

Parish Church of St. Luke, Formby



***A service to mark the
beginning of a new ministry***

Collation of:

Revd Dr Matt Davis

22nd September 2020, 7.30pm

In church and on-line

***Led by:* The Rt Revd Beverley A Mason**

Bishop of Warrington

***and* The Venerable Pete Spiers**

Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton

Introduction

The arrival of a new incumbent in a parish is always an important event. For him it is a new sphere of work; for the members of the Church and the people of the parish, it is a new chapter in the worship and life of the whole community.

To mark this new beginning, priest and people come together with the Bishop to offer themselves afresh to God for the work of the Gospel. This service is both a legal ceremony and an Act of Worship, which reminds priest and people of their shared responsibility for the proclamation of the Gospel and the service of God's People.

The legal preliminaries include an Oath of Allegiance to the Crown, and Oath of Canonical Obedience to the Bishop, and the Declaration of Assent. This declaration assures the congregation that their priest believes, speaks and acts in a way a Christian minister should, so that they can trust his ministry.

The Collation denotes the admission of the Priest to the spiritual care and leadership of the parish. The Induction gives the Priest the legal charge of the church buildings and property, and the right to receive the income of the benefice. The Installation places the priest in the midst of a worshipping, praying and witnessing community.

This is both a joyful and solemn occasion. Please spend time before the service to think about its meaning and to pray. In your prayers remember Matt and his family. Remember also, our Bishops and all who share with them in the work of this diocese and your own commitment to Christ, as a member of his body, the Church.

Everyone present has a part to play in the proceedings. Please answer firmly in every **Amen** and whenever **All** are asked to declare their commitment.

Introducing Matt and Family

Matt was born in Northern Ireland and grew up near Lisburn, as the middle child between two sisters. His family went to Stoneyford Parish Church each Sunday, where Matt was baptised. The church would arrange a Summer Holiday Bible Club and when Matt was late primary school age, he remembers an explanation of the gospel at one of these having an impact on him. He prayed a prayer of commitment that evening and considers it an important point in his walk with the Lord.

During his teenage years, Matt became more active in his faith at Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church and joined a youth team visiting missionaries in Kenya. His grandfather had been a Presbyterian Missionary in Malawi and Matt wondered whether he would follow in his steps. After school, Matt spent most of the year with Operation Mobilisation. First with OM Ships (his first experience of Merseyside was sailing in on the MV Logos II!) and then with OM South Africa on their six-month missionary training team.

Matt headed to Cambridge to study physics in 2002 and settled at St Andrew the Great Church where he met Liz (a medical student) and they later married. After a doctorate in earth sciences, he worked in research and development for a large software company. During this time Matt had a growing sense that his gifts and abilities were suited to ordained ministry and explored his vocation.

In 2013 Matt and Liz moved to north London for Oak Hill Theological College and were joined six weeks later by their first son, James. Matt was ordained in 2016 and served his curacy first at St Philemon's Toxteth and then at St Anne's Aigburth. In Aigburth, they were joined by Timothy, also about six weeks after moving.

Matt, Liz, James and Timothy are really excited about living in Formby and getting to know the local community. It's their prayer that God would grow his kingdom through their life and ministry.

Covid 19

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic attendance at this service must be restricted to people with a role to play. We realise that many people will be disappointed at not being able to be at the service and hope that everyone understands the problems we have. Perhaps we can have a party to celebrate Matt joining us when some normality returns.

For people who do not have an invitation to the service in church we are hoping to have the service live streamed. The link to the stream will be on the church website: <https://www.stlukesformby.org.uk/>

A full risk assessment has been carried out on the seating arrangements in St. Luke's. We ask people attending the service to use the seats they are directed to. At the end of the service please allow people sitting behind you to leave the church before you leave. In that way we maintain a social distance.

The law requires that face covering be used by members of the congregation except for younger children and when special circumstances apply.

Offering

The Offering from this service will be given to Ordinands and their families in training in the Diocese with 10% given to support the links between our diocese and others across the world.

You can make your gift at the back of the Church, near the font and we invite you to do so as you leave, if you have not already done so.

If you are a UK taxpayer please consider using a gift aid envelope so that tax can be reclaimed and the value of your gift increased by 25% at no additional cost to you.

