



**TUESDAY 18 JULY  
2023**



**Rev Sally Letman's Licensing Special Edition**

*“Sally, accept with joy your new commission to preach the living Word of God, to administer the Sacraments of eternal life, and to guard and strengthen the flock that has been committed to your charge.*

*“May God keep you in his care, may Christ empower you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit lead you in the ways of truth and peace, this day and for evermore. Amen”*



*With prayer & faith in God we seek to engage with the community - inside we enrich & equip: outside we give & care.*



*A packed St Mary's Chapel as the benefice celebrates with Rev Sally her licensing and installation service.*



(left: 12 July, the service gets underway)

(right: Rev Sally is presented to Bishop of Dunwich, Rt Rev Dr Mike Harrison)



(below: excitement as Oliver & William bring the anointing oils)



*In his sermon, Bishop Mike asks: "How would you describe a good priest-in-charge?"*

*The good priest is a model of piety, study and action communicating the Christian faith in a gripping way, in a manner deeper than the furrowed brow of Rowan Williams yet funnier than Peter Kay or Michael Macintyre.*



*The good priest condemns sin but never hurts anyone's feelings. The good priest works from dawn to midnight, is never tired and has a happy family life. The good priest appears to make zilch money, but always wears good clothes, buys decent books regularly, has a lovely hospitable home and gives £100 a week to each of their churches, more during a pandemic.*

*They are about 26 years old and have been studying the gospels for 30 years. The priest is tall and commands authority, and short and unthreatening; what's more, thin, someone accustomed to the ascetic disciplines of fasting with prayer, and heavy set, a party person who enjoys life and helps us to enjoy it too.*

*The good priest makes 10 visits a day to needy church people, spends all the time evangelizing the unchurched, especially teenagers, and can always be found on the High Street of every village or on the end of the phone. The good priest is needless to say beautiful or handsome, but in an understated way.*

***Well I think you get the picture - we can set up fairly unrealistic expectations of our priests - and if we do so there will be disappointments, not least disappointments with ourselves as priests.***

***(right: Jessie and Jenny bring forward the bread & wine)***

### ***The Assent***

***(below: Sally declares her assent)***



***"I, Sally Janet Letman, 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."***

**Bishop Mike:**

Now the Church of England tends not to splash the cash so you're not in danger of getting rich quick, but you might become very religious!

But part of your work Sally as priest in charge is to declare that Jesus is Lord, not you, and part of your work is not to pretend you are beyond mistakes and failure but to acknowledge it and to bear it in a way that continues to point to Jesus, that shows you genuinely believe and live out of his forgiving, loving heart for you.



What is more likely to shine the light of Jesus to the world?

Is it perfect people, with problem free lives, walking around with a perpetual smile of trouble-free living? Or is it those who share the troubles of others,



but yet in whom the light of Jesus shines through, come what may? One of the places the light of Jesus shines brightest is where Christians are dealing with real life problems, but somehow not getting beaten down by the way one might do....just like Paul did.

***So Sally, be a good priest in charge, but as Paul might define one.***

In other words be someone who depends on Jesus' mercy and grace, even as you shake and sweat be someone whose capacity not to be

crushed or shamed, *challenges* worldly understandings of success and failure be someone who knows where you're going and lives out of that future even now and be someone who enables others to be all of this too.

***Rev Sally becomes a fully licensed Priest-in-Charge in the benefice of Chapel St Mary and Great & Little Wenham***



*The Welcome:* (left: Rev Chris Eyden, Sally's Director of Ordinands, recalls it taking half-an-hour to buy a sandwich in Capel Co-op because of



the then Curate's popularity)

(right: above Rural Dean Jenny Seggar, and Very Rev Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral offer the warmest of greetings)



And from the laity: (left: Sean Cornish, Headteacher, Capel St Mary Church of England primary School)

(right: Christine Matthews, Chair, Capel St Mary's Parish Council and also tonight represented Capel Community Trust).



(below: Sophie Dilworth, CDC Dance Club and also represented the users of St Mary's Church Hall)



(right: Claire Van Hinsbergh, Beaver Leader gave a welcome on behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Capel St Mary Scout Group - accompanied by Fred from cubs)



**David Owen**, Pastor & Leader of Capel Community Church welcomed Sally on behalf of Churches Together in Capel, and **Imogen Marr**, Magical Owl of 2<sup>nd</sup> Capel St Mary Brownies, who with regret could not be present, spoke for many in her written welcome:



*"Rev Sally is such a wonderful source of joy in this community. She has supported both my Brownies and me passionately.*

*"She is a delight to have drop by - just don't require her to select a winner!. We are forging a wonderful partnership with her, which I am so very excited to watch blossom further.*

*"We recently did some gardening in the churchyard (perhaps more direction of correct weed identification is needed for the youngsters next time!) but they had such fun. We are going to begin planning a nice afternoon with Sally and the church community whereby we shall have some tea & cake and an Autumn clear-up both inside the inside and the outside of the church grounds.*

*"The Brownies are already very excited by this prospect and it is down to Sally and her driven and approachable nature that they want to pay their role and help out.*

*"Sally, congratulations on your installation, I am very happy to be able to grow the Brownies and Church community together further with you."*



Gill Williams led St Mary's Choir with the hymn **Broken Vessels**: "All these pieces, broken and scattered, In mercy gathered, mended and whole, Empty handed but not forsaken, I've been set free, I've been set free."

*And her congregation present welcomed her.....*



(right: Sally gets a post-service welcome from her Cohort)



(right: Capel's new Priest-in-Charge together with Dean Joe, Bishop Mike and Archdeacon Rich)



(below: celebrations continue with refreshments in the hall)





# CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE MINISTERS

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

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