

A Service of Welcome

to mark the commencement of the ministry of

The Revd Mike Claridge

as Minister of The Cotteridge Church

and of his Licensing by

**The Rt Revd David Urquhart,
Bishop of Birmingham,**

as Priest-in-Charge of Cotteridge.

Assisted by

The Revd Helen Jobling

(Superintendent Minister of Birmingham Methodist Circuit)

and

The Revd Steve Faber

(Moderator of the West Midlands Synod of the
United Reformed Church)

Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 7.30pm



The Cotteridge Church

The Cotteridge Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership comprising the Church of England, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. We aim to be:

A Place of Reconciliation

where hurts are healed and barriers broken down

A Place of Proclamation

where beliefs are respected and dialogue encouraged

A Place of Service

where community needs are met

A Place of Celebration

where the good things of life are celebrated

Preface

Toilets, including disabled facilities, are through the doors on the right that leads to The Pennine Way (the central corridor of our church building).

There will be refreshments after the service.

The service has a number of distinct elements, please play your part in the service by saying the words in bold wherever indicated.

This service is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of a new phase of Mike's ministry and a new stage in the life of The Cotteridge Church. As the mission and ministry of the Church is the responsibility of all baptised people, so they come together with their new minister and the

bishop to celebrate their ministry and offer themselves afresh to God.

Please spend some moments of quiet before the service:

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

Christians believe that God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creates, redeems and sustains the world in love and is present and active in every time and place. God invites all people to participate in this. The Church, through its mission and ministry, seeks to respond to this invitation.

Our Church is part of the story of God amongst this community. The Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Church of England call their ministers to make God's love visible in the world, to walk with the people of God in the way of Christ and to discern and foster amongst them the gifts of the Spirit. Today marks a new stage in the developing life of The Cotteridge Church as we welcome Mike, Susan, Rose and Anastasia. In this service the Bishop will License Mike and together we commission him to take part in the work of God here amongst us.

The Gathering

Canon Rob Fieldson, Area Dean of Kings Norton, introduces the service.

Hymn

Please stand

During the hymn, the Bishop's procession enters, preceded by the Churchwardens, Stewards and Elders.

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Greeting

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace
 from God our Father
 and the Lord Jesus Christ
 be with you

All: and also with you.

The Bishop welcomes the people

Prayers of Praise, Confession and Forgiveness

*(taken from the URC's liturgy for 'Induction of Ministers')
Led by The Revd Steve Faber, West Midlands' Moderator of
the United Reformed Church.*

 For the wonders of creation and the beauty of this earth
All: Creator God, we praise you.

 For your gift beyond words in Jesus Christ
All: redeeming God, we praise you.

 For the call to follow and the grace to serve
All: living God, we praise you.

 Let us confess our sin:
 for our abuse of your creation
All: Lord, forgive us.

 for our divisions within the one body of Christ
All: Lord, forgive us

 for our neglect of the gifts of the Spirit
All: Lord, forgive us

In repentance and faith hear the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon:

Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

(Colossians 1:20)

Jesus says: Your sins are forgiven, *(Mark 2:5)*

He also says: Feed my lambs.

Tend my sheep. Follow me. *(John 21: 15, 16, 19)*

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

The Introduction of the Candidate

The Area Dean comes to the Bishop, together with representatives of The Cotteridge Church and the candidate and says.

Bishop, we bring before you Mike. We believe God is calling him to be the new Minister of The Cotteridge Church and Priest in Charge of this parish.

The Area Dean then says:

Bishop, we therefore ask you to license Mike to serve in this place.

Representatives of The Cotteridge Church say together:

We confirm that we have willingly shared in this choice.

Bishop My brothers and sisters, as we pray that Mike
 may become for you a willing and faithful
 shepherd of God's people in this place, let us
 pray also for all who share his ministry.

The Collect

We remain seated

Bishop 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 Mike
 now to be licensed
 the needful gifts of grace;
 through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Bible Reading

Romans, Chapter 12, verses 1 - 13

At the end

Reader This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn (*Please stand*)

Lord, you call us to your service,
each in our own way.
Some to caring, loving, healing;
some to preach, or pray;
some to work with quiet learning,
truth discerning,
day by day.

