

## Boston Deanery Partnership Update May 2023

A reminder of church types as they stand at the moment, and the two agreed Local Mission Partnerships.

LMP SOUTH	LMP NORTH	
Boston St Botolph	Holy Trinity Skirbeck	Key Mission
Kirton Wyberton	Fishtoft (St Nicholas)	Local Mission
Boston St Thomas Frampton St Mary, Frampton St Michael Donnington, Sutterton, Swineshead, Wigtoft	Butterwick, Freiston, Leverton, Friskney, Old Leake, Wrangle Sibsey Holland Fen, Kirton Holme	Community
Boston St Christopher Bicker	Brothertoft, Langrick, Wildmore Carrington, Frithville, New Bolingbroke	Festival
Algarkirk		Explore Closure

RICHBOROUGH (SOCIETY) MISSION PARTNERSHIP		
St Nicholas Skirbeck,		Local Mission
Fosdyke		Community

**Local Mission Partnership South:** The expectation is this LMP will have three full time stipendiary clergy and the pledges currently cover this.

**The Parish of Boston:** The advert for a new appointment is currently out and interviews are expected to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Revd Jane will be leaving in the autumn. Revd Sally currently in second year of curacy.

**Wyberton/Frampton:** Revd Sudharshan in post and expecting to work more widely across the LMP.

**Kirton:** discussions are continuing about the most appropriate way forward for the parish

**The Haven Group:** Revd Charlie's retirement has been announced and he will be leaving in the autumn. Discussion about how best to cover these parishes are starting to be held with the Rural Dean and other LMP ministers. The expectation is that there will be a replacement incumbent in post within a short period of time.

There are baptism preparation sessions planned for dates at St Thomas' for the LMP. There may be some joint marriage preparation also.

**Local Mission Partnership North:** The hope is that this LMP will continue to have 3 stipendiary clergy although the pledges at the moment mean that there is the expectation of only 2 posts being funded.

**Holy Trinity Skirbeck:** No change currently expected, Revd Lis and Rev Ian (who is NSM/self-supporting) are in post.

**Sibsey & Carrington and Brothertoft groups:** Revd Jon Speirs Davis has temporary responsibility for these parishes under Revd Lis as Rural Dean. There is no current expectation that a new incumbent will be appointed.

**Fishtoft:** No change currently expected. Revd Marc is on sabbatical until July 2023.

The Coastal Cluster: No change currently expected. Revd Andy has returned from the first part of his sabbatical and is currently taking the remainder as some shorter working weeks over the next few months.

**Richborough (The Society) Local Mission Partnership:** Father John Underhill has now moved on from St Nicholas and is hoping to be accepted into the Roman Catholic church. There are arrangements in place to cover Sunday worship and other sacraments at St Nicholas' and Fosdyke via retired clergy. Local pastoral and legal support is via the Rural Dean, for example funeral services at the crematorium will be covered by local ministers. A replacement incumbent at St Nicholas is not currently being planned.

**Other updates:** Since October the Partnership Dean and Lay Lead have been attending joint days meeting with those from other Deanery Partnerships. It has been helpful to hear what is happening in other places, although all the contexts are very different and there is no "one size fits all" answer. Boston DP has made all the pledges and a start has been made by most churches this year towards fulfilling them. We are meeting together regularly at clergy/chapter and deanery levels and there is communication and assistance across both the LMPs and the DP.

**Mission Enabler (volunteer post):** David Acheson has taken on this role for the Boston DP.

**DP Administrator:** we have had the funding approved for Jayne Maddy (current Rural Dean administrator) and Nikki Jackson (current part-time administrator at Holy Trinity) to job-share 15 hours per week for this role. Jayne will continue to do 6 hours and Nikki will do 9 hours. The role will not replace current administration arrangements in individual parishes, but it is hoped will start to provide a more centralised administrative base across the two LMPs and support for all those involved in ministry both lay and ordained. We are hoping to get the contracts in place to start this arrangement from June.

**Oversight and Focal Ministry:** The next stage of the TTCT process will see the development of oversight and focal ministers. Focal ministers could be lay or ordained and are expected to become the first contact with churchwardens in a parish. In some ways this is a reflection of what is happening already with some ALMs/churchwardens already being the first contact for those asking for baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral support. Oversight ministers will usually be ordained or licensed and will be the support for focal ministers. Again, this will look different in different places, and will develop depending on local contexts and ministry as we continue to work out how to work together.

If you would like someone to come to talk with your PCC about what is going on – and to try to answer questions and seek shared vision for your parishes please do ask. If there are things that you would like to see changed this is a good opportunity to start thinking about how and what might be possible. We can all pray and remember that we are not alone as we go through times that are challenging and difficult.

**"If you love me, obey me; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another helper, and he will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit..."** John 14:15-16

Rev Lis Ward (Rural Dean/Partnership Dean)

For Deanery Synod 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023