



Ordination
to the
Order of Deacon
of

Timothy Leonard Bowles
Andrew John Howe
Christopher Edward Darcy Vaughan

and to the
Order of Priest
of

Robert Jonathan Edwards
Bertram Jeyakumar Mather

by
The Rt Rev'd Dr Matt Brain
Bishop of Bendigo

10.30 am, 28 November 2020

St Paul's Cathedral

Order of Procession

Crucifer

The Registrar

Board of Ministry

Tim Bowles

Andrew Howe

Darcy Vaughan

The Rev'd Rob Edwards

The Rev'd Bertram Mather

The Rev'd George Hemmings

Deacon – The Rev'd Fiona Preston

The Archdeacon

The Dean/Vicar General

The Bishop of Bendigo

*This service of ordination for Deacons and Priests has been especially prepared by
the Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock*

Gathering in God's Name

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon reads the Sentence for the day:

Andrew found his brother, told him, 'We have found the Messiah!',
and then brought Simon to Jesus

John 1. 41-42

*The Bishop welcomes all present and acknowledges the Traditional owners of the land,
the Dja Dja Wurrung (Jara) people.*

Reaffirming the Ministry of All Baptised Persons

Bishop Before we proceed to ordain these Christians for their ministry as
deacons and priests in the church of God,
I remind you that all baptised persons are called
to share in Christ's ministry.

I invite you to reaffirm your commitment to that ministry
to which each of you has been called.

Those who are baptised are called to love and serve the Lord.
From the beginning, believers have continued
in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers.

Bishop Will you recommit yourself to this life?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek to love your neighbour as yourself,
and strive for peace and justice?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you accept the cost of following Christ?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop With the whole Church, will you proclaim,
where you live and where you work, by word and deed,
the Good News of God in Christ,
which is your ministry as a baptised person?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Deacon Let us pray
**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Bishop Matt then proceeds to licence the newly appointed George Hemmings as Archdeacon of Bendigo and the Goldfields.

The Presentation

The people sit, and the candidates and presenters move to the front.

Board of Ministry Matt, bishop in the Church of God, we present to you
Timothy Leonard Bowles,
Andrew John Howe and
Christopher Edward Darcy Vaughan
to be ordained deacon in the Church of God.

Board of Ministry Matt, bishop in the Church of God, we present to you
Robert Jonathan Edwards and
Bertram Jeyakumar Mather
to be ordained priest in the Church of God.

Bishop Can you assure us that they are suited, by their learning
and godly living, to minister as deacons and priests
in the household of Christ, to the glory of God?

Board of Ministry They have been examined.
Enquiries have been made among the people of God,
especially among those concerned with their preparation,
and we believe that these candidates are fit for this office.

Bishop Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of these offices. We have been assured that these candidates are suited to these ministries.

If, however, any of you know an adequate reason why we should not proceed, come forward and make it known.

Silence is kept

The Bishop addresses those to be ordained:

Bishop Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Bertram and Rob, do you wholeheartedly accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as given by the Spirit to convey in many and varied ways the revelation of God which is fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ?

Candidates I do accept them.

Bishop Are you convinced that the holy Scriptures contain all doctrine necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and are you determined to instruct from these Scriptures the people committed to your care, teaching nothing as essential to salvation which cannot be demonstrated from the Scriptures?

Candidates I am convinced, and will do so by God's grace.

Bishop Let us pray

Silence

Almighty God, giver of all that is good, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in your Church.

Bless Tim, Andrew and Darcy, now called to the order of deacon, and Bertram and Rob, now called to the order of priest.

So fill them with your truth, and clothe them with holiness, that they may faithfully minister to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

Everliving God,
whose apostle Andrew heard the call of your Son
and followed, bringing his brother with him:

inspire us, like him,
to offer ourselves readily for your service
and to tell others the good news of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

First Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21
Read by Canon Heather Marten

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Deacon **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
according to Matthew, chapter 4, verses 18-22
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon The Rev'd Chris Appleby

Deacon Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Exhortation and Examination

The people are seated, and the candidates stand before the bishop.

