BOSTON DEANERY PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER JUNE QTR 2024



Well, hopefully the cold weather is over for another year, Easter services and celebrations and all the hard work that goes into them is over for another year, and as our thoughts turn towards summer holidays once more, there are lots of wonderful activities planned within our Deanery family of churches.

Our featured church this quarter is St Thomas Church, on London Road in the Parish of Boston. A fascinating little church, with a beautiful interior.



A rare photograph of both St. Thomas' Churches together before the destruction of the 'Tin Tabernacle'

### FOCUS CHURCH FOR JUNE QTR 2024

# St Thomas, History of the Church



The story of our church of Saint Thomas begins in 1834 when the Reverend William Roy, on his return from India, took the living of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Skirbeck.

It was his eldest son, Robert Evelyn Roy who was the prime mover in getting Skirbeck Quarter the church they had dreamed of having for many, many years. There was no burial ground, and all burials still took place at St Nicholas.

As the Quarter had no church of its own, St Nicholas was, for centuries, the Mother Church to the small but growing community to the southwest of the Haven waterway.

The long journey to the Mother Church was made by road or by one of the two ferries which eventually operated from the Quarter.

With an increasing population the need for a church in the Quarter became pressing and certain eminent gentlemen came together to fulfil that need.

The first church was erected on land loaned by Mr J Jebb and abutting the road on the area which is now the Church Hall car park.

The outer walls of this towered structure consisted of corrugated metal sheets. It became known as 'The Tin Tabernacle'.

It cost around £450, took eight or nine weeks to build and was opened on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1885 by Bishop Edward Trollope. It had a guaranteed life of fifteen years, but it was

used continually for 27 years, until it became unsound and was leaking badly. A new, permanent church was required urgently.

The appointment of Revd Albert Lombardini in 1909 saw the beginning of serious fundraising and it was on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1911 that saw the Reverend dig the symbolic first sod of earth for the building of a permanent church to begin.

The church was consecrated and opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1912 by Bishop Frederick Hicks. The robing of the Bishop and his entourage took place in the Tin Tabernacle, where earlier in the day communion had been celebrated; the very last service in a church that had served the community well. There was joy tinged with sadness in the community on that day as many remembered the old church with much affection.

It is now where the focus of the Parish of Boston children's ministry takes place, with Baptism preparation meetings held there, and it runs a thriving toddler group too each week.

Each year there is a very popular Summer Fete held in the hall and grounds, where you can normally find churchwarden Trevor Baily in the stocks with youngsters throwing wet sponges at him!



Smiles before



Bit wet after

# DEANERY NEWS AND EVENTS

The biggest news for our Deanery family is the appointments of

### Fr David Stephenson and Revd Mark Williams.

Details of their Licensing services have been circulated to each church, but in case you missed it, please see the details below.

The Bishop of Lincoln is pleased to announce the appointment of Fr David Stephenson as Priest in Charge (Rector Designate) of Boston in the Diocese of Lincoln.

Fr David Stephenson has most recently been working as Vicar of Musbury and Haslingden in the diocese of Blackburn.

The licensing service will take place on **Monday 29th April 2024, 7pm, St Botolph's Church**, with the Bishop of Grantham and the Archdeacon of Boston officiating. Refreshments will be served afterwards, so please confirm your attendance by email events@parishofboston.co.uk

The Bishop of Lincoln is pleased to announce the appointment of Revd Mark Williams as the new priest at St Marys Church, Swineshead in the Haven group in the Diocese of Lincoln.

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The licensing service will take place on Monday 22nd April 2024, 7pm, at St Marys Church, Swineshead.

All are welcome to attend to join in the service and to welcome Rev Mark to the Haven Group of Parishes. There will be refreshments afterwards.

I am sure you will all join me in welcoming

Fr David and Revd Mark to the Deanery

and wish them well with their new ministries.





#### **Fr David Stephenson**

Born in Boston and growing up in the county, David left Lincolnshire 30 years ago and is amazed to be returning. A student at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Horncastle and organist at St Peter's, Woodhall Spa, his vocation was nurtured from a young age. Music has always been at the heart of David's life, and he enjoyed making his school choir sing Evensong in isolated county churches.

David went on to read Music at university in Huddersfield before becoming part of the staff at St Albans Cathedral. There he worked with the Education Department as well as music, serving and virger teams. David continues to campaign for Alban to be England's patron saint.

Pursuing a teaching career, David went on to teach Music in nearby Harpenden, becoming Head of Faculty. In 2009 he and Mark moved to Lancashire where David took up a Head of Music role. This was interrupted by a call to ordination on the M65. David trained at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education with students from the UK and across the world. He was ordained in the Diocese of Blackburn in 2014.