Please ensure your mobile phone is switched to silent - Thank you

Before the service the organ will play quiet music.

Clergy and Readers enter the church through the vestry and take their allocated seats at the front of the pews.

The Area Dean, Archdeacon, Wardens and Bishop process with appropriate distancing into the church through the vestry and take up their designated seats in the chancel and crossing.

The Beginning of a New Ministry

The Gathering

Please be seated

The churchwardens stand before the Bishop and say

Bishop, on behalf of the parish of St. Luke, Formby we welcome you as our Shepherd in God.

Bishop Thank you for your welcome. May God in all things be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be worship and praise. I have come to give authority to a priest to care for the people of this parish through making Christ known in word and deed. Let him now be presented.

Presentation

The Deanery Lay Chair presents the minister to the Bishop, saying

Lay Chair Bishop, I present to you Matt Davis to be admitted to the care of God's people in this parish.

Bishop Thank you for your presentation. Matt comes to take his place as your vicar. He has been duly nominated and no one has objected to him taking up this office. I therefore invite Archdeacon Pete to commend Matt to us.

The Archdeacon gives his commendation

Silence is kept

A'deacon 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, mission and ministry
each may be an instrument of Your love,

and give to Your servant Matt now to be
collated
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. **Amen.**

Liturgy of The Word

Psalm 103

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰ Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.

²¹ Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers that do his will.

²² Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

At the end, the reader says

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon: by the Bishop of Warrington

Collation

Bishop Matt, you are to be collated as vicar of the parish of St. Luke, Formby.
Do you believe that you are truly called to this ministry?

Minister I believe that God has called me.

Declaration of Assent and Oath of Obedience

The Bishop introduces the Declaration of Assent, and then says:

Bishop 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?

Minister I, Matthew William Davis, 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, the minister faces the people and says

I, Matthew William Davis, 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.

Turning to the Bishop, the minister says

I, Matthew William Davis, swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Liverpool and his successors, in all things lawful and honest.

So help me God.

The minister signs the declarations

Sharing of the Cure of Souls

The minister kneels before the Bishop, who reads the Licence and gives it to the minister.

Bishop Receive this cure of souls, which is both yours and mine; in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us ask God to bless Matt, to give him joy in his new home and ministry and to stir up within him the gifts of the Spirit:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, fill the heart of your servant Matt with eager love in caring for your people; joy in affirming all that is good in this community, hope in proclaiming the love of Christ and wisdom in challenging all that is mean and destructive. Give him vision for his preaching; faithfulness for his teaching; diligence for his visiting; sympathy for his counselling; compassion in declaring your pardon for the penitent;

courage in his witness; and the peace that passes understanding for his daily walk with Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

All members of the ministry team and members of the PCC stand.

Bishop Matt, you have now been collated for a new ministry.

You are to enable the people here to use their own gifts in the service of the Gospel, to help them discover the longing of their own spirit. You are called to ensure that you also grow in grace, learning from your people, making time for study, for quiet reflection and for prayer for you are called to be available, to be humble and to be human.

In your work, mission and ministry, and in collaboration with your colleagues care alike for young and old, weak and strong, poor and rich; share their joy and their sadness.

Together all of you are called to proclaim the glorious freedom of the children of God, to preach the Gospel of peace and hope, to pray earnestly not only for the people in your care but for the whole community. You are to minister God's healing and reconciliation wherever there is pain or conflict whether within or beyond the Church.

The Bishop blesses the minister and his colleagues

The Lord give you courage, wisdom, strength and love to work together to do His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you all and your work done in His Name, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

The Induction And Installation

The congregation stands

Bishop Archdeacon, I have collated Matt to the care of this benefice. I ask you to induct and install him, in the presence of the Churchwardens and this congregation, and to support him in his ministry here.

The Archdeacon gives the keys of the church to the minister and says

Matt, by virtue of the authority given me, I induct you into the real, actual and corporeal possession of the Church and benefice of the parish of St Luke, Formby with all its rights, responsibilities and opportunities for ministry.

The Lord defend your going out and your coming in from this time forward and for evermore.

Installation

The Archdeacon leads the minister to a stall, where he is seated and the Archdeacon says

I install you as vicar of this benefice. Pray for your people, lead them in worship and service, and encourage them in their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Archdeacon presents the minister to the congregation, saying

I present to you Matt Davis, now duly Collated, Inducted and Installed as vicar of this benefice.