Bishop In baptism, all Christians are called to be a royal priesthood to serve God in the world, making Christ known and setting forward his kingdom through the power of the Spirit.

The Bishop addresses Tim, Andrew and Darcy to be ordained deacons:

Tim, Andrew and Darcy, Christ has called you to be deacons. You are to be an ambassador of Christ, serving God as you serve others in Jesus' name.

Proclaim the good news of God's love, so that many may be moved to faith and repentance, and hearts be opened to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in the presence of God.

Let the transforming love of Jesus be known to all among whom you live and work.

Strengthen the faithful, teach the young,

search out the careless and indifferent.

Encourage the members of Christ's body by word and example,
ministering among the sick, the needy
and all who are oppressed or in trouble.

You are to preach the word of God
in the place to which you are licensed,
and to pray and work for peace and justice in the world.

The Bishop addresses Bertram and Rob to be ordained priests:

Bertram and Rob, now you are responding
to the call of God and of the Church
to live and work as a priest, a pastor and teacher,
for God's glory and the strengthening of God's people.

In the name of Christ, I exhort you to take up your calling with joy
and dedication.

As the Lord's messenger, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Seek the lost, announce God's justice,
warn and correct those in error.

You are to encourage and build up the body of Christ,
preaching the word of God, leading God's people in prayer,
declaring God's forgiveness and blessing,
and faithfully ministering the sacraments of God's grace
with reverence and care.

Be a pastor after the pattern of Christ the great Shepherd,
who laid down his life for the sheep.

Be a teacher taught by the Lord in the wisdom of holiness.
Lead the people of God as a servant of Christ.

The Bishop addresses those to be ordained:

Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Bertram and Rob
together with your bishop and other ministers, you are to play your
part in the life and councils of the Church.

Love and serve the people with whom you work, caring alike for
young and old, rich and poor, weak and strong.

Never forget how great a treasure is placed in your care: the Church
you must serve is Christ's spouse and body, bought at the cost of his
own life. You will be called before the Lord to give account of your

ministry, so apply yourself with diligence to fashion your life in accordance with Christ's example.

Study the Scriptures wholeheartedly, reflecting with God's people upon their meaning, so that all may be equipped to live out God's truth in the world, and your ministry and life may be shaped by God's Word.

Clothe yourself with humility; be constant in prayer.

that you may have strength to run the race set before you.

Put away all that does not make for holiness of life.

We have every confidence that you have already pondered these things deeply. But now, in order that this congregation may understand your intention, and so that your public profession may strengthen your resolve,

answer clearly these questions,

which we ask you in the name of God and of the Church.

Bishop Tim, do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of deacons?

Tim I believe I am called to this ministry.

Bishop Andrew, do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of deacons?

Andrew I believe I am called to this ministry.

Bishop Darcy, do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of deacons?

Darcy I believe I am called to this ministry.

Bishop Bertram, do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of priests?

Bertram I believe I am called to this ministry.

Bishop Rob, do you believe that you are truly called to this order and ministry of priests?

Rob I believe I am called to this ministry.

The Bishop addresses Tim, Andrew and Darcy, to be ordained deacons:

Bishop Tim, Andrew and Darcy, will you take your part in reading the holy Scriptures in the church, in teaching the doctrine of Christ, and in assisting the priest to teach the doctrine of Christ and administer the sacraments?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you strive to shape your own life, and that of your household,

according to the way of Christ?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you promote unity, peace and love among all Christian people, especially among those with whom you serve God, encouraging and enabling them to fulfil their ministries?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you seek to set forward Christ's kingdom in the world, working for reconciliation, peace and justice?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

The Bishop addresses Bertram and Rob, to be ordained priests:

