

*The Parish of Wolvercote with Summertown &  
The Summertown United Reformed Church  
Local Ecumenical Project*

***THE INAUGURATION OF THE  
ECUMENICAL PARISH OF  
WOLVERCOTE WITH SUMMERTOWN  
AND  
EUCHARIST***

*Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 1982 at 7.30pm  
St Michael's Church, Summertown*

*led by*

*The Rt Revd Patrick Rodger  
Bishop of Oxford*

*and*

*The Revd Peter Chesney  
Moderator of the Wessex Province  
of the United Reformed Church*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*The choir and clergy will enter, followed by the four Parish Ministers, the Master of S. Edmund's House, the Moderator and the Bishop.*

**Minister:** There is one body, and one Spirit, one hope held out in God's call to us; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all. (Ephesians 4: 4-6)

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hymn: The hand, O God, has guided      Tune: Thornbury

Thy hand, O God, has guided  
Thy flock, from age to age;  
The wondrous tale is written,  
Full clear, on every page;  
Our fathers owned thy goodness,  
And we their deeds record;  
And both of this bear witness,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
To greatest, as to least;  
They bade men rise, and hasten  
To share the Great King's feast;  
And this was all their teaching,  
In every deed and word,  
To all alike proclaiming  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict,  
And cast away our crown?  
Not so: in God's deep counsels  
Some better thing is stored;  
We will maintain, unflinching,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,  
Nor leave thy work undone;  
With thy right hand to help us,  
The victory shall be won;  
And then, by men and angels,  
Thy name shall be adored,  
And this shall be their anthem,  
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

E.H. Plumptre

**THE PREPARATION**      *(the congregation sits)*

**Minister:** By the grace of God, we gather before him as Members of the parish of Wolvercote with Summertown and the Summertown United Reformed Church. In Christ we are already one, one by our baptism, and by our profession of one faith, but we have lived in separation from one another. God in his mercy has kept us in his love, accepting us when we refused to accept one another. Now, in repentance and faith, trusting in God's grace, we have come together to accept one another as he accepted us.

Our churches will be bound to each other by solemn promise, sealed by the sharing of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We shall recognise one another as Christian Churches in membership and ministry, and commit ourselves to grow together in counsel and action. We shall seek a deepening unity with one another in faith and praise, in witness and service.

Our purpose is that together we may be a more effective instrument of Christ's mission to his world. This cannot be, unless the Father consecrates us by his Holy Spirit. We pray now to the Father for this consecration as we confess our sins, as we hear the word of the Lord, as we make our vows in reliance upon God's grace, as we offer ourselves and our ministries for his service; as we greet each other with the sign of peace; as we take up our common pilgrimage, fed together by the bread of heaven.

## **THE CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*(all stand)*

**Minister:** God's word of grace stands for ever. Though we are faithless, he is faithful. We humble ourselves, therefore, before God, that his forgiveness may lift us up. We repent of our sins, and today especially of living in separation from one another. We ask our Father to free us from our disobedience, and from the faults which as yet we do not see.

**All:** Merciful Father,  
we confess the sins of pride and self-will  
that have sustained our divisions:  
we confess our lack of vision for your Church  
and for your world.  
Forgive us for not living as one body in Christ.  
Give us strength, O Father,  
not to fall from our repentance,  
not to turn aside again from your way,  
but to share together the obedience  
of your Son our Lord.                      Amen

**Moderator:** Here are words we can trust!  
                                  "Christ came into the world  
                                  to save sinners"  
Hear then the word of grace to all who repent  
and put their trust in Christ:  
                                  "Your sins are forgiven"

**All:            Amen            Thanks be to God!**

## **THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

**Minister:** We are the Body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us therefore declare our unity in Christ by reaffirming our baptismal promises. Let us seek God's blessing on our mission in the world.

Do you repent of your sins and renounce all evil?

**By God's grace, we do.**

Do you confess your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: taking the Father to be your Father, the Son to be your Saviour and Lord, the Spirit to be your helper and guide?

