

**The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Eastern Baptist Association
Eastern Synod of United Reformed Church**

A Celebration of Ministry

**The
Licensing**

**of
The Revd Mike Simm**

**as Minister
of**

Southgate Church Local Ecumenical Partnership

and

Assistant Curate of St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds

by

The Rt. Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich

and

The Venerable Dr David Jenkins, Archdeacon of Sudbury

with

Representatives of the EBA, URC Eastern Synod & Parish of St Mary's

and

Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds & District

On

Sunday 18th April 2021 10:30 am

Live streamed on YouTube

The act of licensing of a minister to the pastoral leadership of a congregation marks a new beginning for the church and is an opportunity for both minister and church to renew their commitment to God and God's mission in the world.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION – Bob Jones, Chair of Trustees

Southgate Church was initiated by Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District for united Christian witness in the Southgate area of Bury St Edmunds. It has the status of a Local Ecumenical Partnership formally supported by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Eastern Baptist Association and Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church. The three partner denominations have formed a Local Advisory Group to assist the Church in its ministry. Southgate Church comprises those people worshipping and serving within the Church together - working with the Trustees as the governors.

A very brief history of Southgate Church.

First song – Jesus, all for Jesus

Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into your hands
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into your hands

For it's only in your will that I am free
For it's only in your will that I am free
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be.

Bishop: The Lord be with you
All: and also with you.

Bishop: We have come together to give thanks for the life of the community in this area of Southgate, and for all who have done God's work in it; to pray for Mike Simm now to begin his ministry here, that he may have joy, courage and hope; and for ourselves, that we may be renewed in the work of God's kingdom.

Let us therefore wait humbly upon God, giving thanks for all that God has done, and asking forgiveness for those ways in which we have failed each other, our communities, and God.

Bishop: Let us pray that the people of God in all the world
may worship in spirit and in truth.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: That the Church may discover again that unity which is your gift.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: That the whole creation groaning in travail may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: That all who with Christ have entered the shadows of death may find fulfilment of life and peace.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: With all the saints in light let us offer eternal praise to the Lord made manifest.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Bishop: God our Father, hear our prayer for your faithful people, that all in their vocation and ministry
may be instruments of your love;
Forgive us our sins
And assure us of your eternal love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of intercession – Joel Foyster

Presentation of the New Minister

The Bishop: I thank all those who with prayer have been involved in the appointment of **Mike** to this church.

Bishop: **Mike** do you believe that you are called by God and his church to accept this work?

Rev Mike Simm: I do.

Shaun Richardson, Church Leader, and Bob Jones with Rev. Mike Simm

Bishop: The ministry of the Church is shared by all of God's people, exercising their particular gifts. Will you, the people of God of Southgate Church, care for Mike and support him in all those duties which he undertakes as your priest?

Bob Jones and Shaun Richardson: With the help of God, we will.

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Bishop: People of God, will you uphold and encourage **Mike** in his work and ministry?

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

Bishop: Will you continually pray for **Mike**?

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

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from Ephesians chapter 2 v 1-10 - New International Version by **Alison Burgess**
Family and Community Worker, Southgate Church, and Diocesan Licensed Youth Worker

Made alive in Christ

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE SERMON – Bishop Mike

Song – Jesus be the Centre

Jesus, be the centre

Be my source, be my light

Jesus

Jesus, be the centre

Be my hope, be my song

Jesus

(Chorus)

Be the fire in my heart

Be the wind in these sails

Be the reason that I live

Jesus, Jesus Jesus, be my vision

Be my path, be my guide

Jesus

(Chorus)

Be the fire

Yes, Be the fire

(Chorus)

Jesus, be the centre

Be my source, be my light

Jesus

Be my source, be my light

Jesus

The Liturgy of Licensing

The Symbols of Ministry.

A Bible is lifted up by Anna

Bishop: God has given us the gift of Scripture.
Let us commit ourselves together to read and study it, and to live out the Christian faith through word and deed.

All: **We proclaim Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

based on Psalm 119. 33; 1 Corinthians 1. 23, 24

Bishop: **Mike** use this Bible and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

The Bible is then lowered

The bread and wine are lifted high by Helen and Colin Moore

Bishop: On the night before he died,
Christ commanded his apostles to remember him.
Every time we eat the bread and drink the cup
at the table of the Lord,
we proclaim his death until he comes.

All: **Jesus is the bread of life.
Whoever comes to him will never be hungry;
whoever believes in him will never be thirsty.**

based on John 6. 33, 35

The bread and wine are lowered

Bishop: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, I, Mike, acting under the Commission of Martin, Lord Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich am here to license you as
**Minister of Southgate Church and
Assistant Curate of St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds**
Before I do so, it is necessary for the Declaration of Assent to be made and the oaths of Allegiance and Canonical obedience to be taken.

Archdeacon:

The Church of England is part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, 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. **Mike** 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?

I, **Mike**, 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.

The Oath of Allegiance to her Majesty the Queen

I, **Mike**, 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.

The Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, **Mike**, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and his successors in all things lawful and honest, so help me God.

Bishop: Having made these declarations, **Mike** may now receive the Cure of Souls in this Church. Let us pray in silence that God will bless his ministry here.

Mike, receive this Cure of Souls which is both mine and yours, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bishop then blesses the minister:

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

The Minister leads everyone in saying the Lord's Prayer

We now say together the prayer that Jesus 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.

The Welcome and Commendations

Greetings and commendation from Mikes' previous church, Cliff Park Community Church,
Gorleston – George Wilding

Welcome from URC Eastern Synod – Rev Elizabeth Caswell

Welcome from Vicar of St Mary's with St Peter's – Rev Simon Harvey

Welcome from the Chair of Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds & District –
Heather Corbell

Welcome from the Eastern Baptist Association Regional Minister – Rev Graeme Ross

The Bishop presents the new minister to the people, saying:

People of Southgate Church, I present to you your new **minister**. I invite you to greet him in the name of Christ. I commend him to your love and to your prayers.

Representatives of the three supporting denominations, Vicar of St Mary's and the Church Leadership and Trustees now join together.

They say: **Mike Simm**: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of the supporting denominations and on behalf of Southgate Church, we declare you licensed to the pastorate of this church and congregation.

As you lead the people of God and care for them, as you serve and pray for this community, may the Lord richly bless and sustain you.

The whole congregation says:

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace. Amen.**

All: **We welcome you!
May the Lord richly bless you
and make you a blessing among us.**

Mike Simm responds to the welcome.

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.
Chorus

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
chorus

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
chorus

The Dismissal

The Bishop pronounces God's blessing

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 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.**

All say The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Rev Mike Simm concludes::

All Go in the power of Christ.
We have a gospel to proclaim!
All Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God!