

Commissioning Service

Revd Lee Gatiss
Director of Church Society

2nd March 2013



Introduction and Welcome

Rt Revd Wallace Benn

former Bishop of Lewes,
Vice President of Church Society

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

1. The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord:
she is his new creation
by water and the word;
from Heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the Earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth,
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up: How long?
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)
Public Domain, CCLI No. 3589647

Psalm 1

Revd Clare Hendry

Trustee of the Fellowship of Word and Spirit

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of
the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of
the LORD,
and on his law he meditates
day and night.

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind
drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not
stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation
of the righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of
the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will
perish. (ESV)

Jude 17-25

Mr Andrew Martin

Ordinand at Ridley Hall, Cambridge

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

Sermon

Revd Paul Darlington

Vicar of Holy Trinity, Oswestry
and a Director of the Church Society Trust

Commissioning

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?

Answer: I 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.

James Crabtree
Chairman of Church
Society Council

This is the Bible you were given at your ordination.
Are you still persuaded that the holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation, and that such salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone?

Answer: I am so persuaded and will teach accordingly.

Prof Gerald Bray
Editor of *Churchman*

Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word, in public, in private, and in writing?

Answer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Dr Kirsten Birkett
Oak Hill College

Will you be diligent in prayers, and in reading of the holy Scriptures, and in all such studies as help to the knowledge of the same?

Answer: I will endeavour myself so to do, with God's help.

Mrs Margaret Hobbs
Business Manager,
Latimer Trust

Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourself, your family, and this Society according to the doctrine of Christ, that you and they may be wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Answer: I will apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

Revd Mark Smith
Council of Church Society,
Assistant Chaplain,
Peterhouse

Will you endeavour in all your words and actions as Director of the Church Society to promote and maintain the true profession of the gospel, the Protestant Reformed religion; and will you ensure, as far as in you lies, that this faith is taught wherever the Society has influence?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

Revd David Jackman
Former President of the
Proclamation Trust

Will you work to promote unity amongst all those who sincerely believe this gospel, whatever their denomination; and will you seek to persuade others of the truth and beauty of the good news, and to bring them to a knowledge of Christ, for the glory of God and the good of this nation?

Answer: I will so do, the Lord being my helper

Rt Revd Wallace Benn

Vice President of
Church Society

Will you, this congregation, pray for and support
Lee and his family in this ministry he has
undertaken?

Answer: With the help of God, we will.

Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all
these things; Grant also unto you strength and
power to perform the same; that he may
accomplish his work which he hath begun in you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lee’s response: *his vision for Church Society*

Prayers

Revd Dr Simon Vibert

Vice Principal, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford

All

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Let the vain world applaud or frown

1. Let the vain world applaud or frown,
still may I Heaven’s path pursue:
still may I stand unshook, and keep
the centre of my hopes in view!

2. O Light of Life, still guide my steps –
without your friendly aid I stray;
lead me, my God, for I am blind,
direct me and point out my way.

4. Resolved to tread the sacred Way
that Jesus watered with his blood,
I bend my fixed and cheerful course
through that rough path my Master trod

3. What is the world’s good word to me,
if by my God from glory driven?
Can that redeem my soul from Hell,
or recompense my loss of Heaven?

5. The way that leads to glory lies
through ill-report, contempt, and loss:
assist me to deny myself,
to follow you and bear your cross.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778)
Altd Lee Gatiss

Blessing

Bishop Wallace Benn

Thank you to the Vicar and Wardens of Christ Church, Cambridge for allowing us to use this wonderful
building today. As you can see, it is currently undergoing some refurbishment and re-ordering outside
which will soon make it an even better and more welcoming resource for reaching the local
community here.

A huge thank you to all those in “the 6:19 Project” who have supported us over the last 3 years as Lee
has been studying for his PhD at Peterhouse, Cambridge. It has been a humbling and joyful experience
to have been well looked after both financially and in prayer by you all. We literally couldn’t have
done it without such a caring Christian family from all over the country! We praise God for your
generosity. May you be enriched in every way (2 Cor. 9:11).

We are immensely grateful to all those who have helped make today run smoothly, particularly our
church family here at Christ Church. A special thank you to Barney and Debs Burrell who have been
fantastically helpful in organising the children’s activities downstairs and the catering, but also to
those who have pitched in to volunteer with cakes, child supervision, audio-visuals, flowers, and in a
number of other ways. Thank you to David Meager for the invitations and servicesheet, to Mark Smith
for helping design the service itself, and to the music group for leading us so harmoniously.