**By God's grace, we do.**

Will you obey Christ, and serve him in the Church and in the world, being faithful in private and public worship, living in the fellowship of the Church and sharing in its work?

**By God's grace, we will.**

**All:** Lord God, holy Father, we are not our own but yours.  
Renew us in our repentance and our confession of the faith;  
renew us as disciples of your Son, and as you sent him into  
the world to save the world, send us in his name to serve our  
neighbours and to bring them to believe in him. Amen.

**Minister:** Let us say together the Nicene Creed.

**All:** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped  
and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.           Amen.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**Bishop:** Gracious Father, whose Son Jesus Christ said to his apostles, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith you impart to your Church, and grant it that peace and unity which are according to your will; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.           **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson  
Read by the lord Mayor of Oxford

2 Kings 23: 1-3

The Epistle  
Read by the Chairman of the Oxford Council of Churches

Philippians 2: 1-11

## Psalm 122

I was glad when they ` said to ` me:  
Let us ` go to the ` house of the ` Lord.

And now our ` feet are ` standing:  
With ` in your ` gates 0 ' Jerusalem;

Jerusalem which is ` built as a ` city:  
where the ` pilgrims ` gather in ' unity.

There the tribes go up the ` tribes of the ` Lord:  
as he commanded Israel  
to give ` thanks to the ` name of the ` Lord.

There are set ` thrones of ` judgement:  
the ` thrones of the ` house of ` David.

O pray for the ` peace of ' Je-rusalem:  
may ` those who ` love you ` prosper.

Peace be with ` in your ` wall:  
and pros ` per-ity ` in your ` palaces.

For the sake of my brothers ` and com ` panions:  
I will ' pray that ` peace be ` with you.

For the sake of the house of the ` Lord our ` God:  
I will ` seek ` for your ` good.

Glory to the Father and ` to the ` Son:  
and ' to the ` Holy ` spirit:

as it was in the be ` ginning is ` now:  
and shall be for ` ever. ` A ` men.

The Gospel John 21: 15-22  
Read by the Ecumenical Officer for the Archdeaconry of Oxford

The Sermon  
Fr. John Coventry S.J.  
Master of St. Edmund's House, Cambridge

## **THE PROMISES**

*The members of the three congregations stand and are questioned by the Moderator and the Bishop.*

Do you acknowledge one another as Christian Churches and will you seek to grow together?

**By God's grace we do, and with his help we will.**

Will you commit yourselves to seek that unity of all Christian people which we believe to be Christ's will, so that his prayer for his Church may be fulfilled?

**By God's grace we will.**

Within this Ecumenical Parish, all communicant members will be welcomed without question at Holy Communion in each church. Will you welcome one another in the name of Christ?

**By God's grace we will.**

Within this Ecumenical Parish, one another's ministries will be recognised and accepted as true ministries of word and sacrament in the holy catholic Church. Do you welcome these ministries into your corporate life?

**By God's grace we do, and with his help we will.**

Within this Ecumenical Parish, you intend to bind yourselves to develop methods of decision-making in common, to act together for witness and service, to aid one another in Christian growth, and to honour the authority of shared decisions. Do you so bind yourselves?

**By God's grace we do.**

Within this Ecumenical Parish, you are undertaking to respect the rights of conscience, and to accord to all your members such freedom of thought and action as is jointly agreed to be consistent with the visible unity of the Church. Will you respect these rights, and maintain this freedom?

**By God's grace we will.**

Within this Ecumenical Parish, you are agreeing to press forward the search for visible unity with those Christians with whom you cannot yet share this new fellowship. Will you, in the love of Christ, seek the unity of his people?

**By God's grace we will.**

**THE ACT OF RECONCILIATION**

*Representatives of each congregation come from the body of the church and stand before the altar.*

**Minister:** All glory is yours, almighty and most gracious Father, for you have called us to share the heritage of your people, the royal priesthood established in Christ.

We thank you that, though we have rejected one another, you have not rejected us, that in our separation you have given us your gracious presence, and led us to this day.

Hear us now, therefore, as under your mercy we accept one Another; we are not our own, but yours, and in you we belong to one another.

