

St. Paul's Church, Wokingham

**Service of Confirmation  
and Reception into  
the Church of England**



**President and Preacher:  
the Right Reverend Olivia Graham  
Bishop of Reading**

**Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2024  
(Pentecost Sunday) at 6.15pm**

We rejoice that so many people from our local Churches are responding to God's call to renew the faith of their Baptism in the sacrament of Confirmation, or to be received into the Church of England. This is a significant moment in their life-long journey of faith and discipleship. We are glad and privileged to share this day with them. Some of them have written short personal statements which are printed at the back of this Order of Service.

The Sidespeople are here to answer any questions you may have and to make you feel welcome and at home. Toilets are in the Parish Rooms, across the churchyard. The Children's Chapel is at the back of church and those aged about six and under are welcome to find things there to do (and bring them back to their seats if they would like to). Like all of our main services, please be aware that the service is livestreamed. You can speak to a Sidesperson if you have any concerns or questions about this.

We use incense at St Paul's. It draws all of our senses into worship. It rises to God with our hearts and it is used to point out holy things- the altar, the Gospel, the gifts of bread and wine and us, God's precious, holy and redeemed children.

Please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to prepare for the service in prayer and silence by avoiding unnecessary conversation and noise before the service begins. You may find it helpful to prepare for worship by quietly saying this prayer:

*God of glory and of light, bless us this day,  
especially those who are being confirmed.  
Inspire our worship, direct our thoughts,  
guide our prayers,  
and strengthen us to follow you always,  
through your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **The Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund** Reg Charity No.247954

The Outreach Fund is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Church nationally and internationally and is generated by offerings across the diocese, particularly at ordinations, confirmations, collations, institutions and licensing. Through the fund, the Bishop of Oxford is able to respond to a wide range of requests for help, in areas such as humanitarian need, Christian education, training and mission.

In 2023, the fund received gifts totalling £19,000 and made grants totalling £8,500. Grants were made amongst others to support Christian Connections in Schools, Christian Aid's Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal, Adventure Plus, Broken Rites and the Refugee Resilience Hub.

Donations to the Bishop's Outreach Fund can be made,

- during the collection at this service,
- using the card donations machine at the back of the church,
- or alternatively, online via this webpage,

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford/outreach-fund.php>

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*The Rector of St Paul's welcomes everyone.*

### **Opening Hymn: Come down, O love divine (137)**

Come down, O love divine,  
Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
'Til earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let Thy glorious light  
Shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
Mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
True lowliness of heart,  
Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
With which the soul will long,  
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace,  
'Til he become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

*Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Words: Italian, Bianco da Siena (d. 1434), trans. R F Littledale (1833-1890)*

## **THE GATHERING**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one Spirit.

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

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

*The Bishop welcome everyone and introduces the service.*

## **THE COLLECT**

*The Bishop introduces a time of silent prayer, saying 'Let us pray'.*

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give to your faithful people

new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,

that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2.1-4, 12-16**

*(read by a member of the congregation from Ruscombe and Twyford)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God (342)**

Breathe on me, breath of God, Fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breath on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,

until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,

Until this earthly part of me glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die

But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

*Music: H S Oakley (1830-1903): Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)*

*Please stand for the Gospel, facing the Gospel procession.*

## **THE GOSPEL: Luke 11.1-10**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON, by the Bishop of Reading**

# **THE LITURGY OF INITIATION**

## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

*The candidates for confirmation and reception are presented by their Godparents or a supporter with the words:*

Bishop, I present N.

*The Bishop asks the candidates:*

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

Are you ready with your own mouth  
and from your own heart  
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

**I am.**

*The Bishop then addresses the congregation:*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number  
those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates  
and uphold them in their life in Christ?

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

## THE DECISION

*The Bishop addresses the candidates:*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you the strength to continue in the Way. **Amen.**

*The Bishop and the candidates move to the Font.*

*The congregation turn to face the back of Church.*

*During the procession we sing the first two verses of*

**He who would valiant be**

*(tune Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958),*

*words John Bunyan (1628-1688)*

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,

Let him in constancy follow the Master.

