

***...they left
their nets
and***



FOLLOWED HIM

Today we gather to celebrate Harvest Festival and God's gracious provision and to commission for ministry The Rev'd Penny Charters as Assistant Curate and Janice Dear and David Jones as students in ministry.

Janice is enrolled in an ecumenical ministry education program and will be available for 10 hours ministry at St. Paul's each week.

David Jones is a student at Ridley College and a candidate for ordination in Gippsland Diocese.

Commissioning of The Reverend Penny Charters

Vicar: Penny you have been appointed to this parish as Assistant Curate. Will you perform cheerfully and to the best of your ability, the duties of Assistant Curate in the Parish of St. Paul Ringwood? Will you proclaim the good news of Jesus by word and deed, enabling the people of this parish to realise their own calling to serve God and his people. Will you faithfully care for them, and especially for those in need?

Penny: I will, with the Lord's help.

People of St. Paul's, do you accept Penny as one sent to serve with you and this community? Do you accept her as one God will use to teach and instruct you? Will you love her and pray for her as your sister in Christ for this ministry?

People: We will and we assure her of our prayers, our love and our support.

Vicar: And now because the work of ministry depends entirely upon the blessing of God and the empowering of the Spirit for its value and fruitfulness, I ask you to join with me in prayer that Penny may be enabled to minister according to God's desire, and for the building up of the church to the glory of God.

All kneel for a time of silent prayer

God of generosity and love, giver of all good gifts, who alone gives strength and holiness, we ask you now for your blessing upon your servant Penny, called by you to assist in the work of your Church in this place. Give her a whole-hearted dedication to your service, humility and faithfulness in the exercise of her ministry, a deep love of, and desire to serve with those to whom she ministers, loyalty to those set over her in the Church, and a longing to bring people to that knowledge of you which is eternal life, so that all that she does may be to your honour and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The congregation stand to signify the support they will seek to give Penny in this work.

All. Penny we commend you to the care of God, and to the power of the spirit, who alone is able to build you up. May Christ give you grace, and bring you and those to whom you minister to eternal life. May the One who is Alpha and Omega be the beginning and end of your ministry.

Penny turns and faces the congregation who welcome her with applause.

Commissioning of David Jones and Janice Dear

Vicar: David and Janice you are appointed with in this parish as Students in ministry. Will you perform cheerfully and to the best of your ability, such duties as are assigned to you? Will you proclaim the good news of Jesus by word and deed, enabling the people of St. Paul's to realise their own calling to serve God and his people?

David and Janice: I will, with the Lord's help

People of St. Paul's, do you accept David and Janice as sent to serve with you and this community? Will you support them and pray for them as they explore the nature of ministry and discover the gifts God has given.

People: We will and we assure them of our prayers, our love and our support.

Vicar: Father, empower these your servants with your Holy Spirit and inspire them with the knowledge of you love, that they faithfully serve you to your glory and the service of your kingdom. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord and may his blessing be upon you and all that you do in his name and for his people. Amen.

Janice and David face the congregation and are greeted with applause.

A Guide to Worship using APBA Second order

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Greeting and prayer of preparation

Litany of Confession p145

Gloria and Collect p121

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Sermon

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Commissioning Liturgy - see insert

Greeting of Peace p127

The Great Thanksgiving p136

Lord's Prayer p141

Breaking of the Bread
and invitation

pp141-142

Post Communion prayer and response pp143-144

Blessing - insert

A Harvest Reflection

God you heap your love upon us
like a mother providing for her family's needs,
embracing her child with tenderness.

Forgive us
when, like spoilt children,
we treat your generosity as our right,
or hug it possessively to ourselves.

Give us enough trust to live secure in your love
and to share it freely with others
in open-handed confidence
that your grace will never run out.

Harvest Blessing

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with strength
to seek justice. Amen.

May God bless us with wisdom
to care for our earth. Amen.

May God bless us with love
to bring forth new life. Amen.

In the name of God, the maker of the whole world,
of Jesus, our new covenant.
and of the Holy Spirit, who opens eyes and hearts. Amen.

Go in peace and be witnesses to hope.

Thanks be to God.