

Ordination of the Rev. Deacon Dr. Lawrence Hilditch, by Rev John Tyrrell



Firstly let me tell you that about a month ago or so the Bishop asked if I would undertake to have a curate and to mentor him for an indefinite length of time. As I have done similar mentorings often, I willingly agreed.

Lawrence Hilditch comes to us from the Presbyterian Church of Northern Ireland where he ministered for several years. He is currently a full time teacher and counselor at the American Academy in Larnaca and lives in Larnaca. For the past four or so years he has worshipped at Ayia Napa with the Rev. Michael Crawford,

As Lawrence was in a church not part of the Anglican Communion and was not episcopally ordained therein, for him to become a member of the Anglican clergy he had first be made a deacon and after a period of curacy, eventually be made a priest.

It is also a matter of standard practice that a newly ordained person does not serve his curacy in his home parish. And so we are the benefactors of his experience and knowledge.

Lawrence's family comprises Rhoda, his wife, who teaches music at the Academy, and their son, Philip, who attends the Academy and is active in a youth praise band in the Larnaca area. Philip is currently spending his summer doing work in Garbage City in Cairo, working with the youth from that large and impoverished area, under the auspices of a large mission agency.

Lawrence and Rhoda have made a commitment to be part of this parish of St. Paul as much as they can for as long as he is appointed here. We all must realize that he is non-stipendiary and his travel back and forth is at his own expense as it was to Ayia Napa. Nevertheless we expect to see him every Sunday and at many of our major events and he and I will meet weekly as part of the mentoring process.

As I met with Lawrence several times before the Bishop's service of ordination I have come to believe that we will all be enriched by what he brings to us in his faith and practice. Lawrence will be away for all the rest of July but will return to us for August and will assist the locum clergy taking our services. Rhoda has kindly offered to assist us playing the organ for some of the Sundays in August.

I am delighted they are with us. For those of you who were at the ordination you will have noticed the many friends and well-wishers from SE Cyprus who came up for his service and to pray with him and wish him well.

He will be preaching from time to time when I am back and perhaps his experience in bible studies will be able to be used on occasion with our related groups, keeping in mind that he is working at a job that is demanding and more than full time.

I hope you will all get to know them well as the year progresses.