



The Ordination of Priests

also known as Presbyters

Saturday 20th June 2026

West Kirby, St Bridget

Offerton, St Albans

Grange, St Andrew

Altrincham, St George

TO BE ORDAINED PRIEST

We are here to pray for and to celebrate the ministries of those to be ordained to the priesthood and the parishes where they serve:



Ruth Abbott

West Kirby St Bridget



Carol Brooks-Johnson

Altrincham St George



Mike Duncombe

Knutsford St Cross



Karen Tracey Drury

Bowdon



Hannah Harvey

Grange St Andrew

Runcorn All Saints with Holy Trinity



Deborah Kelly

Offerton St Alban

DECLARATIONS AND OATHS

Before every ordination service, those who are to be ordained make the following declaration and oaths. They make them again on each occasion they take up a new appointment.

Preface

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?

Declaration of Assent

I, N, 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.

Oath of Allegiance

I, N, swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, his heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

Oath of Canonical Obedience

I, N, do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Bishop of Chester and his successors in all things lawful and honest: so help me God.

THE GATHERING

Hymn Living God Your Word Has Called Us

Please stand, if you are able, to sing.

Living God your word has called us
summoned us to live by grace,
make us one in hope and vision,
as we gather in this place.
Take our searching, take our praising,
take the silence of our prayer,
offered up in joyful worship,
springing from the love we share.

Living God, your love has called us
in the name of Christ your Son,
forming us to be his body,
by your Spirit making one.
Working, laughing, learning, growing,
old and young and black and white,
gifts and skills together sharing,
in your service all unite.

Living God, your hope has called us
to the world that you have made,
teaching us to live for others,
humble, joyful, unafraid.
Give us eyes to see your presence,
joy in laughter, hope in pain.
In our loving, in our living,
give us strength that Christ may reign.

Jan Berry 1953 -

ABBOTS LEIGH

The Greeting

Please remain standing. The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**Blessed be his kingdom,
now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**There is one hope
to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you
and also with you.

All sit. The Bishop introduces the service and then continues

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being.

They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Presentation

The ordinand is presented to the Bishop by the Archdeacon

Bishop Julie, I present Ruth Abbott to be ordained to the office of priest in the Church of God.

As her name is read, Ruth stands and faces the Bishop.

The Revd Alex Williams, Training Incumbent, stands, and the Bishop addresses her as follows

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

They do.

The training incumbent sits.

The Bishop addresses the ordinand

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

I do so believe.

The Bishop continues

I invite the Legal Officer to confirm that the ordinand has taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

A legal officer responds

She has duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the Bishop. She has affirmed and declared her 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.

The Collect

The Bishop says

Let us pray for those to be ordained priest
and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

A moment of silence is kept.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son
you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants
now to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The ordinand sits.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Bible Reading Philippians 3:7-14

Read by Anna Gibson, Churchwarden

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn O Thou Who Camest From Above

Please stand, if you are able, to sing.

O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
upon the altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for Thee,
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death Thy endless mercies seal,
and make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley 1707 - 1788

HEREFORD

Please remain standing if able.

The Gospel Reading Luke 12:35-43

Read by Fred Aspbury

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Peter said, ‘Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?’ And the Lord said, ‘Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Revd Alexandra Williams

THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION

The Declarations

The congregation remains seated. The ordinand stands and the Bishop says

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins. With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptise new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The Bishop addresses the ordinand directly

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do. And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

The Bishop asks the ordinand

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

I do so accept them.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

By the help of God, I will.

The ordinand turns to face the congregation and the Bishop says

Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that this ordinand are ready to undertake, and you have heard her declarations.

Is it now your will that she should be ordained?

It is.

Will you continually pray for her?

We will.

Will you uphold and encourage her in her ministry?

We will.

The ordinand turns back to face the Bishop, who continues

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The bishop and the ordinand kneel or sit while silence is kept.

Hymn Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire

Please remain seated to sing.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

John Cosin 1594-1672

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

The Litany

Led by members of the congregation

The litany is said

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve him in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Mark, Julie and Sam, our bishops, and for all bishops, priests and deacons,
that they might hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Ruth, Carol, Mike, Karen, Hannah, and Deborah,
called to be priests in his Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness
we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lost and for those who have strayed,
that they may return to the way of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and suffering, for the aged and infirm,
for the lonely and neglected, and for all who remember and care for them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the hungry,
for the homeless and the oppressed,
for all prisoners and captives,
and for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for grace to repent and amend our lives,
that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God;
to you, O Lord.

