all your faithful people
that we may give ourselves in love and service
to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

The Presentation

Bishop I now invite the Churchwardens and the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Patron, to bring forward your new Incumbent for presentation.

Archdeacon (on behalf of the Patron)

Right Reverend Father in God,
I present to you Reverend Alex Wheatley,
who, after prayerful consideration and due consultation,
has been chosen to serve as Incumbent in this benefice,
and I present him to be collated.

*The Archdeacon reads to the congregation the **Letters Patent** on behalf of the Patron, the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain*

A representative of the United Benefice of Christ Church Skipton and St. Mary's Carleton in Craven

Right Reverend Father in God, I, Reverend Ruth Harris,
who have shared Alex's ministry in the United Benefice of Christ Church Skipton and St. Mary's Carleton in Craven as his Training Incumbent,
warmly commend him to you and to the people of this benefice.

Bishop I thank you for your presentation and commendation.

The Bishop addresses the Incumbent designate

Alex, I greet you and your family in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ and welcome you to this Diocese.

You have been chosen as Incumbent designate of Potton with Sutton
and Cockayne Hatley.

Do you believe that God has truly called you to this ministry?

Incumbent designate

I believe that God has called me and, with his help,
I will serve faithfully in this ministry.

Please stand if you are able

The Bishop addresses the people of the parish

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

All It is

Bishop Will you support and uphold him in this ministry?

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

Please sit

The Declaration of Assent and the Oaths

Bishop In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I shall now license Alex Leslie Wheatley Clerk in Holy Orders,
as Incumbent of this benefice,
but first let Declaration of Assent be made and subscribed,
and the Oaths be taken according to law.

The Incumbent designate, accompanied by the Archdeacon, stands before the Bishop

The Bishop addresses the Incumbent designate

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 Incumbent designate affirms, saying

I, Alex Leslie Wheatley, 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 New Testament, he turns to the people and says

I, Alex Leslie Wheatley, swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

Holding the New Testament, he turns to the Bishop and says

I, Alex Leslie Wheatley, 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.

The Archdeacon receives the Bible from the Incumbent designate

The new Incumbent designate signs the Declarations

The Collect

Please stand if you able

Bishop The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Silence is kept

The following Collect is said

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that, through your Son, you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal church:
hear our prayer, which we offer for all your faithful people,
that each in their vocation and ministry may be an instrument of love,
and give to your servant, Alex, now to be collated,
the needful gifts of grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

The Revd Ruth Harris reads from John 8:31-42

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.” They said to him, “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.

Reader This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

Please sit

Sermon

A sermon is preached by The Venerable Dave Middlebrook, Archdeacon of Bedford

The Collation *(licensing)*

The Bishop invites the congregation to observe a period of silent prayer

The Bishop then kneels besides the Incumbent designate and silence is kept

We pray as we listen to a recording

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: Latin, ninth century

Trans: John Cosin, 1627

Please stand if you are able

The Incumbent designate remains kneeling before the Bishop who is holding the seal of the Deed of Collation in his hand

The Bishop reads the Deed and hands it to the Incumbent designate

Bishop Alex, receive a share in 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.

Incumbent Amen

The Blessing of the Incumbent

Bishop Almighty God,
who, for the salvation of the world,
gives his people many gifts and ministries,
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
sustain you in your own ministry in this place;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

The Induction and Installation

Bishop Archdeacon, we have collated Alex as Incumbent of this benefice. We now direct you to induct him into formal possession of the benefice.

The Archdeacon presents the keys of the benefice churches

Archdeacon Alex, by virtue of the authority given to me, I induct you into possession of this benefice.

The Incumbent is then directed to the Incumbent's stall by the Archdeacon and sits down

Archdeacon Alex, I install you as the Incumbent in this benefice.
The Lord defend your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

The Welcome

The Incumbent then stands and faces the people

Bishop I present to you, your new Rector.