Life for us is always changing
in the work we share.
Christian love adds new dimensions
to the way we care.
For we know that you could lead us,
as you need us,
anywhere.

Seeing life from your perspective
makes your challenge plain,
as your heart is grieving over
those who live in pain.
Teach us how, by our compassion,
we may fashion
hope again.

Lord, we set our human limits
on the work we do.
Send us your directing Spirit,
pour your power through,
that we may be free in living
and in giving
all for you.

Marjorie Dobson (b.1940)

Sermon

The Bishop of Birmingham

The Licensing

Mike stands before the Bishop

Bishop Mike, God has called you to serve here.
Are you ready and willing to accept this
responsibility, with both its duties and its joys?

Mike With the help of God, I am.

Bishop People of God, is it therefore your will that Mike
should be admitted to the cure of souls for this
place?

All: **It is!**

Bishop Will you uphold and support him in his ministry?

All: **We will!**

*The Bishop moves to kneel beside Mike. The congregation
remain seated. There is silence and stillness.*

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Declaration and Oaths

*Mike stands before the Bishop, Superintendent Minister
and Moderator*

Revd Helen Jobling (Methodist Superintendent Minister) says:

The Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place in
the Holy Catholic Church which is the Body of Christ.

Mike, in becoming Minister at the Cotteridge Church, you
will serve as an Authorised Minister on behalf of the
Methodist Church. After due questioning this Status has
been conferred on you by the Conference of the
Methodist Church of Great Britain. As a priest serving
the Church of England, we ask you to remain true to
your beliefs and discipline within your denomination. Will
you seek additionally, as your conscience allows, to
exercise your ministry within the faith and order of the
Methodist Church?

Mike: Relying on the grace of God, I will

Revd Steve Faber (URC Moderator) says:

Within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, the United Reformed Church acknowledges its responsibility under God:

- to make its life a continual offering of itself and the world to God in adoration and worship through Jesus Christ;
- to receive and express the renewing life of the Holy Spirit in each place and in its total fellowship, and there to declare the reconciling and saving power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- to live out, in joyful and sacrificial service to all in their various physical and spiritual needs, that ministry of caring, forgiving and healing love which Jesus Christ brought to all whom He met;
- and to bear witness to Christ's rule over the nations in all the variety of their organised life.

Mike, in becoming Minister at the Cotteridge Church, you will serve on behalf of the United Reformed Church. As a priest serving the Church of England, we ask you to remain true to your beliefs and discipline within your denomination. Will you seek additionally, as your conscience allows, to exercise your ministry within the faith and order of the United Reformed Church?

Mike: Relying on the grace of God, I will

The Rt Revd David Urquhart (Bishop of Birmingham) 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?

Declaration of Assent

Mike says:

I, Michael John Claridge, 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.

Oath of Allegiance

Mike turns to face the people and, with the Bible in his right hand, says:

I, Michael John Claridge, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, according to law: So help me God.

Oath of Canonical Obedience

Turning to face the Bishop, Mike, with the Bible in his right hand, says:

I, Michael John Claridge, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of Birmingham and his successors in all things lawful and honest; so help me God.

Licensing

Mike kneels before the Bishop

The people stand

The Bishop reads the Licence and gives it to Mike, saying:

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.

All: Amen.

The Blessing of the New Ministry

The Bishop anoints Mike with the oil of Chrism, saying

Mike, 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.

All: Amen.

*The new minister is joined by his family. The Bishop
commends them to the prayers of the people.*

Bishop The Lord bless you and watch over you;
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious to you;
 The Lord look kindly upon you
 and give you peace.
 And the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
 be with you, and upon all that you undertake
 in his name, now and for ever more.

All Amen.

The Installation

*The new minister stands. The congregation sits. The Bishop
addresses the Archdeacon:*

Archdeacon, I have licensed Mike to the cure of souls
in this parish. I now ask you to install him.

The Archdeacon places the new minister in the seat of the Priest-in-Charge and says:

Mike, I place you in the seat of the Priest-in-Charge of Cotteridge. May the Lord guard and keep you and bless your ministry here, in the name of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mike: Amen.

The new minister says the following prayer:

Lord God, take my mind and think through it;
Take my lips and speak through them.
Take my heart and set it on fire with love
for you and for your people;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Welcome

Bishop I present to you Mike as Minister of The Cotteridge Church. See then that you support him to the full by your worship of God, your prayers and your work.