Bishop Bertram and Rob, will you faithfully and humbly minister the doctrine, sacraments and discipline of Christ, as he has commanded and as this Church has received them?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you be ready, both in your public and private ministry, to oppose and set aside teaching contrary to God's word?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve and lead, striving together with them to build up the body of Christ in truth and love, in unity and peace?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

The Bishop addresses all candidates:

Bishop Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Bertram and Rob
will you be diligent in prayer,
and in the study of the holy Scriptures?
Will you undertake such other studies
as will help you in your ministry?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you constantly seek the help of the Holy Spirit to stir up God's gifts to you, so that you may serve all by word and deed, and proclaim the gospel of Christ in its fullness?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop Will you accept the order and discipline of this Anglican Church of Australia, submitting yourself to the lawful authority of your bishop and others set over you in the Church, gladly and willingly following their godly and lawful directions?

Candidates I will, by God's grace.

Bishop May God who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them. **Amen.**

The bishop addresses the people:

Bishop You have heard our brothers and sisters respond to God's call to love and serve him in ordained ministry. Will you accept Tim, Andrew and Darcy as deacons in the Church of God?

All **We accept them gladly!**

Bishop Will you accept Bertram and Rob as priests in the Church of God?

All **We accept them gladly!**

Bishop Will you support and encourage them in their ministries?

All **We will, by God's grace.**

The Prayers

Dean Let us pray for Tim, Andrew and Darcy, now to be ordained deacons, and Bertram and Rob, now to be ordained priests.

Come Holy Spirit, bond of love. Pour your love into their hearts that they may serve you with joy.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, power from on high. Make them agents of peace and ministers of wholeness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, counsellor and advocate. Touch their lips that they may proclaim your word with boldness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life. Breathe on your Church and make us a living people, holy and free.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Eternal God and Father,
you have promised to hear those who pray
in the name of your Son.

Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may obtain according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dean Elizabeth will sing "Come Holy Spirit"

The Laying on of Hands

The ordinands kneel before the bishop, who says

Bishop Blessed are you, Lord our God!
 Though your Son was rich, for our sake he became poor.
 Taking the form of a servant, the Lord Jesus humbled himself,
 and gave his life a ransom for many.
 You raised him up to be the Apostle and High Priest
 of our faith, and the Shepherd of our souls.
 Exalted as Lord of all, he poured out the Spirit's gifts,
 making some to be apostles, some prophets,
 some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
 and to build up the body of Christ.
 And now we give you thanks
 that you have called these your servants
 to the ministry of deacon and of priest in your Church.

The bishop lays hands on Tim, Andrew and Darcy in turn

Bishop Send down the Holy Spirit upon your servant Tim/Andrew/Darcy,
 whom we set apart by the laying on of our hands,
 for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.

The bishop continues

 Merciful God, grant to your deacons Tim, Andrew and Darcy
 grace and power to proclaim the gospel of salvation.
 May they be patient and loving, strong and steadfast.
 As you have called them to your service,
 make them worthy of their calling.

The bishop delivers to Tim, Andrew and Darcy a copy of the New Testament, and they are vested as deacons.

Bishop Tim, Andrew and Darcy, take authority to exercise the office and
 ministry of a deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father,
 and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The bishops and priests present lay hands on Bertram and Rob in turn

Bishop Send down the Holy Spirit upon your servant Bertram/Rob, whom we set apart by the laying on of our hands, for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

The bishop continues

Merciful God, grant to your priests Bertram and Rob grace and power to fulfil their ministry:
to proclaim the gospel of salvation
through word and sacrament,
to declare the forgiveness of sins,
and to watch over and care for
the people committed to their charge.

A Bible is presented to Bertram and Rob, and they are vested as priests.

Bishop Bertram and Rob, take authority to preach the word of God, and to minister the holy sacraments in the congregation where you are appointed. Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you retain, they are retained; and be a faithful minister of the word of God and of his holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **As you have called Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Bertram and Rob to your service, make them worthy of their calling.
Accept our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Bishop presents the newly ordained to the people

Bishop Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you Tim, Andrew and Darcy, ordained as deacons in the Church of God, and Bertram and Rob, ordained as priests.

