

# **LINCOLN CATHEDRAL**



**CHORAL EVENSONG  
with the Commissioning of**

**THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION and DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OF EDUCATION of the Diocese of Lincoln  
and of  
HEADTEACHERS  
from the Church Schools of the Diocese of Lincoln**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021  
5.30 pm



## ***Introduction***

WELCOME to Choral Evensong in Lincoln Cathedral!

A particular welcome to members of the Board of Education and the Headteachers of Church Schools of the Diocese of Lincoln, to their colleagues, families, supporters and friends, and to the officers of the Diocese. We are delighted to join with you in worship this evening.

The solemn worship of God, with all the resources and creativity at our disposal, is our core purpose, pointing to our belief in the centrality of God in the life of the world. The service follows a set pattern and its essence is praise: words, inspired by God, used to worship him and lift our minds and hearts. The singing of psalms and the reading from the Old Testament unite us with our spiritual ancestors, the Jews, and with Jesus Christ, who himself used them to praise his Father. Our meditation on the word of God leads us to Jesus who *is* the Word made flesh, and so the *Magnificat* acts as a pivot, pointing us to the new relationship with God which he brings about. The remainder of the service celebrates that 'new covenant' and, in the intercessions, commits us to the life of service to which Christians are called.

Much of tonight's service is sung by the choir, and there may be less active congregational involvement than you are accustomed to in other forms of service. We hope that in the combination of words, music and silence you will find a space for prayerful reflection and a recharging of spiritual batteries in the midst of our busy and often hectic world.

Please note that a hearing loop is in operation in St Hugh's Choir, and those with hearing aids should turn them to T during the spoken parts of the service.

*Please stand as the choir and clergy procession enters.*

## ***The Commissioning of Headteachers***

*The Canon in Residence welcomes the congregation and invites them to be seated.*

*The Bishop stands before the altar and addresses the Headteachers, their friends and supporters, and the congregation informally. He continues*

Brothers and sisters, Christ calls us all to follow him in our lives and to live out his love in our communities. We come here today, in worship and in prayer, to celebrate the particular ministry of those who serve in the Church Schools of the Diocese of Lincoln, and to commission for service Headteachers from our schools. Alongside them we give thanks for the work of the Board of Education, and commission the new Director and Assistant Director of Education for their roles.

As we gather in worship with those appointed to this ministry, we pray with and for them for grace to follow and serve God in their schools and their communities.

*The Director of Education and Deputy Director of Education stand before the Bishop who introduces to the congregation.*

*The Headteachers stand before the Bishop. The Diocesan Director of Education presents them to him, saying*

Bishop, I present to you these Headteachers of our Church Schools, asking that they be commissioned to that ministry.

*The Bishop continues*

Education is a key part of the church's mission in sharing the good news of the Gospel with all people. As both new and established headteachers, you have a special responsibility to ensure that everyone in your school is

valued and recognised as a uniquely gifted child of God. You are also charged with ensuring that your school is rooted in Christian values, principles and beliefs; that worship and religious education are central to the life and work of the school; and that the Christian faith is reflected in every aspect of school life.

People of God, will you welcome and support these Headteachers in their ministry in the schools which they lead?

*The congregation responds*

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

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*The Bishop addresses the Director of Education and Deputy Director of Education.*

*Bishop* Will you commit yourself to this work, faithfully serving the schools of this diocese of Lincoln?

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

*Bishop* Will you seek to perform your duties on behalf of the Bishop and diocese prayerfully, with a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, and with respect for all God's children?

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

*Bishop* Will you seek to make our schools places where the love of God is shown in action and attitude?

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

*Bishop* I commission you as Director of Education and Deputy Director of the Board of Education in the Diocese of Lincoln, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God grant you grace, wisdom and joy as you live out this calling.

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*The Bishop addresses the Headteachers.*

*Bishop* Will you commit yourself to this work, faithfully serving the school and its community?

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

*Bishop* Will you seek to perform your duties as Headteacher prayerfully, with a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, and with respect for all God's children?

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

*Bishop* Will you seek to make your school a place where the love of God is shown in action and attitude?

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

*Bishop* I commission you as Headteachers of the Church Schools of the Diocese of Lincoln, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God grant you grace, wisdom and joy as you live out this calling.

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*The congregation kneels and the Bishop prays*

Let us pray.

Holy God, giver of all wisdom and understanding, we thank you for these Headteachers; for their commitment to you and to the schools they serve; for the ministry for which we have commissioned them.

Bless them in all that they do: may they nurture all the children in their care; manage their staff with wisdom and gentleness; and make their schools a place where your love is known and your Good News heard.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Bishop invites governors and other members of school staff to stand, saying*

*Bishop*      Governors and staff, you share in this work. Will you support your headteacher through prayer and by working together to ensure that all pupils are upheld and affirmed in their learning?

*The governors and staff respond*

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

*We say together the Diocesan Schools' Prayer*

**Loving God, as we pursue excellence in all that we do, help us to reach for our full potential. As we explore your wonderful world, give us curiosity, excitement and open minds. As we encourage those around us, help us to work together in our homes, classrooms and community.**

**Living God, in all that we do, help our schools grow into places of wisdom, hope, and love.  
Amen.**

## ***The Office of Evensong***

*The Office of Evensong begins with the Opening Responses, which can be found on page 2 of the cream booklets in your places.*

*Acknowledgements*

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