**All: We are members together of the Body of Christ.
We are children of the same heavenly Father. We
welcome you.**

The new Minister is greeted with applause.

The Area Dean introduces those from the congregation and local community who say a brief word of welcome to the new minister.

Prayers

*The people kneel or sit for prayer.
The new Minister leads us in prayer concluding
with the Lord's Prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

As God's people let us say together the prayer that
Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Rededication of the Ministry of the People of God

Revd Helen Jobling, Superintendent Minister of Birmingham Circuit of the Methodist Church, introduces and leads the congregation in the Methodist Covenant prayer:

The people stand to make the Affirmation:

**All: I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me
and when there is none;
when I am troubled
and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment
and when it is lacking;
when I have all things,
and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

During the next hymn a collection will be taken, which will be divided equally between B30 Food Bank and The Cotteridge Church Day Centre, both of which operate from this church.

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all : the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above -
So free, so infinite his grace -
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray -
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

We remain standing

The Dismissal

The Commissioning

The Bishop asks the congregation & new minister together

As part of God's Church here in Cotteridge, I call upon
you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into
God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

All: By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow
together in love?

All: We will

Will you dare to share your riches in common and
minister to each other in need?

All: We will

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts
beat with the longings of God?

All: We will

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's
dark places?

All: We will

The Blessing

The Bishop blesses the people.

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 all of 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.

All: Amen

Dismissal

Mike Let us go in the light and peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Biography: Mike Claridge

Mike was born in Pelsall, Walsall, the son of Eric and the late Mary Claridge. Eric is with us tonight. From infancy Mike attended St Michael and All Angels' Church, Pelsall. His school years were spent at St Michael's C of E Primary School, Pelsall and Shire Oak Comprehensive School, Brownhills.

After 'A' Levels Mike trained as a Environmental Health Officer with Wolverhampton Council, studying for three years at Matthew Boulton College, Birmingham. After qualification Mike worked a further seven years at Wolverhampton, specialising in food hygiene and general public health matters. There he was inspired by The Hope Community - a group of Roman Catholic sisters living in Heath Town - and this contributed towards his vocation to ordained ministry.

In 1989 Mike was selected for training for the ordained ministry of the Church of England and started studies at Queen's College, Birmingham. In the second year of training Mike was based in Handsworth with local church and community placements. Much of his third year was spent at the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, near Geneva, studying alongside people from all over the world and of many denominations. Mike has maintained contact ever since with friends in Sri Lanka, Finland and the USA and, more recently, has renewed contact with others through social media.

Mike was ordained in 1992 and served three years as Curate at The Church of the Holy Spirit, Harlescott, Shrewsbury. It's there that he met and married Susan.

In 1995 they moved to Christ Church, Wellington, Telford where daughters Rose and Anastasia were born. At Wellington Mike developed an interest in inter-faith dialogue and worked closely with the sizeable Muslim community there. This included joint witness and prayers in the aftermath of 9/11. While there Mike also became Chaplain (and later Stadium Announcer!) at Telford United FC.

In 2003 Mike and family moved to St Andrew's, West Bromwich, a C of E / Methodist LEP. While there Mike took on an increasing role on what is now the Black Country Circuit of the Methodist Church, a Circuit that now comprises Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich. For the last two years Mike has formally held a post jointly funded by the two churches working 'on a joint and equal basis'. During this time he has taken on pastoral charge of, in addition to St Andrew's, Ryders Green Road Methodist Church and Wesley Church, West Bromwich. For the last two years he has also been Rural Dean of West Bromwich, a C of E role.

Mike's interests have been varied and diverse. He was for many years a keen church bellringer. He immersed himself in the life of Telford United, especially when it became 'supporter owned' in 2004. He is an enthusiastic family history researcher, with Kings Norton and Cotteridge figuring significantly in the Claridge lineage around the beginning of the 20th century! Mike enjoys cycling and has undertaken London to Paris rides for Christian Aid in 2008 and 2012. Most recently Mike has taken to 'treading the boards' and has just completed his third year taking part in Wesley Church, West Bromwich's annual pantomime.

Mike is joined here by Susan, a Teaching Assistant, and their daughters Rose and Anastasia.

