

**The Licensing of
The Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie
as Associate Vicar
of the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice**



**Wednesday 17th September 2025
7.30pm
St Mary the Virgin, Longcot**

Welcome to St Mary's

This service is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of Janet's ministry and a new stage in the life of this Benefice.

As the mission and ministry of the Church is the responsibility of all baptised people, so we come together with our new Associate Vicar and our Bishop to celebrate our ministry and offer ourselves afresh to God.

Please play your part in the service by joining in the hymns and the responses shown in bold type and, afterwards, do stay for refreshments.

A retiring collection will be taken for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund; please see the notes at the back of this order of service.
Gift aid envelopes are available.

The service is being live-streamed: please sit towards the rear of the church if you wish to be entirely off camera.

An accessible toilet is available at the back of the church.

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 Janet and her family
- praying for the communities served by this Benefice:
Shrivenham, Watchfield, Bourton, Ashbury, Longcot, Fernham
and Compton Beauchamp
- praying for your own involvement in the life and witness of God's Church.

The Gathering

The ministers and Churchwardens enter whilst the Associate Archdeacon and minister designate remain at the back.

The Area Dean welcomes the people.

The Introit

The Benefice Choir sings Cantate Domino by Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni

The people stand for the opening hymn.

Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heavenward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance, through all my days;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n's Sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop introduces the service

We have come together in the presence of God to welcome Janet to her new role within the Benefice; to licence her to the ministry she will share; to pray for Janet and for those who minister with her; and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God in this Benefice and to the call which God makes of each one of us.

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.

Prayers of Penitence

The Bishop introduces the prayers of penitence

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

All **Christ have mercy**

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

All **Lord have mercy**

The Bishop pronounces the absolution

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

The Associate Archdeacon leads the new minister to stand before the Bishop and says

Bishop Gavin, after due consultation and prayerful consideration, the Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie has been nominated and has accepted to be Associate Vicar of the Benefice of Shrivenham & Ashbury. 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 Janet to this Benefice.

The Associate Archdeacon returns to her seat.

The Bishop addresses the new minister

Janet, 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.

Representatives of the ministry support team stand to be addressed by the Bishop

Members of the ministry support team, will you welcome Janet to her new role, 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 Janet and support and uphold her in her ministry now and in the years to come?

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

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 Janet
now to be licensed,
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Liturgy of Licensing

The Declaration and Oaths

The people sit.

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, Janet Anderson-MacKenzie, 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, Janet Anderson-MacKenzie, 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, Janet Anderson-MacKenzie, do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the Area Bishop of Dorchester 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 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 people sit; the ministry support team and other licensed ministers of the Benefice remain standing.

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

Taking his pastoral staff, the Bishop blesses the new minister and the ministry support team, 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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Dedication of the Ministers and People

Representatives of the church community present the new minister with symbols of ministry.

The Associate 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, a Churchwarden of St Mary the Virgin, Ashbury, says

Janet, 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, a Churchwarden of St Andrew, Shrivenham, 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, a Churchwarden of St Swithun, Compton Beauchamp, 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 copies of the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship, the Churchwardens of St Thomas, Watchfield, and St James, Bourton say

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, representatives of St Mary the Virgin, Longcot and St John the Evangelist, Fernham say

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.**

Presenting a Youth Bible as a symbol of our schools, a head teacher says

Be among us as a woman of learning, where the bonds between church
and school are renewed and deepened.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will seek to work together to equip the young people of our
Benefice with a love of learning.**

Presenting a symbol of the community, a representative of the Shrivenham Methodist Church, says

Be among us as a woman of hospitality,
helping to make our churches places of welcome for all.

All **Together, by God's grace,
we will seek to mirror the hospitality of God.**

When all the symbols have been presented, 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.

All **Amen.**

The new minister kneels; the Churchwardens and ministerial colleagues stand and bow their heads.

Minister 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 Associate Vicar, now duly Licensed, 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.

The Area Dean and Lay Chair welcome 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 who also greet the new minister.

The Anthem

The Benefice Choir sings Richard H. Lloyd's setting of Thomas Campion's View Me, Lord

The Peace

Bishop 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.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

Prayers of Intercession

*The people kneel or sit for prayers of intercession, led by the new minister,
concluding 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 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.

All

Amen.

The people stand for the final hymn, during which the Bishop leads the new minister to the church door.

Hymn

To God be the glory! great things he hath done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord ...

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord ...

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 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 licensings. Through the fund, the Bishop is able to respond to a wide range of requests for help, in areas such as humanitarian need, Christian education, training and mission.

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
- using the card donations machine at the back of the church
- by scanning the QR code below
-



Gift Aid

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 tax payers, provided that the donors have made a declaration accompanying their gift. For every £1 donated by tax payers who use the envelopes, the Outreach Fund can then recover 25p from HM Revenue and Customs.