Priest   My sisters and brothers, let us now ask God to bless those who have been trained to be authorised lay minsters, that they may serve him faithfully in this benefice / parish*.

Silent prayer

Blessing of ALMs

Priest   God of Glory,
your beloved Son has shown us
that true worship service comes from
those who are humble of heart.

Bless + our brothers and sisters*,
who have responded to the needs of our parish
and wish to offer their gifts and themselves

Let your Spirit uphold them always
as they take up their new responsibility
among the people of this parish,
and grant that their ministry may be fruitful
and pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All   **Amen**

The incumbent hands each ALM their certificate of authorisation and shakes their hand. When all have been presented, the incumbent invites the congregation to welcome and affirm their new ALMs by applause.

All stand as the usual liturgy resumes at the Peace.
The form of words beginning "We are the body of Christ …" is particularly appropriate to this occasion..

A form of prayer for
the Parish Commissioning of
Authorised Lay Ministers

Kingdom People
love · compassion · justice · freedom

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

This form of words is a template that may be adapted as appropriate for local use. As written, it is intended to follow the Creed, or another authorised Affirmation of Faith, at a principal service in the benefice. If it is used in other contexts, it may need some additional adaptation. As presented here, it replaces the Intercessions at the Eucharist.

The version provided below can be incorporated into local service sheets as required. However, the rite of authorisation as provided here does not require the congregation to have their own copies.

Introduction & Presentation of ALMs

The creed having been said, the incumbent says:

Priest We have professed one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. Empowered by the one Spirit, that we might live out our calling as one Body of Christ, we give thanks to God for the diversity of gifts with which he has blessed us, and come now to commission new children's and youth workers / evangelists / pastoral workers / worship leaders* for our benefice.

For each person to be authorised, a churchwarden says:

Warden I present N,M to share in the ministry and mission of this benefice / parish* as a children's and youth worker / an evangelist / a pastoral worker / a worship leader*

Priest Have they undertaken the appropriate training in this diocese to be so authorised?

Wardens **They have.**

The incumbent addresses those to be authorised:

Priest Will you faithfully and reverently carry out your duties as a witness to God's love for his Church and for the world?

ALMs **With the help of God, I will.**

Priest Will you offer your gifts in humble service, working with me within the teaching and discipline of Christ as the Church of England has received it?

ALMs **With the help of God, I will.**

* Delete / amend as appropriate

Intercessions

Priest Let us pray for these ALMs and all God's people

Another minister or appropriate lay person may lead these short prayer. This or some other response is used after each paragraph.

Leader Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Gracious God, we thank you for all those who share the good news of your love. May the whole church continue to grow in faithful witness to your Son.

Leader We give you thanks for all who work with children and young people, in church, community and school. Lead all they work with into wisdom, maturity love and faithful service.

Leader We praise you for all who help people draw close to you in prayer and worship. May they continue to grow in the knowledge of your love and truth.

Leader We bless you for all who offer the blessing of your love and care to those in need. May all who suffer in body, mind or spirit know the comfort and healing of your presence.

Leader We, your people, look for the coming of your kingdom of love, compassion, freedom and justice. May all we do be done with you, and for you, for the good of your holy church and the flourishing of all creation.

Remain in my love