

A Service of Confirmation

held at

St Luke's Church, Hartlepool

10th July 2022



**The Rt Revd Sarah Clark,
Bishop of Jarrow**

CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

All Saints, Stranton

Stella Clark



Hart and Elwick

Lorraine Williams
Sophie Lee Thompson
Poppy Christina Jobson
Joshua Laugton
Oliver Storm
Elizabeth Lavelle
Abigail Lavelle
Heidi Mounter
Ava Hughes
George Kirk



Cohen Atkinson
William Mounter
Florence Jessie Maud Tiplady
Harry James Dickson

St Hilda's

Angela Milburn
Emma Tabley
Henry Craggs
Thomas Craggs



Holy Trinity, West View

Emily Eileen Alton



St Luke's

Rebecca Parkin



St Edmund's, Upper Skerne

Laura Kate Lucas-Hartley



THE PREPARATION

Hymn **Come down, O love divine**

*Please stand when the hymn is announced.
The clergy will process from the back of church.*

The Greeting

Bishop Sarah greets the people

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

Introduction by Bishop Sarah

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 47.1-10, 12

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn **Spirit of the Living God**

Please remain standing

The Gospel *Mark 4.26-34*

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song ***I the Lord of sea and sky,***

THE LITURGY OF INITIATION

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

Each candidate will stand as their name is called.

The Bishop asks the candidates who have been baptised before and are candidates for confirmation:

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

I have.

Bishop Sarah asks all the candidates

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

I am.

Please sit. Those making verbal testimony will approach the Lectern.

An opportunity for Testimony from the candidates:

Stella Clark I'd like to be confirmed because I feel ready to make my own commitment to God. Although I grew up as a Christian, over the past couple of years I've really been growing in my personal relationship with God and would like to celebrate this publicly!

Emily Alton My name is Emily, I am 15 years old. My faith journey started in June 2007 with my baptism at Holy Trinity Church, Davidson Drive, Hartlepool. When I was old enough I started to attend Holy Trinity Sunday School with Tina who taught me lots about Jesus and being a good Christian. I have continued my faith journey by attending Holy Trinity with my family. I enjoy special services like our Christmas Eve Christingle and decorating the cross on Easter Day. I feel I am now ready to move on to next stage of my faith journey and be Confirmed.

Thomas and Henry Craggs (14 year old twins) said: "We would like to be confirmed to help us develop our faith and to help us progress on our journey with the Boys Brigade. We are looking forward to continuing our spiritual growth and have enjoyed the sessions with Verity, exploring what it is to be a Christian."

Emma Tabley "I wasn't brought up around religion and have only been coming to church around six years. In that time it's helped me through some tough times. It just feels right to carry on to be confirmed."

Angela Milburn "For me, confirmation is part of my journey back to God, back to the Christian community. From the thread that began in Sunday School, then through the Brownies, then a life that took me away from Church and God. But I'm back now, to improve my belief and my commitment of service to God. God has always been there, always waiting for me to return. Finally, I am here. "

Bishop Sarah addresses the whole congregation

Faith is gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. 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

A candle is lit. Bishop Sarah addresses all 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 of 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.
May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you the strength to continue in the Way.
Amen.

Bishop Sarah and candidates gather around the font

Profession of Faith

Bishop Sarah addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

All candidates are invited to come forward to the font and sign themselves with water. Bishop Sarah says:

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized 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.**

Confirmation

Congregation please sit. Bishop Sarah 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 for ever. Amen.

Bishop Sarah extends her hands towards those to be confirmed:

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.**

Bishop Sarah addresses each candidate by name and anoints with Holy Oil:

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

She then lays her hands on the head of each, saying

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



Bishop Sarah leads us all in praying for those confirmed saying

**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.**

Please stand

The Peace

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We remain standing and wave to each other.

Hymn ***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind***

(An offering is taken for the Diocesan Ministry Training Fund)

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

During the hymn the candidates come forward and receive a lighted candle.

Hymn ***Be Thou my vision***

Bishop Sarah says to all the candidates:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The Sending Out

Commission

All remain standing. Bishop Sarah says

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

The Blessing

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.**

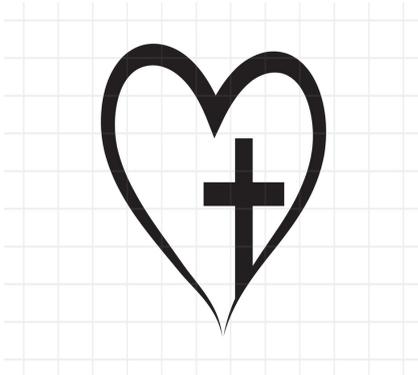
The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Our thanks go to Bishop Sarah for leading the confirmation service.

All are invited to a reception in the Church hall after the service.



Copyright © The Archbishops' Council
of the Church of England, 2000-2006.

Reproduced with permission under CCL 197