**Service of**

**Celebration for**

**50 years**

**of**

**Women Readers**

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**Sunday 15th September 2019**

**Christ Church Higher Bebington**

**Welcome** Jill Wright Reader Emeritus

**Opening prayer**s

We meet in the Name of God

**Hymn** **172** God is working His purpose out

**A prayer of St Julian**

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.

You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.

In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. **Amen**

**Confession**

Sisters and brothers let us call to mind our sins:

Father, we have not fully learned how to make peace;

and we have taken advantage of each other continually.

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

We have judged each other without true knowledge, and we have set up barriers of pride in possessions.

Christ, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy**

We have divided people by their skin colour, and we have even shown religious superiority

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

**1**

**Forgive us, merciful God, Father of our bodies, minds and spirits. Let us commit ourselves to You**

**Absolution**: As we are still before the Lord, in this Holy silence may we each hear His words of forgiveness so personal to each one of us…………..

**Amen**

**Bible Readings:**

Romans 12:1-8 read by Sue Yates

Matthew 28: The Great Commission read by Lynn Ions

**Short reflection** Pam Hollinshead

**Hymn** **73** Brother Sister let me serve you

What is a Reader? Jill Wright Reader Emeritus

Short interview by Helen Byrne with Angela Hamilton “*How did you become a Reader”*

**Hymn 464** Take my life and let it be

Readership today Pam Hollinshead

Readership tomorrow Helen Byrne & Lynn Ions Readers in training.

**Prayers** led by Lynn Ions

*Concluding with The Lord’s Prayer*

O God of peace, by whose grace the abbess Hilda was  
endowed with gifts of justice, prudence, and strength to  
rule as a wise mother over the nuns and monks of her  
household, and to become a trusted and reconciling friend  
to leaders of the Church:

**2**

Give us the grace to recognize and accept the varied gifts you bestow on men and women, that our common life may be enriched and your gracious will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

**Hymn** In Christ alone

**Blessing**

O Holy One,  
You who are Creator of all,  
who made humanity in Your image

Saviour of all,  
who called women and men to witness Your ministry,  
death and resurrection,  
Inspirer of all who seek and serve,  
We thank You for the women You have blessed with Your call to take on the role of Reader.

Bless to us O God, the road that is before us.

Bless to us O God, the friends who are around us.

Bless to us O God, Your love which is within us.

Bless to us O God the light that leads us home.

**Amen**.

**3**

**Readers licensed to Christ Church**

**Eric James Walter Rome 1961**

**Edgar Peter Savage 1964**

**David John Wallin 1969**

**Reginald Richard Worthington 1973**

**Arthur Wilson 1984**

**John Stephen Halliday 1992**

**Angela Hamilton 1997**

**David Hamilton 1997**

**Edward Jones 2004**

**Susan Yates 2004**

**Jill Wright 2007**

**Pam Hollinshead 2018**

**4**