The people respond with applause.

Confession

Bishop: Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess our need of forgiveness.

[Let us pray.]

Lord God, you created this world,
and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy**

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship
with you and with one another.

Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

The Greeting of Peace

Bishop We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

The Holy Communion

Bishop

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth.

We give you thanks and praise
for your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.
He taught your word with boldness,
and offered himself to you in perfect obedience.
He cared for all as the good shepherd,
and laid down his life for his sheep.
By his death and rising to new life
he brought new life to your people.

In baptism you have united us to him,
and brought us out of darkness to light.
And now we give you thanks that
in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts and leading us into all truth.
You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations,
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

You call out those who will serve you as deacons,
and commission them for the service of others,
that the pattern of Christ's rule may be seen among us.
You ordain ministers to proclaim your word,
to care for your people,
and to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints

who have served you in every age,
we give thanks and lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

Bishop We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

The Holy Communion is administered.

The Sending out of God's People

Bishop Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him
in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit.
We thank you for raising up faithful servants for the ministry of your word and sacraments.

May Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Bertram and Rob be godly examples in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life, that they may faithfully fulfil their ministry.
May your word spoken through them never fail.

All **Make us, with them, faithful witnesses of the Lord Jesus and his resurrection, so that at his coming we may go out with great joy to meet him, and be found worthy to worship you with all your saints for ever.**

The Blessing

Bishop 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 faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; give honour to all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Order of Recession

Crucifer

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The Archdeacons

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The Rev'd Rob Edwards

The Rev'd Bertram Mather

The Bishop of Bendigo

About the Ordinands

Tim Bowles

God has blessed me, most significantly through Jesus by his Spirit! His first gifts to me were my parents, Ross and Jill, who have pointed me to Jesus as the saviour and model of the Christian life.

Rural Victoria has been my home, born in Benalla, but raised in Echuca. Local churches in different expressions taught me the faith and provided opportunities to grow by serving others. Apart from three and half years studying for ministry in Adelaide, Echuca-Moama has been home. Through the convenience of distance learning I was also able to complete postgraduate studies in history and education.

For the past fourteen years it has been a true blessing to serve as the lay Chaplain and a teacher at Moama Anglican Grammar. Through this role I grew to love and join the Anglican tradition. This will continue to be my place of ministry along with a role at Christ Church Anglican Echuca.

I believe there are few things better than the gift of a good book. Miroslav Volf's writing has been formative along with current Australian Anglican theologians. In my teenage years it was missionary biographies that nurtured my faith. Through God's leading, my own local area became my place to witness to the truth, beauty and goodness of God in Jesus. As an adult the generosity of Daniel Matthews and the inspirational faith of Indigenous leader William Cooper challenge me.

My family and I find rest by spending time in the gift of God's creation. Camping in the Victorian high country or travelling into the outback rejuvenates us. The local church has always been where I most belong and I have enjoyed serving in a variety of ways in outreach, leadership and teaching. It is this that occupies any spare thought in my mind.

I have been blessed most greatly through my wife Kate and son Oliver (who also keeps me fit with downhill and football competitions in the backyard). They have helped me grow in faith every day. We enjoy showing hospitality through acts of love for others and caring for foster children who bless us greatly.

Through all of these experiences of blessing, God's Word has schooled me in humility and service through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In faith, I prayerfully look forward to how God will call and use us to be a blessing to others.

