



Lincoln Diocese ~ the place in which we minister

The Diocese of Lincoln today approximates the historic County of Lincolnshire, which still exists as the ceremonial county, with a Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff who serve the whole area. North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire became separate unitary authorities in 1996.

The Diocese itself is a series of culturally and economically complex communities. Whilst there are significant pockets of affluence (especially in the south of the Diocese, popular with London commuters), issues of both rural and urban poverty are significant. The diversity can be observed through health inequalities.

(www.lincoln.anglican.org/Worship&Mission)

Whether you see the big skies of the fen by the majestic Boston Stump, or the market towns of Grantham and Spalding and the stonebuilt splendour of Stamford, or the sleepy backwaters 'with more potatoes than people', you will find a remarkable part of England, already grasping the challenges that the rest of the Church of England will be facing in future.

The Church in southern Lincolnshire is privileged to serve a vast variety of communities and to be part of a rich social scene of great antiquity but with contemporary concerns and modern expressions of life. Beautiful church buildings abound, as do faithful congregations of varying sizes, often led by committed lay ministers. Churches are exploring new ways of serving local communities with imagination, prayer and generosity of spirit.

The north of the Diocese is a rich mix of rural and urban, offering a constant diversity of contexts for mission and ministry. These underpin a move from dependence on priestly ministry, to interdependence between priest and people, with laity increasingly taking responsibility for ministry and worship. This sense of responsibility is the bedrock for mission and for growing the Church. Multi-cultural estates by the Humber Estuary, the steel works, a major container port, the national fish-processing industry, caravans and holidaymakers on the coast, busy market towns, tiny villages set in rolling arable farmland, all contribute to the fascinating and rich mix.

In the City of Lincoln itself, where crime remains low by national standards, the most striking development in recent years has been the establishment of the new university, now home to some 10,000 students. It has also brought a demand for the performing arts and the range of cultural activities increasingly mirrors that of other cities. Another impact of the university has been the development of a vibrant night economy and a much younger feel to the below hill shopping area.

The renovation of the inland harbour, the Brayford Pool, has added to the visitor appeal of the city. With its Roman canal and connection to the sea via the Humber and the Wash, the Brayford serves as a counterpoint to the Norman cathedral and castle, the medieval Steep Hill and the village-like atmosphere of uphill Lincoln.

The Collection Museum displays Lincolnshire's heritage, and the recently refurbished Usher Gallery has a remarkable collection of memorabilia of Alfred Lord Tennyson, one of Lincolnshire's many famous sons.

Lincoln Cathedral is acknowledged as one of the finest of the medieval Gothic cathedrals and continues to fulfil its role as a place of prayer and pilgrimage. It is the focus for both church and society throughout the Diocese. It plays a significant part in the economy of the region and has become an international centre for training in heritage building craft skills. It has one of the finest provincial cathedral choirs in the country. International links have grown in recent years, not least through its ownership of one of only four original Magna Carta. The Cathedral provides a setting for lectures, concerts, graduations and many other activities in addition to its central and primary task of daily worship and the proclamation of the Gospel.



Thus within our 2,673 square miles, with 950,000 people and 645 churches in 513 parishes there is a great deal to be admired and much to be accomplished in the Diocese of Lincoln, to set it at the forefront of our mission and ministry.