Send down on us your Holy Spirit. Quicken us anew in faith, and hope, and love. Order our life and ministry for the fuller unity of your universal Church. In all our worship, work, and witness, glorify your name.

**All:** Send down on us your Holy Spirit as we give one another the sign of reconciliation; unite us in love in the confession of our Faith, through Christ, who is our peace. Amen.  
Lord, keep us true to our word.

*The Ministers and representatives symbolise this reconciliation by shaking hands.*

**Minister:** Let us say with one voice:

**All:** This is the promise we make.  
We declare it before God.  
We are one in Christ.  
We go forward in the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Father, Lord of all Creation

Tune: Abbot's Leigh

Father, Lord of all Creation,  
Ground of Being, Life and Love;  
Height and depth beyond description  
only life in you can prove:  
You are mortal life's dependence:  
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;  
Yours is every hour's existence,  
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,  
we, your people, make our prayer:  
Give us grace to love as brothers  
all whose burdens we can share.  
Where your name binds us together  
you, Lord Christ, will surely be:  
Where no selfishness can sever  
There your love may all men see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning  
wind and flame of Pentecost,  
Fire our hearts afresh with yearning  
to regain what we have lost.  
May your love unite our action,  
nevermore to speak alone:  
God, in us abolish faction,  
God, through us your love make known.

Stewart Cross

## **THE BLESSING OF MINISTRIES**

### **The Blessing of Presbyteral Ministries**

*(all sit)*

**Minister:** My fellow presbyters, will you seek God's blessing, that we may fulfil our calling within the wider fellowship of this Ecumenical Parish?

**All Presbyters:** We seek God's blessing, for the fulfilment of our ministry.

**Bishop:** Father, you are the eternal shepherd, you never leave your flock untended, and by your unceasing mercy your Church is provided with gifts of grace; fill with your Holy Spirit these your servants whom you have called to minister in your name; bring them together in the service of your Son, the great High Priest, and in the service of his priestly people as true and faithful shepherds of your flock, declaring your word, your message of forgiveness, administering the sacraments of your grace.

**Moderator:** Through your common calling to be servants of your servants, grant that your Parish may grow in all things into the stature of the fulness of Christ, and that every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing of the Ministries of Deacons, Elders and Readers**

**A Representative:** Will you seek God's blessing that we may fulfil our callings within the wider fellowship of this Ecumenical Parish?

**All Deacons, Elders and Readers:** We seek God's blessing for the fulfilment of our ministries.

**Moderator:** Almighty Father, whose only Son humbled himself for our sake, and came forth to reveal your glory by a life of service; renew and enrich, we pray, the ministry of all who serve you as deacons, elders or readers. Make them true interpreters in the service of the word, instruments of your compassion in the care of the needy, and wise and trusty servants in administration. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing of all Ministries in the Church**

*The representatives take their place at the front of the congregation. All members of the Ecumenical Parish stand.*

**A Representative:** We seek God's blessing on all our ministries.

**Bishop:** Hear our prayer, gracious Lord, for all who minister in your Church. Fill them with grace to equip your Church to serve your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

**Bishop and Moderator:** Let us welcome one another as fellow members of the universal Church.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **THE OFFERTORY**

*Bread and wine are brought to the table.*

*No collection will be taken at this service. If you are moved to make a thank-offering for God's blessing upon us, may we suggest that, it being Christian Aid Week, you might increase the gift you had planned to give to Christian Aid.*

Hymn: Christ making friends

Tune: Bishopthorpe

I come with joy to meet my lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near,  
to find, as all are fed,  
man's true community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread for men to share  
each proud division ends.  
The Love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet, our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
we see, and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world  
we'll live and speak his praise.

