Welcome at the start of a new ministry

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

Training Incumbent ADELE: none of us expected to welcome you like this. This is not the service we were looking forward to, not the moment that your years of discernment and training and listening to God’s call were leading you to. And yet it is where we are – where your deep joy in service and discipleship touches the reality of the world’s needs. God does not promise us an easy or clear road. He does not promise us unmixed success. But rather to be with us and for us in all things.

God has called you to have his people on your heart and in this moment of welcoming, we recognise the beginning of a new phase of your life, not yet as a deacon – that will come in time – but you come as our curate. When Bishop David wrote to you earlier this month, he engaged you, from this day, in the cure of souls and authorised you to share in ministry with him, with me, and with all of us in this place. And so we bless you that you may be a blessing – a blessing needed now more than ever, a gift of salt and light, of love and hope, to communities living in strange times and finding new ways of being church together, not just for ourselves but for the whole world.

Let us pray.

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 ADELE

the needful gifts of grace

as she embarks on her ministry among us;

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.

Training Incumbent ADELE: do you believe that God has called you to serve his people in this place?

Curate I do so believe.

Training Incumbent Will you serve among us as those who teach and preach the Word of God in faithfulness to the Scriptures?

Curate With the help of God, I will.

Training Incumbent Will you serve among us as those who assist in the leading of worship, with prayer and understanding?

Curate With the help of God, I will.

Training Incumbent Will you serve among us as those who weep with all who are weeping and laugh with all who rejoice, witnessing in all things to the hope that is the Kingdom.

Curate With the help of God, I will.

Churchwarden ADELE: Welcome to you as you become a part of our Church family. We pray that, just as you will be a blessing for us, so too our prayer and friendship can be a blessing for you in the years that lie ahead.

*There follows a short time for members of the congregation to greet the new curate after which she leads those present in the Lord’s Prayer.*

Curate Let us pray.

Our Father …

Training Incumbent May the boldness of the Spirit transform us,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of the Spirit equip us  
to serve and worship God;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and all whom we serve, this day and always.

All **Amen.**