



CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE
Milton Keynes

Creating an Oasis of Hope in Central Milton Keynes



Welcome to

A Service of Institution and Induction
of Rev Sarah Eden-Jones as Vicar

by the Bishop of Buckingham
and the Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Church of Christ the Cornerstone

Monday 28th September 2026, 7.00pm

**A very warm welcome to Christ the Cornerstone,
we are glad you have joined us for this special service.**

The Church of **Christ the Cornerstone** is the most visible Christian church in this city of over 300,000 people. It therefore seeks to lift the name of Jesus high and to serve and witness to Jesus's love in this vibrant, multicultural and growing young city. The church is ecumenical, working in partnership with five Christian denominations, Baptist, URC, Methodist, Roman Catholic and the Church of England, and seeking to follow Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17.

The service this evening is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of a new season in the life of this church and in Sarah's ministry. As the mission and ministry of the Church is the responsibility of all baptised people, so they come together with the ministry team and the bishop to celebrate their ministry and offer themselves afresh to God. Please play your part in the service by responding with the text in bold.

You might like to pray before the service:

- giving thanks to God for all who have worshipped and ministered here in the past
- praying for the present congregation and the ecumenical ministry team
- praying for Sarah and her family
- praying for the local community served by this church
- praying for your own involvement in the life and witness of God's Church.

The Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund (Reg Charity No. 247954)

During the service there will be a collection to support this good cause. Please use the white gift aid envelopes provided, or scan the QR code, or give online: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford/outreach-fund.php>



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 licensing.

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

Introduction to Rev Sarah Eden-Jones

Sarah is married to Nick and they have two children, Isobel and Fergus. Sarah studied history at Oxford and then worked for nine years in Westminster and the City in political lobbying. Her clients ranged from the London Chamber of Commerce, B&Q and the Government of Botswana – working on their diamonds for development campaign. Before ordination in 2016, Sarah studied theology at St Mellitus College. She served her curacy at Greyfriars Church in Reading, and was then Interim Minister at St John's Woodley before becoming Team Vicar at All Saints' Church Marlow. She is currently studying for a Masters in Theology, Ministry and Mission. Sarah became a Christian aged six and loves encouraging people of all ages to dig into the Bible to discover more of who Jesus is, and to know the Spirit's transforming power in everyday life.

Gathering

The Area Dean welcomes the congregation. During the hymn the ministers process into the Church.

Hymn – Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

Great is thy...

The Greeting

The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one body and one Spirit.

There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you

and also with you.

We have come together in the presence of God to welcome Sarah and her family to this benefice to institute her to the ministry she will share, to pray for Sarah and for those who minister with her, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God in this community and to the call which God makes of each one of us.

Heavenly Father, we hold before you this benefice and all who minister here, that with Sarah they may fulfil your loving purposes for those who live and work in this place. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The Bishop says

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.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:
'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

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

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive your sins
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Presentation

The Archdeacon leads Sarah to stand before the Bishop and says

Bishop Dave, after due consultation and prayerful consideration,
Sarah Eden-Jones has been nominated and has accepted to be Vicar of this
benefice. I now present her to you to be instituted.

The Bishop replies

I thank you and all those who with prayer have been involved in the
appointment of Sarah to this benefice.

The Bishop addresses the new minister

Sarah, 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.

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.

The ministry team step forward and the Bishop says to them

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

With the help of God, we will.

The Collect

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 Sarah
now to be instituted the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn – Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

*My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love Amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine.

*My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love Amazing grace
Unending love Amazing grace.*

John Newton (1725-1807) Chris Tomlin/Louie Giglio

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - Ephesians 1: 15-23 - Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus

Read by Nick Jones

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading - Luke 4: 14-21 - Jesus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy

Read by Rev George Mwaura

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:
¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for

the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - *Rt Rev Dave Bull, Bishop of Buckingham*

Hymn - The Splendour of the King

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

*How great is our God,
sing with me: how great is our God.
And all will see how great, how great is our God.*

And age to age He stands,
and time is in His hands;
beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb,

How great is our God...

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing: how great is our God.

*How great is our God,
sing with me: how great is our God.
And all will see how great, how great is our God.*

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash

The Liturgy of Institution

The Declaration and Oaths

The people sit and Sarah 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?