The Ordination Prayer

The Bishop prays

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ, the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death; and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly, to equip your holy people for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks that you have called Ruth your servant, whom we ordain in your name, to share as priest in the ministry of the gospel of Christ, the Apostle and High Priest of our faith, and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray

The Bishop and other priests lay hands on the ordinand's head; the Bishop prays

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Ruth for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

The Bishop continues

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father, give this your servant grace and power to proclaim the gospel of your salvation and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.

Renew her in holiness, and give her wisdom and discipline to work faithfully with those committed to her charge. In union with her fellow servants in Christ, may she reconcile what is divided, heal what is wounded and restore what is lost.

May she declare your blessings to your people; may she proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness, and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith; so shall a people made whole in Christ offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you, our God and Father, to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Giving of the Bible

The newly ordained priest adjusts her stole, to signify the beginning of her priestly ministry and is given a Bible.

The Bishop says

Receive this book, as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day to preach the gospel of Christ and to minister his holy sacraments.

The Welcome

Please stand, if able. The newly ordained priest turns to face the congregation. A senior priest of the Diocese says

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

**We welcome you as ambassadors for Christ:
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

We greet the new priest with warm applause!

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Peace

The Bishop says

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come
has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn I, the Lord of sea and sky

We remain standing, if able, to sing, during which a collection for the Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust is taken (see page 26)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

Daniel L. Schutte 1981 -

Preparation of the Table

We remain standing, if able, as the Bishop says

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through your Son Jesus Christ, our great high priest.

He was lifted up for us on the cross that he might reveal your glory
and draw all people to himself.

You exalted him to your right hand on high and through your Holy Spirit
you sent upon your people a rich diversity of gifts.

From this royal priestly people you raise up ministers to proclaim your word,
to care for your people and to be stewards of your holy mysteries.

You call them to serve the world your Son redeemed
and build up his body the Church to be his bride.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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**

The Bishop continues

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit or kneel

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop says

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Agnus Dei

We say together

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Receiving of communion

The Bishop and congregation receive communion, during which music will be played

All are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing simply keep your hands lowered and bow your head. Please ask if you require gluten free wafers. If you need communion to be brought to you please let one of the welcomers or a churchwarden know.

Post Communion Prayer

The Bishop prays

Lord God, heavenly Father, grant to your Church today
the faith of her apostles, the hope of her martyrs
and the love of her Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

All pray together

**We thank you, gracious Father,
for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom;
by your love unite us and with your Spirit send us,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

Hymn Go Forth and Tell

Please stand, if you are able, to sing.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
God will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

J E Seddon 1915 - 1983

WOODLANDS

The Blessing

We remain standing if able as the Bishop says

God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word.

Amen.

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon you the riches of his
grace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter, equip you and strengthen you in your
ministry.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The newly ordained priest says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Applause may be offered as the bishop accompanies the newly ordained priest out of
the church.*

MUSIC

The introit procession

Te Deum Prelude M.A. Charpentier

The recessional

Toccata 5th Symphony Widor

The organist - Dr Colin Porter

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust

The offertory collection for the Ordination Services is given to the Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust (CCFCT).

Supporting clergy families, and others in ministry in the Diocese of Chester.

We believe that people who work for the Church and their families should be able to blossom and thrive.

The Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust is here to offer a helping hand when it's hard to make ends meet, when couples are feeling the strain, or when children would otherwise miss out on opportunities in education or training.

CCFCT was set up in 1999 for the relief of hardship and distress, education and tuition fees and the promotion and fulfilment of family wellbeing. Your gift could help fill the gap when those serving in ministry are feeling the pressure or missing out. For families and children it might mean they can afford to learn a musical instrument or join a school trip.

Thank you for your generosity.

Scan the QR code or use the below payment details to donate

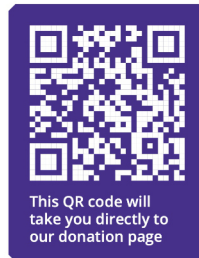
Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust
c/o Bishops House, Chester, CH1 2JD

Charity Number 1079645

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Charitable Trust

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Thank you for your help with this important work.