Alex is welcomed with applause

The congregation sits

Welcomes are offered

The Deanery Lay Co-Chairperson welcomes the new Incumbent on behalf of the deanery

The churchwardens welcome the new incumbent on behalf of the people of the benefice

Churchwardens: As churchwardens in this benefice,
on behalf of the people of this benefice,
we welcome you.

The new Incumbent gives the Notices

The Peace

Please stand

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.

All **And also with you**

The Incumbent says

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

All are invited to greet each other by waving rather than by physical contact

An Act of Commitment by the Incumbent and People

Please stand if you are able

The Bishop addresses the Incumbent 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 Incumbent stands at the front of the church

A flagon of water is held before the Incumbent

Hazel Rózanska, Churchwarden

Alex be among us as an evangelist who rejoices to bring new Christians to Baptism and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ himself.

Hazel Rózanska holds up the flagon as the Incumbent says

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

All Together, by God's grace, we will share the Good News of Christ with the world and make new disciples

A Bible is held before the Incumbent and then placed upon the lectern

Darren Brooker, Churchwarden

Alex, be among us as a teacher who studies the Scriptures, proclaims the Word and teaches the faith.

Darren Brooker holds up the Bible, as the Incumbent 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

Christine Armistead, Churchwarden holds bread and wine before the Incumbent

Alex, be among us as a President at the Eucharist, presiding among us when we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection.

Christine Armistead places the bread and wine upon the altar, as the Incumbent 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

Incumbent 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.

All **We pledge ourselves to pray and care for our community, to share with all the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with all the sacraments of the New Covenant and to encourage all in their discipleship. Together we pledge to make this a place where Christian people are equipped for their life and witness in God's world. Amen**

Prayers of Dedication and Intercession

Please sit

Incumbent Generous God, we thank you for the gift of faith by which we are called to love and serve you and one another. We give thanks for the life of this benefice, and for the witness of those who have worshipped before us in this place. We ask for your blessing on us now as we look to the future with hope.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

Simon Gutteridge, Reader

Sustainer God, we pray for all those who have been given responsibility for the ordering of our parish life and we give thanks for the ministry of our churchwardens and PCC members. As we welcome Alex our Rector, help us to grow together in love and trust, and guide us in using our gifts so that our community of faith may flourish and live life in all its fullness. Enable us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to build on our heritage of faith in this place, so that we may grow in Christian wisdom and your love may reach many more people in this community.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

Rosemary Bentley, Deanery Lay Chairperson

Living God, we pray for the people we are called to serve and we bring before you the needs of this church. We pray for the leaders of our community that they may act with integrity and be given the spirit of wisdom and compassion so that your kingdom may come in ways which enrich our common life. We ask for your blessing on our homes, on all those who live and work here.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Lucy Chapman, Head Teacher, Sutton VA Lower School

Creator God, we pray for our places of learning, for our nurseries, schools and colleges, that our young people may learn to see you in the beauty of the world around them and discover your creative spirit in their work and their play. May those who learn and those who teach discover their true value and potential and may we serve one another after Christ's example.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Incumbent Tender God, as we step out afresh to live your love and serve Christ in the world, we ask that your guiding hand would hold us fast and lead us confidently through all that life has to offer. Bless us as we seek to make new disciples. Inspire us as we worship and ponder your word, so that we might go deeper into God. Encourage us so that our lives might transform the community.

**All Living God,
draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us
to live your love with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus. Amen**

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

**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**

The Dismissal

The Blessing of the congregation

Please stand if you are able

Bishop God the Father draw you deeper into his love;
God the Son empower you to serve the world;
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you to proclaim the Gospel;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen

The Blessing of the parishes

The Bishop blesses the parishes

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit you.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace,
both now and evermore.

All Amen

We would have welcomed the opportunity to celebrate Alex's licensing and installation with you following the service, but in these challenging days, we are unable to do this. We will find an opportunity to gather and celebrate this new phase of our church life when we are able to do so, but in the meantime, do please continue to hold Alex and Emily in your prayers.