



Service of Licensing and Installation
by the Bishop of Buckingham
and the Archdeacon of Buckingham

of the Revd. Lakshmi Jeffreys
as Team Vicar of

St James' Downley

Tuesday 6th October 7.00pm

*Living God's Love in our Community,
In our Worship
And In our Prayer*

*A collection will be taken at the service
for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund*

This service is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of the ministry of Lakshmi and a new stage in the life of this parish. As the mission and ministry of the Church is the responsibility of all baptised people, so they come together with their new Minister and the Bishop to celebrate their ministry and offer themselves afresh to God.

Please spend some moments of quiet before the service:

- giving thanks to God for all who have worshipped and ministered here in the past
- praying for the present congregation
- praying for Lakshmi and her family
- praying for the local community served by this church
- praying for your own involvement in the life and witness of God's Church.

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

The Outreach Fund is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Church worldwide and is generated by offerings across the diocese, particularly at ordinations, confirmations, collations, institutions and licensings. Please see the back of the order of service for details of how this fund has been used to support charities in the diocese and overseas.

The Gathering – Revd. James Dwyer (Area Dean)

Hymn: Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again:
Gladly for ay we adore Him.

The Greeting – Bishop Dave Bull

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

All **and also with you.**

Bishop We have come together in the presence of God to welcome Lakshmi and her husband John to this parish, to licence her to the ministry she will share, to pray for Lakshmi and for those who minister with her, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God in this community and to the call which He makes of each one of us.

Let us therefore wait humbly upon God, giving thanks for all that He has done, and asking forgiveness for those ways in which we have failed each other, our communities, and our God.

Prayers of Penitence

Bishop Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:
‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’
Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus you appointed us to go out and bear fruit
that will last.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Bishop May the God of love
Bring you back to himself,
Forgive you your sins
And assure you of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Presentation of the New Minister

*Archdeacon Cassa Messervy leads Lakshmi to stand before the Bishop
and says:*

Reverend Father in God, after due consultation and prayerful
consideration, Lakshmi Jeffreys has been nominated and has
accepted to be team vicar of this parish. I now present her to
you to be licensed.

Bishop I thank you and all those who with prayer have been involved
in the appointment of Lakshmi to this parish.

Lakshmi, do you believe, so far as you know your own heart,
that God has called you to serve here?

Minister I believe that God has called me.

Bishop Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the
people in this place to further the kingdom of God?

Minister With the help of God, I will.

The Minister turns to face the congregation, whom the Bishop addresses as a whole

People of God, will you welcome Lakshmi and support and uphold her in her ministry now and in the years to come?

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

The Collect

Bishop 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 and ministry
 each may be an instrument of your love,
 and give to your servant Lakshmi
 now to be licensed 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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 26: 3 – 9 *Read by John Jeffreys*

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.
Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low;
he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust.
Feet trample it down— the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps
of the poor.

The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make
the way of the righteous smooth.

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you;
your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit
longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the
people of the world learn righteousness.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Yet not I but through Christ in me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
O, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side the Saviour he will stay;
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead.
O, the night has been won and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread: I know I am forgiven,
the future sure, the price it has been paid;
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea;
O, the chains are released; I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home;
and day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to him;
when the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
'Yet not I, but through Christ in me!'

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Matthew 11: 25 – 30 *Read by Elizabeth Evans*

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Cassa Messervy, Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Liturgy of Licensing

The Dedication of the Ministers and People

The Archdeacon says

Gracious God, we praise and glorify you, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church, that, sharing in the ministry of our Saviour Christ, we might be witnesses of what he has done for us.

All **Gracious God, we praise and glorify you.**

Presenting water for baptism, one says

Lakshmi be among us as a woman who rejoices to bring new Christians to baptism and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ himself.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will grow in our faith and discipleship.**

Presenting the oil of healing, one says

Be among us as a woman of reconciliation, showing God's forgiveness and healing.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will be a Christ-like community of love.**

Presenting a large bible, one says

Be among us as a woman who studies the Scriptures,
proclaims the Word and explores the faith.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will tell the good news of Christ to the world.**

Presenting a copy of the Book of Common Worship, one says

Be among us as a woman of prayer, offering the Church's
liturgy and interceding for God's people.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will worship God in spirit and in truth.**

Presenting bread and wine, one says

Be among us as a woman of the Eucharist, presiding among
us when we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will seek to be the living body of Christ.**

*Members of Downley ACTs (All churches together) present a symbol of
the community.*

Lakshmi 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. Together may we
make this a place where Christian people are equipped for
their life and witness in God's world.

