

The United Reformed Church Wessex Synod



Order of Service
for the Induction of
Revd Pauline Main as Interim Minister
of
Wheatley United Reformed Church
Thursday 26th May 2016, 7.30 pm

Presiding Minister: Revd Clare Downing
Moderator of the Wessex Synod

THE PREPARATION

Please stand when the Bible is brought into the sanctuary.

The service will proceed unannounced.

Greeting and Opening Sentences

Revd Clare Downing

Hymn

- 1 Sing to God new songs of worship-
all his deeds are marvellous;
he has brought salvation to us
with his hand and holy arm.
He has shown to all the nations
righteousness and saving power;
he recalled his truth and mercy
to his people Israel.
- 2 Sing to God new songs of worship-
earth has seen his victory;
let the lands of earth be joyful
praising him with thankfulness.
Sound upon the harp his praises,
play to him with melody;
let the trumpets sound his triumph,
show your joy to God the King!
- 3 Sing to God new songs of worship-
let the sea now make a noise;
all on earth and in the waters,
sound your praises to the Lord.
Let the hills rejoice together,
let the rivers clap their hands,
for with righteousness and justice
he will come to judge the earth.

*After Psalm 98, Michael Baughen (born 1930) © Michael Baughen/Jubilate Hymns
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Prayers of Praise, Confession and Forgiveness

Revd Dr Colin Thompson

Statement

Revd Clare Downing

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture readings

1. Psalm 139: 1 – 18

Mrs Mary Horwitz

2. Luke 12: 22 -31

Mrs Ann Bettess

Sermon

Revd Clare Downing

Hymn

1 The kingdom of God
Is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores
What sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
In Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter
The kingdom shall grow.

3 The kingdom of God
Is challenge and choice,
Believe the good news,
Repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
Brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgement
For gain or for loss.

2 The kingdom of God
Is mercy and grace,
The prisoners are freed,
The sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened
In place of despair.

4 God's kingdom is come,
The gift and the goal,
In Jesus begun,
In heaven made whole;
The heirs of the kingdom
Shall answer his call,
And all things cry glory
To God all in all!

*Bryn Rees (1911-1983) © Alexander Scott
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THE INDUCTION

Introduction of Pauline Main for Induction to Interim Ministry
of Wheatley United Reformed Church *Revd Duncan Wilson*

Statement of Response *Revd Pauline Main*

Statement of Call *Mr Robert Harding*

Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order
of the United Reformed Church *Mr Tony Brett*

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God,
ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called
is the Spirit's gift
continually received
through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift
and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority
for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today
through the help of the Spirit.

**We respond to this Word,
whose servants we are
with all God's people
through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We acknowledge the declarations
made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians
and Churches of Christ

in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active:
gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together
according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe contain
the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;
but we affirm our right and readiness,
if the need arises,

to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord,
who leads us in our faith
and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.

For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide
where differences of conviction
hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves
to speak the truth in love
and grow together
in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that
Christ gives his Church a government
distinct from the government of the state.

In things that affect obedience to God
the Church is not subordinate to the state,
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,
its only Ruler and Head.

Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves
are servants in the world
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention
to go on praying and working,
with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church
in the way Christ chooses
so that people and nations
may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide, and Goal
of all that is:
to God be eternal glory.**

Amen.

Affirmations by the Minister-elect

led by Clare Downing

The Minister-elect is asked:

Pauline, do you confess anew your faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

I do

Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New
Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the
supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people?

I do

Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world?

Do you believe that through him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people?

And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?

By the grace of God this I believe and this I will proclaim

Do you believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ?

I do

Are zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Holy Spirit and a desire for the salvation of the world, so far as you know your own heart, the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

They are

Do you promise to live a holy life, and to maintain the truth of the gospel, whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

Relying on the strength of Christ, I do

Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge faithfully, to lead the church in worship, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight, to take your part in the councils of the Church, and to give leadership to the Church in its mission to the world?

By the grace of God, I do

Do you promise as a minister of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, purity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches

and to endeavour always to build up
the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

By the grace of God, I do

Will you undertake to exercise your ministry in accordance with
the statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the
United Reformed Church?

**I will, and all these things I profess and promise in the
power of the Holy Spirit**

The whole congregation is asked:

Do you confess again your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit?

We do

Do you receive Pauline as from God as a minister of Word and
Sacraments to serve among you and lead you in your ministry?

We do

Will you pray for Pauline in this ministry, giving her support and
encouragement?

We will

Members of Wheatley URC are asked:

Do you receive Pauline as from God to minister among you?

We do

Members of Marston and Summertown URCs are asked:

Do you reaffirm Pauline's ministry amongst you at Summertown
and Marston United Reformed Churches, and affirm your support
for her interim ministry at Wheatley?

We do

Members of Wessex synod are asked

Do you accept Pauline in continued membership and promise to
support her ministry?

We do

Hymn

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

- 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*Words and music: Daniel Schutte, from Isaiah 6
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Induction Prayer and Declaration of Induction *Revd Clare Downing*

THE WELCOME

Wheatley United Reformed Church

Wheatley Local Ecumenical Partnership

Wheatley Area Churches

Churches Together in Oxfordshire

Area Synod Pastoral committee

Wessex Synod

Prayers of Intercession

Revd Duncan Wilson

Hymn

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Blessing

Revd Pauline Main

Postlude

Jeff Clarke

It is our practice to sit quietly during the postlude and to stand when the Bible is taken from the sanctuary.

Those taking part in the service:

Mrs Ann Bettess

Elder and member at Wheatley United Reformed Church

Mr Tony Brett

Convenor of North West Area Pastoral Committee

Mr Jeff Clarke

Organist at Wheatley United Reformed Church

Revd Clare Downing

Moderator of the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church

Mr Robert Harding

Secretary of Wheatley United Reformed Church

Mrs Mary Horwitz

Elder and member of Summertown United Reformed Church

Revd Dr Colin Thompson

Associate Minister of Wheatley United Reformed Church

Revd Duncan Wilson

Interim Moderator for Wheatley United Reformed Church