Andrew Howe

I grew up on my parent's dairy farm at Calivil in country Victoria and attended East Loddon P-12 School. One Sunday morning when I was about 15 years old, I refused my mother's demand to change out of my old jeans and t-shirt and to put on my "Sunday Church Clothes". It turned into a bit of a standoff with me eventually telling mum "Jesus will love me no matter what I wear" and mum saying, "yes he will, but you are not going to church dressed like that". I did not go to church that day or again until I was 17 and had joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). During the two-year standoff over jeans, I set God aside, believing that I could find all the answers to life by myself. I discovered a desire to help others and to serve, which I interpreted as service to my country. I did not consider that God was calling me to this service.

In 1978, I commenced a career in uniform which over the next 20 years would see me serve as a sailor in the RAN and the Royal Navy (UK) before becoming a Bobby (police officer) with the Norfolk Constabulary (UK). I have been fortunate to visit many places around the world and have borne witness to many things. When the sea is rough, or when the crew face danger; sailors pray, alone and quietly; I did too. Almost every sailor can quote Psalm 107:23-25, though few know where the quote comes from.

In 1998 I returned to Australia and attended my parent's church a few times; St Luke's in White Hills, Bendigo. I began to feel that I was being called towards ordination and to a ministry of service. I refused to respond to this call. I was totally unready. I enrolled at La Trobe University to study science and met my future wife, Vyonne. When I finished my degree, I returned to a career that I knew. I re-joined the RAN as an officer and returned to sea as a hydrographic surveyor (chart maker).

I finally left the RAN in 2016 and returned to Bendigo. I joined the congregation at St Paul's Cathedral Church and began to feel ready to respond to God's insistent call. It was time to let God do what God needed to do with me. In 2018 I found an opportunity to help set up an accommodation program in Bendigo, coordinating churches to provide shelter, food and dignity to people experiencing crisis homelessness during the months of winter. Helping vulnerable and marginalised people has struck a deep accord with me and I now look forward to the joys and challenges of a ministry of service.

Darcy Vaughan

I was born in Sydney, and have lived most of my life there. I was truly given the Christian faith of my family and grew up knowing the good news of Jesus. After high school my family moved to Ireland and I joined them for a year before returning. Soon after I met Philippa, and we were married in 2009. I completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney majoring in Performance Studies and Film Studies and later a Juris Doctor with the University of Technology Sydney. In these years I worked in international community development, media law, film production, for the state government's Family and Community Service and for Anglican Retirement Villages. Through all this I was driven by my desire to live out my faith in real and tangible ways.

Somewhat disillusioned with the prospect of a career in law, Philippa and I quit our jobs and spent six months traveling and volunteering on organic farms in Europe and North America. On this trip we were praying for God's guidance, and were convicted of our calling to parish ministry, and also our passion for the place of hospitality in this ministry. Since then we have experimented with living in 'intentional community' with others, living 'incarnationally' amidst the public housing of Glebe as well as sharing gardens and chickens with our neighbours! On our return I began a (recently completed!) Bachelor of Theology through Ridley College and took up a ministry role in our church, St John's Anglican Church Glebe. This ministry involved a partnership with Anglicare and had in mind those who live in public housing or are sleeping rough in and around the suburb of Glebe. It consisted mainly of a ministry of hospitality and the provision of emergency relief to those in crisis as well as teaching and pastoral care.

Philippa and I are now blessed with our two beautiful daughters Frances (5) and Violet (18 months). In January 2020 our family took a trip to the Bendigo diocese and immediately fell in love with the country, history and culture of this special place. Since then we have been so encouraged by our conversations with Bishop Matt and others in the diocese. We are excited to embark on this new ministry adventure and to learn all we can from the Parishes of Maldon and Inglewood and their communities. My hope is that we can continue the faithful ministry of these churches as they live out their faith in the good news of Jesus.

Rob Edwards

I grew up in a Christian family and when I was seven, I invited Jesus to be Lord of my life. It wasn't until I was in year eight and on a youth group camp that I had a deeper understanding of all that Jesus had done for me through his death and resurrection.

While on that youth camp, I recommitted my life to Christ and over the following years my relationship with God continued to grow as I learnt more about God and who I am in Christ.

