

**The Institution, Induction, and Installation
of Rev Dr Jen Brown
as Team Rector
of the Benefice of Abingdon on Thames**

**Tuesday 21st October 2025
7.00pm**

The area dean welcomes the people and invites them to stand for the opening hymn.

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

During the hymn the ministers process into the Church, whilst the Patrons and Minister designate remain at the back:

The Greeting

The Bishop greets the people.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his 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 introduces the service

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have gathered as the family of God
in our Father's presence to offer our worship and praise,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
and to pray for God's blessing on all who work in his name.
Today we give thanks for the ministry and mission of the Church in this benefice and for
those who have sustained it during the time of vacancy.

And now we welcome Jen
and as we commission her to this new ministry
so we rededicate ourselves to build up the Church of Christ in this place,
and, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit,
be instruments of God's love.

Heavenly Father, we hold before you this benefice and all who minister here, that with Jen they may fulfil your loving purposes for those who live and work in this place.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

The bishop says

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

The bishop leads the prayers of penitence.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:

‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’

Lord, have mercy.

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.

The bishop uses this form of absolution.

May the God of love

Bring you back to himself,

Forgive your sins

And assure you of his eternal love

In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Presentation of the New Minister

The patrons lead the new minister to stand before the bishop and say

Bishop Gavin, after due consultation and prayerful consideration,
Jen has been nominated and has accepted to be Team Rector of this benefice.
I now present her to you to be instituted and inducted.

The bishop replies

I thank you and all those who with prayer have been involved in the appointment of Jen
to this benefice.

The patrons return to their seat. The bishop addresses the new minister

Jen, 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.

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 members of the ministry or leadership team step forward and the bishop says to them

Members of the ministry team, will you welcome Jen to the team,
and work creatively and faithfully with her.
meeting regularly for prayer, study and fellowship,
and doing all in your power to support each other in fulfilling the ministry of
Christ?

Team With the help of God, we will.

The minister turns to face the congregation, whom the bishop addresses as a whole

People of God,
will you welcome Jen and support and uphold her in her ministry
now and in the years to come?
With the help of God, we will.

The bishop invites the congregation to pray, and silence is kept.

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 Jen now to be instituted
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First Reading

2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

For the gift of the word:
Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem: Now is the Cool of the Day
(composed by Jean Ritchie, arranged by Kevin Siegfried)

Second Reading

Luke 12. 22-34

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

For the gift of the word:

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rt Rev Gavin Collins
Bishop of Dorchester

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

¶ The Liturgy of Institution

The Declaration and Oaths

The people sit and the new minister stands before the bishop, who says

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, Jennifer Brown, 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, Jennifer Brown, 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, Jennifer Brown, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, through his delegation, to the Area Bishop of Dorchester in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

The minister signs the declaration and oaths.

The Institution

The congregation stands.

The bishop reads the Deed of Institution

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.

The bishop commends the new minister and the ministry team to the prayers of the people.

The ministry team and other licensed ministers of the benefice join the minister, and they kneel before the bishop.

Taking his pastoral staff, the bishop blesses the new minister and the ministry teams, saying

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
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 forever.
Amen.

The Induction and Installation

The people remain standing while the bishop delivers the Mandate of Induction to the archdeacon, saying

Archdeacon, I have instituted Jennifer Brown to ministry in this benefice.
I ask you to induct her, in the presence of this congregation,
and to support her in her ministry here.

The churchwardens lead the archdeacon and the minister to the door of the church, and the people turn to face the door.

The archdeacon lays the hand of the minister on the key or handle of the door, saying

By virtue of the authority given me, I induct you into the real, actual and corporeal possession of the parish churches of *Abingdon St. Helen, Abingdon St. Michael & All Angels, and Abingdon St. Nicolas* with all the rights and responsibilities belonging to them.

The churchwardens present the keys of all the churches in the benefice to the minister saying

Jen, receive these keys in token of the responsibility which we share;
and may the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, now and always.
Amen.

The church bell may be rung by the minister.

The archdeacon leads the minister to her stall in the church, and places her in, saying

Jen, I install you as Team Rector 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 congregation sits.

Choral Anthem: If Ye Love Me
(composer Thomas Tallis)

The Dedication of the Minister and People

Representatives of the church community gather around the new minister with symbols of ministry.

The area dean 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.

Gracious God, we praise and glorify you.

Lifting or presenting water for baptism, one says

Jen, 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.

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

Lifting or presenting the Oil of Healing, one says

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

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

Lifting or presenting a large Bible, one says

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

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

Lifting or presenting a copy of a prayer book

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

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

Lifting or 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.

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

When all the symbols have been highlighted, the new minister responds

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.

Amen.

The new priest kneels with the Churchwardens and ministerial colleagues.

Priest Eternal God,
**All the light of the minds that know you,
 the joy of the hearts that love you,
 and the strength of the wills that serve you;
 grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
 and so to love you that we may truly serve you,
 whom to serve is perfect freedom,
 In Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen.**

Taking his pastoral staff, the Bishop says

 Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake this ministry,
 give you also grace and strength to perform it;
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Welcome

The bishop presents the new minister to the people, saying

People of this benefice, I present to you your new Team Rector, now duly instituted, inducted and installed, and I invite you to greet her in the name of Christ. I commend her to your love and to your prayers.

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.

The lay chair welcomes the new minister into the deanery with suitable words.

The Deputy Lieutenant welcomes the new minister with suitable words.

The area dean may if appropriate introduce representatives of the church and community, particularly any ecumenical partners, who also greet the new minister

The Peace

The bishop says

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace. A hymn is sung. The collection for the bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund may be taken..

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Prayers of Intercession

The people kneel or sit for prayers of intercession, led by the new minister. The following response is used

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The intercessions conclude with 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.**

Notices

The new minister gives out any brief notices.

The Dismissal

The bishop pronounces God's blessing with these or other suitable words

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.

Amen.

The people stand for the recessional hymn, during which the bishop leads the new minister through the congregation.

Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore.
Feed me now and evermore.

Open thou the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream shall flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer
Be thou still my strength and shield.
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.

After the hymn, the minister says by the open door of the church

Go in the power of Christ.
All **We have a gospel to proclaim!**
Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God!**

The ministers and people depart

Organ Postlude: Toccata from Suite Gothique by Léon Boëllmann

BISHOP OF OXFORD'S OUTREACH FUND 2025

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 mission, education and training.

In 2024, the fund received gifts totalling £34,500 and made grants totalling £48,000. Grants were made, amongst others, to support relief and mission agencies working in the Middle East such as *Friends of the Holy Land* and *Embrace the Middle East*. We continued our regular support to international mission agencies such as *CMS*, *Congo Church Association*, *Latin Link*, *MANNA*, *Mission to Seafarers*, *USPG* and *Tearfund*. Emergency relief was given through *Christian Aid* and to *The Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Relief Fund* in response to Hurricane Beyrl. Closer to home grants were made to *Be Space*, *The Retreat Association*, *Asylum Welcome*, *The Porch Day Centre* and the *Performance, Resilience and Support Programme for our Schools Head Teachers*.

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

- during the collection at this service,
- or alternatively, online via this webpage (or use the QR code here),

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



