



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

Celebration of New Ministry

Order of Service
for the Licensing and Installation of
Simon Pope

as Vicar
of the parishes of
St Thomas', Trowbridge
and
St John's, West Ashton

Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7:00pm

St Thomas' Church, Trowbridge, BA14 8PT

The Gathering and Presentation

Music before service: Rescuer (by Rend Collective)

The Rural Dean welcomes the congregation and announces the opening hymn.

During the hymn, the Procession enters the Church.

Hymn: To God be the glory

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

All And also with you.

The congregation sits.

The Bishop introduces the service.

The Rural Dean and Parish Representatives give a short Statement describing the present situation of the Benefice and hopes for the future.

The Patron presents the new Parish Priest.

Patron Reverend Father in God, as Patrons of this Benefice we have read the Parish Profile and Statement of Needs, and after due consultation have chosen Reverend Simon Pope. We present him to you and ask you to admit him to this cure of souls.

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

The Archdeacon briefly introduces the new Parish Priest.

Bishop Churchwardens and people of this Benefice, do you welcome Simon?

People **We do.**

Bishop Will you share with Simon in mission and in pastoral care?

People **We will.**

Bishop Simon, I ask you in the presence of this congregation, are you willing to receive this cure?

Priest I am.

The Collect

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

Bishop As we now license a new priest to this cure of souls, let us pray for him and for all who share in the ministry of this Benefice that he 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 Simon and all who minister in this place the needful gifts of grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

God's Call and Our Response

During the hymn, the Bishop and new Priest move to the Font. Representatives of the Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Pioneers and others engaged in the ministries of pastoral care and outreach in the Benefice meet them there.

The congregation turn to face the Font and remain standing.

Hymn: Amazing grace (verse 1 and chorus)

A reader 'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'
(from 1 Peter 2)

Bishop The church is called in the power of the Spirit to proclaim to all the love of God by word and deed, and to welcome and nurture all who turn to Christ. Simon, as a priest in this Benefice will you by your teaching and example lead the church here in making disciples, and encourage every Christian to grow in their ministry?

Priest With the help of God I will.

(to the ministers and the people of the parishes)

Will you share with me in the ministry of making new disciples to which we are called together?

People We will.

A lay person presents a vessel of water, saying:

May the waters of Baptism that made us one
with Christ in his death, make us one in his
risen life.

All **Amen.**

The Priest takes the water and pours it into the font.

*The Bishop and Priest move to the Chancel step. They are
joined by representatives of the Licensed Lay Minsters
and others who share in the ministry of teaching and
preaching to all ages.*

Hymn: Amazing grace (verse 2 and chorus)

A reader ‘Each of us was given grace according to the
measure of Christ’s gift. The gifts he gave were
that some would be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for
the building up of the body of Christ.’

(from Ephesians 4)

Bishop Simon, as a leader of God’s people in their
ministry and a teacher of his word, you must
help them to proclaim and live out his love.
With them you must be diligent in prayer and in
study of the scriptures, that you may discern
the mind of Christ and know his will for his
church, and that you may lead all who come
here to grow in their faith and in their love and
service of our Lord. Will you do this?

Priest With the help of God, I will.

(to the people)

Will you share with me in the regular study and proclamation of God's word that together we may bring the light of faith to a dark world, kindle the fire of love in a cold world, and open the door of hope in a tired world?

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

A lay person presents the Parish Priest with a Bible, saying:

May the Word of God be a lamp to our feet and a light upon our path, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Priest takes the Bible and places it on the lectern.

The Bishop and Priest move to the Sanctuary. They are joined by other ministers of the sacrament.

Hymn: *Amazing grace (verse 3 and chorus)*

A reader 'The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.'

(from 1 Corinthians 10)

Bishop Simon, it is your duty and privilege to preside at the Holy Communion, to lead the worship of God's people, and to bless them in the name of the Lord.

Will you lead them in unity that as the body of Christ in this place they may bear witness to his love?

Priest With the help of God, I will.

(to the people)

Will you share regularly with me in this Sacrament of Holy Communion, that we may grow in unity and love, and together proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes?

People With the help of God, we will.

A Eucharistic assistant presents a Chalice and Paten saying:

May the body and blood of Christ that we share at this table unite us on earth and prepare us for the table in his Kingdom.

All Amen.

The Priest places the Chalice and Paten on the Altar.

The procession returns to the Chancel step and is joined by the members of the Deanery Chapter.

Hymn: Amazing grace *(verse 4 and chorus)*

A reader ‘Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears,

you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.’ (1 Peter 5 vv2-4)

Bishop Priests are called by God to work with the bishop and with their fellow-priests, as servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent.

Simon, will you work with your colleagues in this Chapter that together you may further Christ’s work within the Deanery, and witness to the unity to which we are called?

Priest With the help of God, I will.

Rural Dean

May God, who has called you to his service, make us one in heart and mind, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Reading

Archdeacon

A reading from **Philippians 2 vv1-18**

Then, after the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon (Bishop Andrew)

Hymn: My hope is built on nothing less (Cornerstone)

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, Simon Pope, 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, he turns to the people and says:

I, Simon Pope, 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.

And turning to the Bishop, he says:

I, Simon Pope, 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.

Bishop Having made those declarations, Simon may now receive the Cure of Souls here.

The Bishop reads the Licence.

Bishop With you, Simon has dedicated himself afresh to God's service. We now ask God's blessing upon his ministry among you.

The Parish Priest-designate kneels before the Bishop.

Silence is kept.

Bishop Almighty Father, give your servant grace to fulfil his calling in this Benefice. Give him 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, he may guide your people towards eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Bishop hands the Licence to the Parish Priest, 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.**

Bishop 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.

All **Amen.**

All stand.

The Installation

Bishop Archdeacon, I ask you to Induct and Install Simon.

The new Parish Priest leads the Churchwardens and the Archdeacon to the Church door.

The congregation faces the door.

The Archdeacon lays the Priest's hand on the door and says:

By virtue of the authority given to me I induct you into this Church and Benefice with all the rights and responsibilities belonging to it.

Churchwardens

Receive the keys of the church in token of the responsibility which we share.

The Priest then tolls the bell as a sign of the start of his ministry.

The Archdeacon takes the Priest by the hand and places him in their stall.

Archdeacon

I place you in the stall of the minister of this Benefice; and may God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in the ways of truth and peace.

All Amen.

Prayer for the new Priest

Invited representatives will gather round Simon and Elle and pray for them.

The Intercessions

The newly installed Parish Priest gives out notices and invites the people to pray.

The intercessions for the world and the local community are led by lay people.

At the end, the Parish Priest leads the congregation in saying the Lord's Prayer.

The Welcome

The new Priest is welcomed by representatives of the church and community introduced by the Rural Dean.

The Bishop invites the congregation to welcome the new Priest and the family.

Hymn: Go forth and tell

At the end of the hymn the collection for the work of the Church in the Province of the Sudan will be presented.

A plate will be available by the door at the end of the service for further gifts.

The Commission and Dismissal

The Bishop moves to the Chancel step.

The Parish Priest joins the other ministers and people of the Benefice who stand before the Bishop.

Bishop 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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bishop 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?

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

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.

People **Amen.**

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Music at end of service: There's nothing worth more
(Holy Spirit, we welcome you)

Thank you for coming to Simon's licensing service.

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments.

*Note that drinks will be served in the
rear left-hand corner of the church,
and food on the right-hand side by the curtain.*

*If you are seated in either of these areas, please help us
by vacating your seat at the end of the service so that we
can make space for serving.*

