

NOTE: This is an example document offered in good faith. It must be tailored to each context, iaw Canon Law, Scottish Charity Law, & the congregation's constitution.

ST MILDRED'S-BY-THE-SEA CHURCH, EDINBURGH

Vestry Commissioning: Some Notes

Each year sees a new vestry appointed for the coming year, even if it includes the same people as the previous year.

Overleaf is a sample liturgy. This is not a requirement, but having a liturgical commissioning of vestry as part of Sunday worship offers several things:

- It begins the life of that year's vestry in prayer and God's blessing, placing the work ahead in the spiritual as well as temporal realm.
- It is a public commitment of the vestry members to undertake this ministry alongside an assurance of continued prayer for them.
- It enables the congregation to see all (most) of the vestry members.
- Highlights the important role non-vestry congregants play in the church's ministry and the work of the vestry.

An opportune time to commission the vestry is the week after the Annual Meeting. Liturgically, a good place to locate it is before The Peace.

NOTE: This is an example document offered in good faith. It must be tailored to each context, iaw Canon Law, Scottish Charity Law, & the congregation's constitution.

Vestry Commissioning: Sample Liturgy

All Christians are commissioned for ministry at their baptism and equipped by the Spirit to live this out in daily life.

*Rector/
Priest-in-Charge* We are called to be the Body of Christ, the community of the Holy Spirit. The risen Lord Jesus pours out on his baptised people gifts and graces for the work of the Church. Today we commission these of our number who have been chosen to lead us as *Churchwardens*, members of Vestry and officers of Vestry. Together with the *Rector/ Priest-in-Charge*, a Vestry carries responsibility for the health and growth of God's Church in this place, and bears responsibility for its material well-being.

Lay leaders of this community, I now ask each of you to answer before God in the in the presence of this congregation:

Will you undertake your tasks wholeheartedly, faithfully, and alive to the joy that Christian service brings?

Response **I will, with God's help, and the prayerful support of others.**

*Rector/
Priest-in-Charge* I commission you for the positions to which you have been appointed, and assure you of my prayers and support.

People of *St Mildred's*, you have heard our brothers and sisters commit themselves to these ministries. Will you pray for them, support and encourage them, open yourselves to their leading, and work with them, so that Christ's Church in this place may be built up in love?

Response **We will, with God's help.**

*Rector/
Priest-in-Charge* Let us pray.

Holy God, you have called us to be the Body of Christ. May *St Mildred's* be a sign of hope in this community. May all we do, and all we are becoming, bring praise to you name and draw others to your love. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who came to serve, and bring us the fullness of life. **Amen.**

May God bless you (+) and make fruitful all that you undertake in God's name, **Amen.**