There's no discouragement shall make him once relent

His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound - his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

## **THE PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We praise you, loving Father,  
for the gift of your Son Jesus.  
He was baptized in the River Jordan,  
where your Spirit came upon him  
and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers  
to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,  
that those who are baptized in it  
may be cleansed in the water of life,  
and, filled with your Spirit,  
may know that they are loved as your children,  
safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation:*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together  
with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?  
**I believe and trust in him.**



Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*All of the candidates are invited to sign themselves with the cross  
with holy water from the font as a reminder of their own baptism.*

**Almighty God, we thank you  
for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all those who have been baptized into your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Procession returns from the font,  
during which the Bishop sprinkles the congregation with water  
and we sing the final verse of **He who would valiant be***

*Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.*

## Choir Anthem:

Christ in me, by Major Yvonne Field

# RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*Those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England stand before the president. The Bishop says*

Tee Angelina Ramona, you are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church? **I do.**

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England? **I do.**

Will you take part with us in worship and mission? **I will.**

God of mercy and love,  
by one Spirit we have all been baptised into one body  
and made to drink of the one Spirit;  
we thank you for the gifts you have given  
to this your servant Tee  
for the building up of the body of Christ.  
Grant that she may continue in the life of the Spirit  
and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ.  
By the same Spirit,  
fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;  
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,  
and steadfastness in your service,  
until we all come to the unity of the faith,  
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,  
through whom we make our prayer. **Amen.**

*The president takes the hand of the person being received, saying*  
Tee Angelina Ramona, we recognize you as a member  
of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church;  
and we receive you  
into the communion of the Church of England  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **THE CONFIRMATION**

*The Bishop confirms the candidates on behalf of the whole church.  
The congregation participate by praying for the candidates,  
during the service and beyond.*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who has made heaven and earth.**  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, **now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have given these your servants  
new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit,  
and have forgiven them all their sins.  
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. **Amen.**

*The Bishop calls each candidate forward in turn saying:*  
N, God has called you by name  
and made you his own.

*The candidate kneels. The Bishop lays her hand upon each saying:*  
Confirm, O Lord, your servant  
with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The Bishop then anoints each candidate with Holy Oil and says:*  
Receive the seal of the Spirit.

*When all the candidates have been confirmed we pray together:*  
**Defend, O Lord, these your servants  
with your heavenly grace,  
that they may continue yours for ever,  
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
until they come to your everlasting Kingdom. Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

Will you welcome those newly confirmed into the family of God  
as an essential part of the Church family?

**We will.**

Will you seek to love, encourage, strengthen and guide them,  
holding them in prayer?

**We will.**

Will you promise to be open to learning more of God  
from them and with them?

**We will.**

*The Bishop introduces the Peace:*

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 us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We share the peace of Christ with those around us,  
remembering and giving thanks for those who are at home.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The bread and wine are brought to the altar and a collection is taken for the Bishop of Oxford's Charity (see page 3) while we sing the hymn **O Jesus I have promised (420)***

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks, and in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength alone.  
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;  
And then in Heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.  
*Tune: William H Ferguson (1874-1950)/ Words: John Bode (1816-1874)*

Blessed be God,  
By whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy  
we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable  
to God the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice  
at your hands, for the praise  
and glory of his Name, for our good  
and the good of all his Church.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER** (Prayer B)

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop praises God for his mighty acts, and then we sing*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*The Bishop recalls the Last Supper, and we declare*

*...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, before concluding:*

*...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.***

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As we rejoice in God's new creation, we pray in faith and trust:

**Our Father, which 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.**

## **AGNUS DEI** (Lamb of God)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## **THE INVITATION**

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 Christ died and lives for you

and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward for Communion as directed by the Sidespeople.*

*If you normally receive communion in your home church,*

*or would like to do so today, then you are welcome to do so.*

*If you don't want to take the chalice please just receive the bread,*

*which is full communion in the Church of England, and do not intinct your wafer in the chalice.*

