Parish name

**A Service of Confirmation**

*President and Preacher*

The Rt Revd Xxxx Xxxxxx

Bishop of Xxxxxx

date

time



We welcome especially the candidates for this Service of Confirmation, along with their families and friends. We rejoice with them at this significant moment on their journey of Christian faith and discipleship.

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which the participation in the life of God’s people inaugurated at baptism is confirmed by the bishop by the laying on of hands, and in which those who have been baptised affirm for themselves the faith into which they have been baptised and their intention to live a life of responsible and committed discipleship. Through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop, the Church also asks God to give them power through the Holy Spirit to enable them to live in this way.

Before the service begins, please take time to pray for the candidates and their life in Christ.

List of candidates names

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**T**he congregation are invited to join in texts printed in **bold**.

**Preparation**

*Stand as the Choir, Ministers and Bishop enter.*

**Insert hymn text in Gill Sans 10.5 point, bold**

*Attributes in 8 point, italicised not bold*

*Remain standing.*

**The Greeting**

*The Bishop greets the people who remain standing:*

In the name of the Father

and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**There is one hope to which we are 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.*

**The Collect**

*The Collect of the Day is normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. On other occasions this Collect is used. Delete this rubric and insert correct prayer below.*

*The Bishop says/sings:*

Let us pray.

*All remain standing for a period of silent prayer.*

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,

that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

**The Liturgy of the Word**

***Readings – 1 or 2, then the Gospel.***

*OLD TESTAMENT READING INSERT SCRIPTURE REFERENCE*

Print scripture text?

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Psalm or hymn, if customary (insert text)*

*NEW TESTAMENT READING INSERT SCRIPTURE REFERENCE*

Print scripture text?

*At the end the Deacon/reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Gradual hymn or gospel acclamation*

*INSERT TEXT*

***Gospel Reading iNSERT SCRIPTURE REFERENCE***

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N. INSERT NAME

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

INSERT SCRIPTURE TEXT?

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Bishop

*Remain seated*

**The Liturgy of Initiation**

**Presentation of the Candidates**

*The congregation remains seated and the candidates stand.*

*The Bishop sits and asks the candidates for confirmation:*

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

**I am.**

*The congregation stands.*

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation:*

People of God, will you welcome these candidates

and uphold them in their life in Christ?

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

**The Decision**

*The Bishop addresses the candidates:*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

*The Bishop says:*

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ,

give you the strength to continue in the way.

**Amen.**

**Profession of Faith**

*The Bishop addresses the congregation:*

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life,

the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature,

died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*The Bishop sprinkles the candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptised and then he sprinkles the congregation with the baptismal waters as a reminder of their own baptism.*

*Then the Bishop says:*

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith

with all who have been baptised into your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung please insert the texts.*

*The congregation remains standing.*

**Confirmation**

*The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and says:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

**now and forever. Amen.**

*The Bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says:*

Almighty and ever-living God,

you have given these your servants new birth

in baptism by water and the Spirit,

and have forgiven them all their sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;

the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;

and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation sits or kneels in prayer for the candidates.*

*As each candidate kneels before the Bishop, supporters of that candidate are invited to stand where they are.*

*The Bishop addresses each candidate by name:*

*N*, God has called you by name and made you his own

*He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying:*

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The Bishop the anoints each candidate with the oil of Chrism*.

*(If there are people who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows, or to be received into the communion of the Church of England, they come before the Bishop at this point) Ask for additional texts if needed.*

*After he has laid hands on all the candidates, the Bishop invites the congregation*

*to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid.*

**Defend, O Lord, these your servants**

**with your heavenly** **grace**,

**that they may continue yours for ever,**

**and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more**

**until they come to your everlasting kingdom.**

**Amen**

*N.B. If the commission is used, please use at the Sending Out, before the Blessing*

*The newly baptised and confirmed stand and turn to face the congregation.*

**The Welcome**

*The Bishop says:*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**We welcome you in the fellowship of faith;**

**we are children of the same heavenly Father;**

**we welcome you.**

*The congregation greets the newly baptised and confirmed with applause.*

*Stand*

**The Peace**

*The Bishop says:*

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us

and, as a pledge of what is to come,

has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*The Bishop/Deacon says:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace followed by a hymn*

**Insert hymn text in Gill Sans 10.5 point, bold**

**The Intercessions**

*Other prayers of intercession may follow. It is appropriate that the newly baptised and confirmed take their part in leading the prayers. Appropriate prayers may be found the Christian Initiation service book on p74, p 126 p150-165 and 179.*

*The prayers conclude as the Bishop prays*

Heavenly Father, we pray for these your servants

upon who we have now laid our hands after the example of the

apostles.

Assure t*hem* by this sign of your favour towards them;

may your fatherly hand ever be over *them*;

your Holy Spirit ever with *them*;

strengthen *them* continually with the Body and Blood of your Son,

and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your word,

that *they* may ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*The Bishop introduces the prayer and all respond (using these or the traditional words according to local custom)*

**Our Father, in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name;**

**your kingdom come;**

**your will be done;**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*The Bishop says*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

**now and forever. Amen.**

The God of all grace,

who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,

establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

**The Sending Out**

*The Bishop/Deacon says:*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*during which the Choir, Ministers and Bishop leave.*

**Insert hymn text in Gill Sans 10.5 point, bold**

*Attributes in 8 point, italicised not bold*

Following the service there will be an opportunity

for photographs and presentations

with the Bishop and newly baptised and confirmed.

The congregation are warmly invited

to stay for refreshments after the service.

[add any direction necessary]

More information about the Diocese

can be found on its website:

www.blackburn.anglican.org

{More information about the Parish

can be found on its website:

www.?????????????}

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