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## DIocese of SALISBURY

### The Bride Valley Benefice



### CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

#### Order of Service

for the Licensing of  
The Reverend Elizabeth Howlett

as Associate Priest in the Bride Valley Benefice

By The Bishop of Sherborne  
The Right Reverend Karen Gorham

Palm Sunday, 5th April at 6pm  
At St Mary's Church, Litton Cheney

Liz was born in Wiltshire and when she was three and a half the family moved to Taunton in Somerset where she did all her schooling and went to St Andrew's church.

Liz has always been a great believer in lay ministry and was herself a Church Army Officer for 16 years, serving in a community centre and church in Bethnal Green, London and later in a more suburban area near Solihull in the West Midlands. She was surprised by a call to ordained ministry and was ordained deacon in 2001. Having served her curacy in the Shirley Team ministry, Liz was appointed Bishop's Adviser for Lay Adult Education and Training in the diocese of Birmingham and spent many years, with others, enabling and encouraging the development of discipleship and lay ministry in the richly diverse churches in that area.

Liz has two grown up sons, Andy and Chris who now both live in Birmingham. When they were very young, the family discovered Othona – it became a second home, with its warm hearted welcome and acceptance of people of all ages and backgrounds. Othona offered and continues to offer a gentle invitation into community and a spirituality rooted in the Christian faith and open to learn from other faiths and traditions. When the opportunity arose just a year ago to join the resident team, Liz was delighted to seize it! She is also really pleased that through her licensing to the Bride Valley churches today, she will be joining the ministry team and congregations in this area in their mission and ministry and the links between local church and Othona will be strengthened.

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

**All And also with you**

We have come together in the presence of God to licence the Reverend Elizabeth Howlett to the Bride Valley Benefice

*The Incumbent presents the new Parish Priest.*

Incumbent Bishop Karen, I present the Reverend Elizabeth Howlett to you whom we have chosen to serve as Associate Priest and ask you to licence her.

Bishop I thank you for your presentation and for the prayer and discernment that lie behind it.

THE COLLECT

*The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with these or other words*

Bishop As we now license Liz, let us pray for her and for all who share in the ministry in the Benefice that she may be a faithful priest and true shepherd, and that they may work together for the building up of God's Kingdom in this place.

God our Father, Lord of all the world, we thank you that through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal church. Hear our prayer for all your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant *Liz* and all who minister in this place the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen**

**THE READING**

Reader The reading is taken from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Chapter 4 verses 1-7 and 11-13

Reader      This is the word of the Lord  
All            **Thanks be to God**

**THE SERMON** – Bishop Karen

## **THE LICENSING**

*The priest stands before the Bishop, who reads the Preface:*

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?

*The Priest affirms and takes the Oaths, saying*

I, *Elizabeth Mary Howlett* 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, she turns to the people and says*

I, *Elizabeth Mary Howlett*, 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.

*And turning to the Bishop, she says*

I, *Elizabeth Mary Howlett*, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Salisbury and his successors in all things lawful and honest: so help me God

*The Bishop reads the Licence.*

*Silence is kept*

Bishop      Almighty Father, give your servant grace  
to fulfil her calling in this benefice.  
Give her reverence in ministering the sacraments, faithfulness in  
proclaiming your word,  
diligence in pastoral care,  
tenderness in comforting, power in healing the wounds of Christ's  
people,  
and humility and self-sacrifice in all things;  
that, following the steps of your Son,  
she may guide your people towards eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All            Amen.**

Receive this licence in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord  
Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect  
in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God  
Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you  
and upon all your work done in his name. **Amen.**

*The Associate Priest stands and all present say:*

**All      We welcome you!  
          May the Lord richly bless you  
          And make you a blessing among us.**

### **THE INTERCESSIONS**

Prayers for the world and the local community are said.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Bishop      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; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All            Amen**

**All            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
                  In the name of Christ. Amen.**



RENEWING  
HOPE  
THROUGH RURAL

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