In his present role, David is Vicar of two thriving Lancashire parishes where he has developed a ministry of feeding and outreach. He also works with both the Property Department and Vocations Team in the diocese. Wondering what life will be like without the Lancashire hills, outstandingly good pies and deep-hearted, generous, faithful and fun-filled parishioners, David is looking forward to the part of his ministry and to be coming to the Parish of Boston with its incredible musical heritage, outreach projects, and inclusion welcome for all.

David looks forward to rediscovering Lincolnshire, being closer to his family, leading the parish, and encouraging growth in faith and witness.



#### The Revd Mark Williams

Mark began his life in the City of Liverpool, a fact he is quite proud of, and has heard every comment regarding car wheels already. Leaving at 18 to go to University in Lancaster, after graduation he worked in the Lake district selling jumpers to tourists. Gaining a PGCE, Mark taught RE in Blackburn, with varying degrees of success.

Having felt the call to ordination from a very early age, Mark was selected for training in 1998, and spent two exceedingly happy years at Cranmer Hall. Serving his curacy in the Hertfordshire town of Bishop's Stortford. Completing his curacy, Mark then moved to be a Team Vicar in The Chipping Barnet Team, at St Mark's Barnet Vale, and St Peter's Arkley.

After six years Mark moved back to Lancashire to St

Matthew's Church in Burnley. A mixture of the most deprived areas of the country, but predominantly suburban housing, which reflected the dynamic of the congregation.

After a brief sojourn in the millionaire's row of Salford known as the Village of Worsley, Mark returned to Blackburn Diocese to his first taste of rural ministry in the spectacular scenery of the Ribble Valley. He describes his time here as the most contented time of his life, and has loved being involved with all three villages in many and varied ways.

Mark would see his faith journey as one of liberal acceptance, and inclusion. A lover of the Book of Common Prayer, this has not prevented him from experimenting with all kinds of worship styles, hoping to meet the spiritual hearts of all age groups.

He looks forward to becoming part of the Lincoln Diocese, and the parishes of the Haven Group, an area of the country he has known, and grown to love through his partner David, for almost 20 years.

# WIDER CHAPTER MEETING

The next Wider Chapter meeting to be held at St Botolphs church, in the Cotton Chapel at 6.30pm on the 23rd of April with Bishop Stephen.



# **EVENTS AROUND THE CHURCHES**

## **KIRTON HOLME**



CHRIST CHURCH KIRTON HOLME COFFEE MORNINGS

> 13th May 2024 10th June 2024 8th July 2024

10.00am - 11.30am

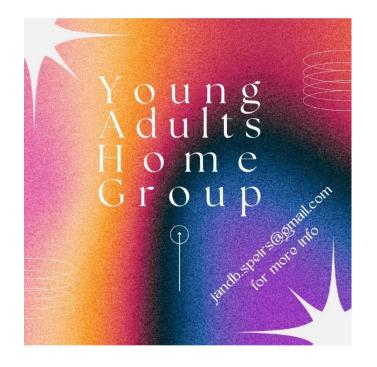
COFFEE/TEA & CAKE £1.50 per person

RAFFLE



Saturday 20th April Kirton Holme Church Hall Doors open 6.30pm Eyes Down 7.00pm Refreshments & Raffle Proceeds for Village Enhancement

#### SIBSEY ST MARGARETS





## KIRTON ST PETER AND ST PAUL



## HOLY TRINITY BOSTON

#### Weekly Events:

Wednesdays in term time: Trinity Tots, a toddler group for under 5's parents and carers 9:00 am to 11:45 am

Wednesdays in Term time: Milkshake Shack a drop in after school 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Thursdays every week: Trinity Café 11:30 am to 3:30 pm serving drinks, snacks and light lunches.







## ST BOTOLPHS & ST THOMAS, BOSTON

First Saturday of each month - LEGO CLUB 10.30am - 12 noon



#### ST THOMAS' CHURCH HALL WARM SPACE SOCIALS

**Tuesdays** 

Baby & Toddler Group 9.30am - 11.15am



Community Lunches 11.30am - 2.00pm



#### **Fridays**

St Thomas' Senior Social

10.00am - 12Noon

Refreshments & games such as scrabble & dominoes!









The St Botolphs Community Garden will be hosting the June 1<sup>st</sup> Lego Club.

In conjunction with the National Childrens Gardening Week, will have garden themed crafts and activities on from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Free activities, including bug hunts, seed planting, garden games, craftwork and more.

All are welcome to come along to visit this little haven of peace in the centre of Boston town.



Thank you to everyone who has supplied information – it is really lovely to see all the wonderful activities that our Deanery Family are providing for the local communities.

Please continue to let me know what is happening so that I can populate the next newsletter.

Thank you.

My email is <u>Jayne.maddy@parishofboston.co.uk</u>

or telephone 01205 310929 Mon-Thur 9am **–** 2.30pm

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY 2024. THIS EDITION WILL COVER ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR JULY AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2024



Please let me have your items for inclusion by Friday 21<sup>ST</sup> June 2024 Thank you.