

Commissioning of those called to Serve as a Deacon

In this service we are to commission - **name(s)** - who **has/have** been called to serve **church name** as a Deacon.

[Call them to the front.]

It is good for us to remember that all who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ are called to serve one another in his name. Jesus calls us all to share in a life of discipleship: it is for us all to respond to that call in faithful obedience.

Jesus said: 'If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Blessed are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Be merciful just as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Love one another, just as I love you; for by this shall everyone know that you are my disciples if you have love, one for another.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples and I will be with you always, to the end of the world.'

Jesus, we hear your call: help us to follow.

Lord, you have redeemed us and called us to your service: give us grace to hear your word and to obey your commandment; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Statement

As we belong to the fellowship of the **name of church** we all have a part to play in the life of the church.

Together with all who proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord we are a royal priesthood, God's own people. We are all called by God to proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light and to live out in our lives the love of him who first loved us.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

We rejoice today that - **name(s)** - is to be commissioned as a Deacon.

It is the responsibility of a Deacon to

- to serve God in a personal life of devotion
- to serve the church in its day to day needs
- to share in the spiritual leadership of the church
- to share in the administrative life of the church

Paul writing to Timothy describes the high calling of a deacon:

"Deacons must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

And let them first be tested; then if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons."

(1 Timothy 3:8-10)

[To the new deacons]

'Do you confess with us your faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord? and do you promise, relying on God's grace, to serve Him as a Deacon to the best of your ability?

I do

"Do you promise to share in the duties of the deaconate of this Church through worship and through the Church Meeting."

I do

In the name of Jesus Christ and with the authority of the Church Meeting I extend to you the right hand of fellowship recognising that God has called you to serve the fellowship of our church as a Deacon.

May God bless you in the ministry which you now share with us all.

Prayer for the Deacon

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

(1 Peter 4:10-11)