Sarah makes the Declaration of Assent

I, Sarah Rachel Eden-Jones, 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.

Sarah turns and faces the people and, taking a Bible in her right hand, swears the Oath of Allegiance

I, Sarah Rachel Eden-Jones 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, Sarah swears the Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, Sarah Rachel Eden-Jones do swear by almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, through his delegation, to the Area Bishop of Buckingham, in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

Sarah signs the declaration and oaths.

The Institution

The congregation stands, the Bishop reads the Deed of Institution and gives it to Sarah

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. **Amen.**

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins,
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples.

The Bishop commends the new minister and the ministry team to the prayers of the people. The Bishop then anoints the new minister with the oil of Chrism, saying

Sarah, remember your baptism into Christ.
Remember your ordination in the Church of God.
May God who anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit
anoint and empower you for the blessing of God's people. **Amen.**

The ministry team and other licensed ministers of the parish join the minister, and they kneel before the Bishop.

Taking his pastoral staff, the Bishop blesses the new minister and the ministry teams, 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 forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits

Choral Reflection - Veni Creator Spiritus

- composition by Adrian Boynton, Director of Music

The Induction

The congregation stands and the Bishop delivers the Mandate of Induction to the Archdeacon, saying

Archdeacon, I have instituted Sarah Eden-Jones to ministry in this Benefice.
I ask you to induct her, in the presence of this congregation,
and to support her in her ministry here.

The Churchwardens lead the Archdeacon and Sarah to the door of the church, and the people turn to face the door.

The Archdeacon lays the hand of the minister on the key or handle of the door, saying

By virtue of the authority given me,
I induct you into the real, actual and corporeal possession of the parish church
of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes with all the rights and responsibilities
belonging to it.

The Churchwardens present the keys

Sarah, receive these keys in token of the responsibility which we share;
and may the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, now and
always. **Amen.**

The Dedication of the Minister and People

*Representatives of the church community gather around the new minister with symbols of
ministry.*

The 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.

Gracious God, we praise and glorify you.

Lifting or presenting water for baptism, one says

Sarah be among us a woman who rejoices to bring new Christians to baptism
and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ himself.

Together, by God's grace, we will grow in our faith and discipleship.

Lifting or presenting the oil of healing, one says

Be among us as a woman of reconciliation,
showing God's forgiveness and healing.

Together, by God's grace, we will be a Christ-like community of love.

Lifting or presenting a large Bible, one says

Be among us as a woman who studies the Scriptures,
proclaims the word and explores the faith.

Together, by God's grace, we will tell the good news of Christ to the world.

Lifting or presenting a copy of a prayer book, one says

Be among us as a woman of prayer,
offering the Church's liturgy and interceding for God's people.

Together, by God's grace, we will worship God in spirit and in truth.

Lifting or presenting bread and wine, one says

Be among us as a woman of the Eucharist,
presiding among us when we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection.

Together, by God's grace, we will seek to be the living body of Christ.

Lifting or presenting a map of Milton Keynes, one says

Be among us as a woman for this city,
serving with us the people of this place.

Together, by God's grace, we will seek to serve like Christ in the Spirit's power.

When all the symbols have been presented, Sarah 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. **Amen.**

The Welcome

The Bishop presents the new minister to the people, saying

People of this benefice, I present to you your new Vicar, now duly instituted and inducted, 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.

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.

Representative of the church, the community, and ecumenical partners are introduced and greet the new minister.

The Peace

The new minister says

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

During the next hymn there will be a collection for the Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund.

Hymn – When I survey the wondrous cross (tune – O Waly, Waly)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1707)

Prayers of Intercession – Rev Sarah Eden-Jones

This response may be used

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your preferred language the prayer that Jesus taught us,

**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.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
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.**

Anthem – The Lord bless you and keep you - *sung by the choir*

John Rutter (1945-)

The Blessing

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.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn – Tell out my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word –
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same –
his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure:
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961)

The Dismissal

Go in the power of Christ.
We have a gospel to proclaim!

Go in peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

***Thank you for coming this evening,
please do stay and enjoy some refreshments.***



Material from Common Worship is included in this service
and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.
Hymns copyright used by permission of CCLI Licence No. 31580