

**The Induction of the Revd Debbie Brown to the four church  
pastorate of the North Coventry Group, April 4, 2020 at 3pm.  
Induction carried out through Lifesize.**

**1. Call to worship, opening prayer.**

**2. Statement of purpose**

We meet today as the West Midlands Synod  
of the United Reformed Church,  
in the company of members of churches from North Coventry Group,  
and colleague ministers across Coventry.  
We would normally welcome other friends from far and wide, but as we gather  
through the internet, I welcome you all.

All Christians share, through their baptism,  
in the ministry of Christ,  
and all Christians are called to be ministers of God's love.  
God calls some to be apostles,  
some prophets, some evangelists,  
some to be pastors and teachers,  
to equip the Church for the work of ministry  
and to build up the body of Christ.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ  
we have come to induct Debbie Brown to serve  
as a minister of Word and Sacraments in the North Coventry Group.  
Debbie has been called to exercise this ministry  
by decision of the church meetings of the group  
and with the concurrence of the West Midlands Synod.

**3. Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC  
(Richard Lockley, Synod Clerk)**

With the whole Christian Church  
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God,  
ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift  
continually received through the Word, the Sacraments  
and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift  
and answer the call,  
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do  
is God's Word in the Bible  
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

**We respond to this Word,  
whose servants we are  
with all God's people  
through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God  
the witness to the catholic faith  
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.  
We acknowledge the declarations  
made in our own tradition  
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians  
and Churches of Christ  
in which they stated the faith  
and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active:  
gift of an eternal source,  
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together  
according to the Basis of Union  
in which we give expression to our faith  
in forms which we believe contain  
the essential elements of the Church's life,  
both catholic and reformed;  
but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises,  
to change the Basis of Union  
and to make new statements of faith  
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord,  
who leads us in our faith  
and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ  
through the freedom of the Spirit,  
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts  
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.  
For the sake of faith and fellowship  
it shall be for the church to decide  
where differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves  
to speak the truth in love  
and grow together  
in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves  
are servants in the world  
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide, and Goal  
of all that is:  
to God be eternal glory.**

**Amen.**

#### **4. Affirmations**

Debbie, do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people?

**I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross, and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore, is the gift of God's very self to the world?

Do you believe that through Him God's love, justice and mercy are revealed and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life are offered to all people?

And will you faithfully proclaim this gospel?

**By the grace of God this I believe  
and this I will proclaim.**

Do you believe that the Church  
is the people gathered by God's love  
to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God  
through Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

Are zeal for the glory of God,  
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,  
obedience to the Holy Spirit  
and a desire for the salvation of the world,  
so far as you know your own heart,  
the chief motives which lead you to enter this ministry?

**They are.**

Do you promise to live a holy life,  
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,  
whatever trouble or persecution may arise?

**Relying on the strength of Christ, I do.**

Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge faithfully,  
to lead the church in worship,  
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,  
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,  
to take your part in the councils of the Church,  
and to give leadership to the Church  
in its mission to the world?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

Do you promise,  
as a minister of the United Reformed Church,  
to seek its well-being, purity and peace,  
to cherish love towards all other churches  
and to endeavour always to build up  
the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

Will you undertake to exercise your ministry  
in accordance with the Statement concerning  
the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church?

**I will, and all these things I profess and promise  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **5. Promises by the congregations and Coventry Ministers**

### ***To all the congregation***

Do you confess again your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**We do.**

Do you receive Debbie as from God, as a minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church?

**We do.**

Will you pray for Debbie in this ministry, giving her due honour, support and encouragement?

**We will.**

Will you acknowledge the gifts that God has given to each of you, and seek always the grace to know the part you are called to play in Christ's work among God's people?

**With God's help, we will.**

### ***To members of the four churches of the Group:***

Do you as members of the United Reformed Churches at Foleshill Road, Holyhead Road, Keresley and Potters Green reaffirm your willingness to work in partnership with each other and together with all the United Reformed Churches of Coventry for the strengthening of the mission of God in the city?

**We do.**

And do you receive Debbie as from God, to serve among you and to lead you in your ministry?

**We do.**

### ***To members present of West Midlands Synod:***

Do you as ministers and members of churches in the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church welcome Debbie into membership and promise to support her ministry?

**We do**

### ***To those ministering with City of Coventry United Reformed Churches:***

Do you, Debbie, Bill, Paul, Yvonne, Peter, Kirsty and Craig, as ministers of the United Reformed Church serving within the city of Coventry, affirm your willingness to work together with each other and with the United Reformed Churches of Coventry for the strengthening of the mission of God in this city?

**We do.**

## **6. Induction Prayer**

## **7. Declaration of induction**

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and representing the West Midlands Synod  
of the United Reformed Church,  
I declare Debbie be inducted to the North Coventry Group.  
May the God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you complete in everything good  
so that you may do his will,  
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

## **8. Brief greetings from participants**

### **9. Blessing**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you always.  
**Amen.**