Receive him with affection as your pastor, and pray that he may be faithful and happy in the charge now committed to him.

The congregation sits

The Greetings

Welcome by representatives

The Area Dean, Anne Taylor, and the Deanery Synod Lay Chair, Andrew Cox, welcome the new minister with suitable words.

The Area Dean then reads out messages from people both in church and unable to be in church.

Dedication of Minister and People

The symbols of water, a Bible, bread and wine and a map of the parish are on a table in the chancel. Members of the church stand to present each one .

A map of the parish is presented

Be among us as those who proclaim the risen Christ to those we know in the hope of all accepting His grace of salvation and the joy of eternal life with God the Father.

The symbol of water is presented

Be among us as those who rejoice to bring people to baptism, and to share with them the Living Water, given by Jesus Christ Himself, that they may be conformed to the pattern of His life and death.

A Bible is presented

Be among us as those who study the scriptures, preach the Word and explore the faith, that all may find in Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Bread and wine are presented

Be among us as those who break the bread and bless the cup when we celebrate the sacrament of our Lord's death and resurrection, that we may all grow together into the full stature of Christ.

Area Dean: Will you be faithful in baptising, teaching and proclaiming the truth of Holy Scripture, preparing and administering the sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Minister: With the help of God, I will.

The congregation stands.

The Lay Chair says to the people:

People of God, will you be faithful in living the life of the baptised, in reading and studying of the scriptures and in coming together to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Prayers are led by the New Minister

The congregation may sit or kneel

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

We pray for the use of God's gifts to His Church, saying:-
Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All **in Your mercy hear us.**

God our Father, You give us gifts
that we may work together

in the service of Your Son:
Bless those who lead,
that they may be firm in faith,
yet humble before You.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All in Your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,
that they may increase our understanding
and be open to Your Word for them.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All in Your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing,
that they may bring wholeness to others
and know Your healing themselves.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All in Your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom You speak,
that they may proclaim Your Word in power,
yet open their ears to Your gentle whisper.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All in Your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in Your world today,
that in the complexity of their daily lives
they may live for You,
fulfil Your purposes,
and seek Your kingdom.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All in Your mercy hear us.

Bless those who feel they have no gifts or value
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,
that they may share their experience
of the work of Your Spirit.

Jesus, Lord of Your Church,

All **hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve You with joy for ever. Amen.**

Source: Michael Perry, *Church Family worship* © 1986 Hodder (altered)

Then the Lord's Prayer is said,

Minister As disciples of Jesus in the Diocese of Liverpool we pray

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.**

The congregation stands for the Blessing

Blessing

Bishop May God, who in Christ has shown us his truth and love, make you messengers of the Gospel and witnesses to the divine love before all the world.

All Amen.

Bishop May the Lord Jesus Christ, who promised that he would be with his Church until the end of time, guide your steps and fill your words with power.

All Amen.

Bishop May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you, enabling you as you go through the world to bring the Good News to all and to heal the brokenhearted.

All Amen.

The Bishop blesses the congregation

Bishop And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
come down upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Bishop and new minister move to a door of the church.

At the door the new minister places his hand upon the handle of the door and the Bishop says:

The cure of souls is a ministry alongside all who live or work in this community. The church must be open to God's world and to all who seek him.

Matt you are called to help the people who are refreshed here by their worship and fellowship to live out their faith in this community, so that God's love may be known.

Minister By God's grace, I will equip those who gather here to grow as disciples of Christ.

All By God's grace, we will be Christ's people at work in the world.

The new minister opens wide the door

The Bishop then offers a blessing on the local community:

Lord, look with love upon this parish,
reach out with compassion to those in need,
extend your care for all in this community
and strengthen them by your blessing.

Amen.

The new minister then turns to the congregation and says:

Minister Go in the power of Christ

All We have a gospel to proclaim!

Minister Go in the peace of Christ

All Thanks be to God.

At the end of the service you will be directed to exit one pew at a time from the rear of church through the main door. Please do not move into the aisle until you have been asked to do so. You will be able to greet the Bishop and Matt along the path as you leave - socially distanced, of course. Thank you for joining us this evening.