Brian Wren  
(a member of the U.R.C. in Oxford)

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**We do well to give him thanks and praise**

Father, all-creating and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord: through Christ you bring us to the knowledge of your truth that, united by one faith and one baptism, we become one body in him; with Christ, you pour out the Holy Spirit upon all flesh, wonderful are his works revealed in so many gifts, yet marvellous is the unity he creates from such diversity dwelling in the hearts of your people, filling the whole Church with his presence and guiding it by his infinite wisdom. In Christ, we join with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of the redeemed, to proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you most loving Father, for the gift of your son born flesh of our flesh; he is your eternal and creative word bringing wholeness to all that is made; we thank you that through him you have freed us from sin and death, by the one all sufficient sacrifice, giving him to die upon the cross and to rise again for us.

On the night before he died, when the time had come for him to be glorified, he showed forth your love to perfection: while at supper with his disciples, he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke the bread saying, *"Take, eat: this is my body: it is broken for you"* After supper he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying, *"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the New Covenant: it is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"*.

**All:** Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.

Here we obey the command of your Son, Christ our Lord. Here we set forth his death and passion, his victorious resurrection and ascension until his coming in glory; united with him we offer you these holy gifts and ourselves with them, one holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this cup; that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be to us the body and blood of your Son; and we, being kindled with the fire of your love may be renewed for the service of his kingdom.

**All:** Help us who are baptised into the fellowship  
of your whole Church,  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love  
until, at the last, in your new creation  
we share in the life of all your saints  
and take our place in the blessed company  
of all your faithful people  
apostles, prophets, martyrs,  
and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Accept, Father, this our bounden duty and service through Jesus  
Christ our great High Priest, for through him, and with him, and  
in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour, and blessing,  
and glory, and power is yours, Holy Father, Lord of all ages for  
ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All:** Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we say:

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.**

## THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God:

*(Communion will be given from a number of places. Please wait for a sidesman to direct you. During Communion S. Peter's Choir will sing an anthem).*

## AFTER COMMUNION

To him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb  
**Be blessing, and honour, and glory, and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: O praise ye the Lord!

Tune: Laudate Dominum

O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him in the height;  
Rejoice in his word,  
Ye angels of light;  
Ye heavens adore him  
By whom ye were made,  
And worship before him,  
In brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him upon earth,  
In tuneful accord,  
Ye sons of new birth;  
Praise him who hath brought you  
His grace from above,  
Praise him who hath taught you  
To sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord,  
All things that give sound;  
Each jubilant chord  
Re-echo around;  
Loud organs, his glory  
Forth tell in deep tone,  
And, sweet harp, the story  
Of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!  
Thanksgiving and song  
To him be outpoured  
All ages along;  
For love in creation,  
For heaven restored,  
For grace of salvation,  
O praise ye the Lord!

Amen. Amen.  
Sir H.W. Baker

Based on Psalm 150

**All:** We thank you Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all mankind.

**Moderator:** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has  
annointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me  
to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the  
blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the  
acceptable year of the Lord.

**Bishop:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

ooooOoooo

Organist: Philip Cave, Director of Music, S. Edward's School

S. Peter's Choirmaster: Peter Still

S. Edward's School Brass Group - directed by Robert Hughes

ooooOoooo

We are grateful to our friends who have come to share this day  
with us - a day that has come because of the prayers and work of  
so many people over a great many years. We hope you will be able  
to stay after the service for a glass of wine or a soft drink to  
celebrate the occasion and to meet people. It will be served from a  
number of tables around the church.

## The Team Clergy

The Revd. Bill Fosdike  
The Revd. Michael Ottaway  
The Revd. Donald Norwood  
The Revd. Charles Neill

The Revd. David Wippell  
The Revd. Gerald Wright  
The Revd. Douglas Flowerdew  
The Revd. Claude Branch  
The Revd. Canon Peter Bostock  
The Revd. Tony Johnson  
The Revd. Willie Pryor

## Readers

Miss Mary Evers  
Dr. Tony Lemon  
Mr. Spencer Green

## Elders

Mrs. Dinah Clements  
Mr. Ivor Davies  
Mrs. Amy Davis  
Dr. John Harding  
Miss Elaine Kaye  
Miss Beryl Knotts  
Mr. Peter Lund  
Mr. Richard Pooler  
Dr. Ian Scargill  
Dr. Leslie Seiffert  
Dr. Betty Welford  
Mrs. Gwen Winter