*Please tell a sidesperson if you would like to receive communion in your seat.*

*Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

*If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with everyone else, and simply bow your head. During the distribution we sing:*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;

come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:

he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace-

no work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

*Writer: David J Evans (b. 1957)*

*and then the Choir sings:*

**O thou who camest from above, by Philip Stopford (b.1977)**



## **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service:

stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit

and make us worthy of our calling;

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love and joy and peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING OUT**

*During the final hymn, **The Lord's my Shepherd** by Stuart Townend (b.1963), the Bishop leads those who have been confirmed and received towards the Church door and back towards the world.*

*Each person who has been confirmed is given a lit candle.*

*As they pass us, we turn to face west for the conclusion of the service.*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,*

*And I will trust in You alone,*

*For Your endless mercy follows me,*

*Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.        *Chorus*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.    *Chorus*

*The Bishop reminds those newly confirmed or received into the Church of England of the call God placed on their lives in baptism:*  
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
You have received the light of Christ.  
Walk in this light all the days of your life.  
**Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

## **THE COMMISSION** [Addressed to all of God's people]

All those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,  
and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

**With the help of God I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love  
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**



*[The shell is an ancient symbol of pilgrimage.  
It reminds us that each of us is a pilgrim, and that we are  
members of a pilgrim Church, striving to be like Christ.]*

## **THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

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

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, equip you  
and strengthen you in your life and ministry. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you,  
this holy and joyful day, and always. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join the Bishop and the newly-confirmed in the Parish Rooms  
for tea and cake after the service: and please continue to pray for  
those who have committed themselves afresh to Christ this day.*

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## **GETTING TO KNOW SOME OF THE CANDIDATES**

### **Emmer Green and Caversham Park**

Jacob David Dove Pottage

### **Ruscombe and Twyford**

Keiren Patrick Griffin

Barry Peter Setterfield

Julian Alexander Pearson

Tee Angelina Ramona Pearson *(to be received into the Church of England)*

## **Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst**

Victoria Pimm

## **All Saints' Church, Wokingham**

Baby Shakila Savithri Rengan

During my early adulthood, I was away from home studying in a different state and hence lost the opportunity to be confirmed. My life took different turns as I married my friend who is from a different religion. However, he supported me in my values and beliefs and I had the freedom to follow my faith path. I am now 45, have two daughters and I have been going to All Saints church for the last 9 years. Being confirmed has been in my thoughts for a while and when Revd. Hannah asked me if I was interested in getting confirmed, I did not have a reason to say "No". I felt it was a calling to take my faith to the next level in loving my neighbours as I love myself and fully understand the physical expression of God's love in sustaining my relationship with him.

Abbie Chrystyna Ellis

When I found out I was going to be having a baby, I knew I wanted to be a better person in order to set an example for my daughter and my step-daughters. I started coming to church very early on in my pregnancy and I have never felt such love and warmth from a community. My morals and beliefs have been challenged in the best way possible, and I am enjoying the change in my outlook on life alongside my faith.

Jean Taylor

I have always believed in God but never more than now. Since going through a terribly hard time during the long illness and passing of my darling husband, I have come to realise just how important my faith is and I thank the Lord for all the help, guidance and support he gives us all.

## **St Paul's Church, Wokingham**

Toby Jordaan

I would like to be Confirmed because I want to be a Christian and I don't think I will ever be something else. I want to confirm my faith and become more of a Christian. I would like to learn more about Jesus' life and how to have my own special relationship with God. I know I was Christened as a child, but I don't remember the promises that were made – I want to make them now for myself.

Jane Rawlings

I have thought about being confirmed for a long time. I have prayed and my prayers have been answered and I feel God is always with me to guide me through difficult. I lost my beloved husband at 48 years old and my mother and father so it's been very

difficult over the years. I pray not every night but when I have a quiet time. In my job it's sometimes difficult to manage patients' expectations. I feel I have someone looking out for me. I am not judged and God is always with me.

**GOD**  
has called you by name  
& made you **HIS OWN**

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