



The Very Rev'd James Hodson, Dean of Bathurst & Bishop's Commissary

The Bishop's Registry  
11 Church Street (PO Box 23)  
Bathurst NSW 2795

Monday 25 March 2024

## Ordination Announcement: Saturday 20 April 2024 at 11am

Dear brothers and sisters across our diocese,

It is with gratitude to God that I announce today that **Mr Joshua Taylor** and **Mr Stuart Border** are to be ordained as Deacons at All Saints Anglican Cathedral on Saturday 20 April at 11am.

This follows the unanimous recommendation of the diocesan ordination discernment panel, following their recent final discernment interviews with Josh and Stuart, both candidates having been prayerfully and carefully discerned for these orders over the past 12 months.

**Josh Taylor** has been a lay assistant minister at All Saints Anglican Church Leichardt since early 2022, leading a number of parish ministry areas, preaching, leading services and providing pastoral care to parish members. This experience complements Josh's completion of theological study at Sydney Missionary and Bible College in 2022.



Josh, together with his wife Jordon and three children, have a heart for rural ministry and reached out to our diocese during 2022. During the ensuing process of discernment, the decision was taken that Josh would continue his training and develop parish ministry experience in Sydney.

Following Josh's ordination, the diocesan nominators will prayerfully consider with Josh and Jordon an appropriate parish placement from 2025, and at that point liaise with the relevant parish nominators for that process of consideration.

Josh is a thoughtful and open person, who desires that His relationship with the Lord continue to deepen, and has a desire that this faith be known by those yet to have that relationship with God. He and Jordon are passionate about parish ministry in our diocese and we look forward to seeing them and their young family join us in the not too distant

future. He writes: "I came to faith at 18 after hearing a sermon about the grace of God. What impacted me about that sermon was the idea that I was never too far gone. I had assumed that living a life of sin meant that God no longer wanted me. It was a radical shift in my thinking to realise that, no matter what my life looked like, God still wanted me and I was never too far gone for God to forgive me."

I am married with three kids. My wife, Jordon, works as a midwife and is very passionate about advocating for women in the birth space. My eldest, Harvey, is 4 and started preschool this year and he is loving it! My daughter Riley is 2 and loves all things ballet. My youngest daughter, Cameron, is 8 months and is desperate to get moving and chase her older brother and sister.

In 2018, I commenced study at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. During 2018 and 2019, I was a Student Minister at All Saints Anglican, North Epping. In 2020, I moved to a more substantial ministry role at All Souls Anglican, Leichhardt. I love parish ministry and am very much looking forward to serving God and His people in the Bathurst Diocese next year."

**Stuart Border** is known to many across our diocese. He demonstrates a deep love for the Lord and regularly and confidently shares his faith with everyone he encounters. He has professed a personal relationship with the Lord his whole life, being baptised and confirmed in the Anglican church. For many years, Stuart has taken on leadership and other ministry responsibilities in the Gilgandra parish, and is a well-known and much-loved member of the wider Gilgandra community.

Since late 2022, discussions have been held with Stuart about the possibility of ordination as deacon. This would naturally see him extend his current ministry in his community. Over the course of discerning Stuart to these orders, he has proactively sought to develop his knowledge and experience through formal training and other development opportunities, and this learning process continues.

Stuart will be formally appointed as Honorary Deacon in the parish of Gilgandra and it will be exciting to see how God uses this appointment, continuing His work in and through Stuart.



Please join me in giving thanks to God for Josh, Jordon and family; and for Stuart: for their humble, obedient hearts and desire to share Jesus for life in our diocese.

Please pray too that God will make clear the suitable placement for Josh in the near future, and that they will know His blessing and care especially as they prepare to move and make the sacrifices of distance from family that this move will entail.

Finally, please pray for Stuart and for the Gilgandra parish; that this news will be met with much joy, and that God will continue to work in and through Stuart and all the ministry at the Gilgandra parish, for His glory.

Together in Christ,  
**The Very Rev'd James Hodson**  
Dean of Bathurst  
Bishop's Commissary