All **Amen.**

The Declaration and Oaths

The people sit and the new Minister stands before the Bishop

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 Minister makes the declaration of assent

I, Lakshmi Jeffreys, 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.

The Minister turns and faces the people and, taking a bible in her right hand, swears the oath of allegiance

I, Lakshmi Jeffreys, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

Facing the Bishop, and still holding the bible, the Minister swears the oath of canonical Obedience

I, Lakshmi Jeffreys, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the area Bishop of Buckingham and their successors, in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

The Minister signs the declaration and oaths.

The Licensing

The people stand. The Bishop reads the Deed of Licence and gives it to the Minister, saying

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.

All **Amen.**

The Bishop anoints the new Minister with the oil of Chrism, saying

Lakshmi, remember your baptism into Christ.
Remember your ordination in the Church of God.
May God who anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit anoint and empower you for the blessing of God's people.

All **Amen.**

The Bishop invites the Wycombe Team Ministry team and other licensed Ministers of the parish to join the Minister, and they stand before the Bishop.

The God of all faithfulness
strengthen you for your ministry
and commitment to one another;
the God of all grace give you vision, courage and joy;
as you minister in the churches of High Wycombe
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,
now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The Installation – Archdeacon Cassa Messervy

The Archdeacon leads the Minister to her stall in the church

Lakshmi, I install you as team vicar of this parish. 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 church bell is rung by the Minister.

The Welcome

The Bishop presents the new Minister to the people, saying

People of this parish I present to you your new team vicar now duly licensed and installed, and I invite you to greet her and her family in the name of Christ. I commend them to your love and to your prayers.

All

We welcome you!

**May the Lord richly bless you
and make you a blessing among us.**

The congregation greets the new Minister with a warm round of applause.

Revd. James Dwyer (Area Dean) and Caroline Sants (Deanery Lay Chair) formally welcome the new Minister into the deanery.

Fr Anthony Searle (Team Rector) formally introduces representatives of local community and ecumenical partners.

The Peace

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.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace

We share a sign of peace

Hymn: In Christ Alone

(collection for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund will be taken at this point)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Prayers of Intercession *Revd. Lakshmi Jeffreys*

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen**

Notices – *Revd. Lakshmi Jeffreys*

Sung blessing

Now may the peace of the Lord be with you, be with you
Now may the peace of the Lord be with you, be with you
Now and always
May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you
And may God's face shine upon you always
And give you peace

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The Dismissal

The Bishop pronounces God's blessing

Almighty God,
who for the salvation of the world
gives to his people many gifts and ministries
to the advancement of his glory,
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
and sustain each one of you in your own ministry;
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 people stand for the recessional hymn.

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art

Minister Go in the power of Christ.

All **We have a gospel to proclaim!**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God!**

Thank you very much for coming to this service,
please join us now in the church hall for refreshments

Copyright Acknowledgments

Page 7 - Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Authors: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, & Michael Farren

CCLI Song Number: 7121852

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Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

CCLI Song Number: 3350395

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Page 16 - Sung Blessing

Author: Graham Kendrick

CCLI Song Number: 5936092 (for the 2009 version)

or 222942 (for the 1979 "Peace I Give to You" version).

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

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Through the fund, the Bishop of Oxford (or, as currently, the Acting 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 2025, the fund received gifts totalling £30,000 and made grants totalling nearly £31,000, of which £20,000 was raised as part of the Bishop's Advent Appeal specifically for our link diocese in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands after the devastation of Hurricane Melissa. Other grants were made to Tearfund and USPG; and closer to home, an Oxford project taking eighteen underprivileged young people for a week's holiday.

Donations to the Bishop's Outreach Fund can be made, during the collection at this service,

- In the envelopes provided - Please make cheques payable to 'ODBF Administered Fund' and mark with a covering note that it is for the Bishop's Outreach Fund.
- using the card donations machine at the back of the church,
- or alternatively, online via this QR code (below) or the following webpage: www.oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford/outreach-fund.php

Gifts to the Outreach Fund can benefit considerably from donors making Gift Aid declarations. Registered charities can reclaim income tax at the basic rate from gifts made by taxpayers, provided that the donors have made a declaration accompanying their gift. For every £1 donated by taxpayers who use the envelopes, the Outreach Fund can then recover 25p from HM Revenue and Customs.