As a teenager, I had some great youth leaders who encouraged me in my walk with Jesus. These leaders had a positive impact on my life, and it was because of their influence and example, that I became a volunteer leader at my church. I started out as a Sunday school teacher in 1993 and in 1996, I graduated to become a youth leader and have been involved in youth ministry since.

In April 2003, Michelle and I were married and we moved to Bendigo in January 2004 and now have three boys, Nathan 15, Josh 13 and Pete 11.

Until the end of May 2020, I was serving as the Children's and Youth Minister at South East Bendigo Anglican Parish. At the end of May I started as the new Minister at Strathfieldsaye Community Church. This has been a challenging time, starting a new role in a new church in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and being unable to meet your new congregation in person. Yet through all of this, God has been faithful and helped me over the past 6 months.

I still have lots to learn to fulfil my new ministry at Strathfieldsaye Community Church, but I know that God is with me the whole way, helping me and guiding me.

I am excited about being used by God in a new way at Strathfieldsaye and I look forward to seeing how God will use me as I continue to share God's love with His people and seeing them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Bertram Mather

Rev'd Bertram Mather responded to God's call at the age of 20. He is an Ordained Minister from Methodist Church, Sri-Lanka. He has journeyed the pilgrimage of Ordained itinerant Ministry for the past 35 years.

Bertram has a great passion for the ongoing theological education. He has successfully completed the following Theological Degree programs:

- B Th (Bachelor of Theology – Serampore University, India) 1981-1985
- B D (Bachelor of Divinity – Serampore University, India) 1989-1993
- 'Graduate Diploma in Evangelism' - Presbyterian University, Seoul, South Korea - 1994
- M Phil (Master of Philosophy) - University of Birmingham, UK. 2000–2002.
- Ongoing Theological Education: Master of Pastoral Care (University of Divinity).

Bertram's ministry practice echoes his Pastoral Theology that 'Pastoral presence is the heart of the pastoral ministry'. He claims that in pastoral-care, especially in grief and traumatic situations, ministry of words has little to offer. In such situations it is the ministry presence and pastoral availability that matters. The minister communicates his/her love and care by 'being present' with 'the other' practicing pastoral embrace and pastoral listening compassion. In a pastoral presence, the minister demonstrates what it means to be in faithful pastoral relationship and pastoral availability. His pastoral practice reflects that the centre of the pastoral vocation is the call to be an encouraging pastoral presence.

The Mather Family migrated to Australia in May 2004 where Bertram joined the Uniting Church and served as a minister in placement at five parishes in Victoria: Blackburn (Avenue), Mernda, Bendigo North, Oakleigh & Hawthorn.

He brings with him the following ministerial & pastoral gifts and skills:

- Pastoral-care and Spiritual direction.
- Assisting Congregations with developing vision for mission and Church growth.
- Leadership of Worship and Proclamation of the Gospel.
- Nurturing people in their faith and spirituality empowering them to share faith with others.
- Engaging and ministering with people of all ages.
- Fostering Ecumenical Dialogue and practice.
- Out-reach and Evangelism; - Holistic Healing ministries.
- Team ministry and leadership.
- Developing inter-cultural understanding, relationships, and ministry.
- Biblical and Theological Education and Empowering Lay Leadership for Worship and discipleship.

He affirms that his Ongoing Theological Education helps and equips him to further enhance his pastoral ministry. He is a Scholar on Bonhoeffer's theology.

His vision for the Church could be summarized in Bonhoeffer's words: *"Christ did not die for the Church, but for the world. Therefore, the message of the Risen Christ, essence of the gospel and the vision for the Church has to be adapted to the requirements of the secular world"*.

His wife Stella is a Dental Surgeon by profession and working for the Royal Dental Hospital at Melbourne. Their son Sam is an undergraduate studying for a Bachelor degree in Business Studies at RMIT, Melbourne. He is a sportsman, and his preferred games are basketball and martial arts.