



Statement of Needs

**North Loveden**

**Part of the Loveden Deanery consisting of:**

**Brant Broughton with Beckingham and  
Stragglethorpe, Leadenham and Welbourn**

**and**

**The Caythorpe Group  
(The Parishes of Carlton Scroop, Caythorpe and  
Fulbeck)**



View from Loveden Hill



# The North Loveden group of parishes

## *Where are we?*

North Loveden, though an appealing name, is not a geographical entity. It describes a group of eight villages and churches in mid Lincolnshire, lying in unspoilt countryside between the City of Lincoln and the market towns of Grantham, Sleaford and Newark.

The villages vary in size and amenities and many have retained the main focal points of village life, church, school, shop, post office, village hall, playing field and pub. There is a large comprehensive school in Welbourn (Sir William Robertson High School - 800 pupils on roll, and a sixth form from 2012), and a highly regarded GP practice in Caythorpe. Major services are available in Lincoln and the other local towns, which also have a lively cultural life. The nearest 'big city' is Nottingham. The A1 and the East Coast Main Line are both close at hand, with stations at Grantham and Newark.

The communities are largely traditional but have considerable potential for developing the work of the church.

## *Worship in the parishes*

Worship in the Leadenham group of parishes is traditional including a regular weekly said BCP Communion Service at 9am, a Common Worship Eucharist, Morning Prayer or Family Service with hymns and sermon at 10 or 10.30am. During the summer there is a 6 pm Sunday service which may be BCP Communion, Compline or Evening Prayer. These services rotate around the group, as do the main services for the major festivals of the Church's year. There is a Group Choir which takes part in these services.

During 2011, there were 13 baptisms, 18 funerals and 2 weddings across the whole of the benefice.



St Swithun's Church, Leadenham

All Saints' Church, Beckingham



St Vincent's Church,  
Caythorpe



St Nicholas' Church, Carlton Scroop

St Nicholas' Church, Fulbeck



### *The Rectory*

There is a pleasant 4 bedroomed stone Rectory in Leadenham which was built in the 1980s.

### *Pastoral arrangements*

The parishes of Beckingham, Brant Broughton with Stragglethorpe, Leadenham and Welbourn are held in plurality and have been successfully working together for some 10 years; therefore, they have come to know each other well. The new parish priest will be the incumbent of these parishes.

The association between these parishes and the Caythorpe group (the parishes of Carlton Scroop, Caythorpe and Fulbeck) is more recent; in view of the possibility of further pastoral reorganisation in the Loveden Deanery, the new parish priest will initially be the priest in charge of the Caythorpe group.

In spite of the different history and status of the parishes, all concerned look forward to everyone working together happily.

### *Ordained colleague*

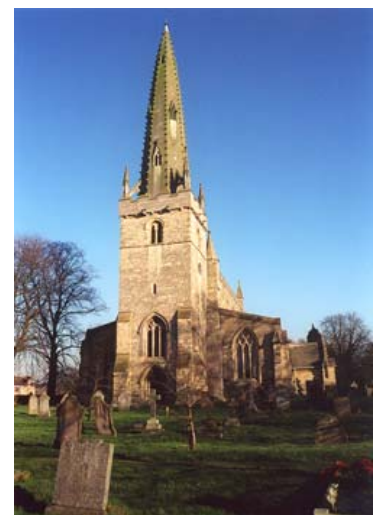
At present the Caythorpe group has a dedicated 'house for duty' priest, the Revd June Freshney, who offers Sunday services and a couple of days a week. Amongst her current duties is general pastoral work and the organisation of the service rota for the group.



St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton



St Michael's Church, Stragglethorpe



St Chad's Church, Welbourn

### *What are we seeking in our new priest?*

The parishes' representatives seek 'an energetic person of priestly vision, humour and the ability to be flexible. Above all, a good shepherd.'

We need an enthusiastic and committed incumbent, who will enjoy living in a lively village and relish the opportunity to involve all generations in the life and work of the church, both public and private. There is great scope and the promise of a mutually enriching ministry for someone who has energy and an ability to communicate with everybody whether or not they are 'churchgoers'.

In turn, we offer parishes where safeguarding is taken seriously and which appreciate the importance of supporting our incumbent in taking days off and holidays as well as taking an annual retreat and engaging in continuing ministerial development.



## Beckingham

Beckingham is a small village of some 140 houses and 350 inhabitants at the extreme west of the Benefice. The village has a garage, pub, and an award winning restaurant, a village hall and the church. There is an infrequent bus service from the village to Lincoln and Newark. Most primary age children travel to school in Brant Broughton, those of secondary age to a variety of schools in Welbourn, Sleaford, Grantham or Lincoln. Socially there is a good mix of people. Opposition to a recent application to place three wind turbines only 500 metres from the village united the village in action.



The church of All Saints dates from the 13th century, and is a Grade One listed building. It was severely neglected in the second half of the 20th century, and closed for seven years. It re-opened late in 2005 after repairs to the chancel roof. In the last seven years around £300,000 has been spent on making the church watertight and structurally sound. Repairs to the tower costing £160,000 started in January 2012. Due to on-going building work the church currently has no heating, only three working light sockets and one

working power point. There are holes in the floor between some pews. The pipe organ was damaged beyond repair and we now use an electronic organ. The bells are not in a fit state to be rung or tolled. The clock does not work. The last Quinquennial Inspection was in 2002. The cost of outstanding repairs could be as much as £500,000.

The people of the village were also neglected when the building was neglected, and the congregation became very small. During the time the church was closed the small congregation showed considerable resilience, as four or five people met in the churchwarden's house for worship about once a month, usually without a recognised minister to lead them. The electoral roll is currently 10 people. About 35 families have some sort of connection to the church and, following a funding drive in 2010, villagers now contribute around £5000 a year towards running costs. In the parish there is one retired priest, one Reader, and one lay minister. There



have been one or two baptisms a year, a wedding or wedding blessing about once every five years, and funerals about once every two years.



The core congregation is up to a dozen, but they are very well supported on special occasions, with up to 120 at the Carol Service. There is regularly one service a month, and in summer months the 5th Sunday service for the whole Benefice will be held here. As there is no heating in the church, services between Christmas and Easter are held in

local homes. Services are relatively informal and very varied. The small size of the congregation and the winter services in homes have meant that we have experimented with different formats for worship. We are the only church in the group that uses Common Worship Morning Prayer. Each January we have a Plough Sunday service in a local farmhouse. We also have a 'Pancake' Service before Ash Wednesday. Winter services in homes (including Holy Communion) are rather like House Group meetings. We have also held two Pet Services in the last three years. There is a great deal of lay involvement in the services, often being led by the Reader and/or the lay minister. The congregation would like this to continue. We have no prayer books and rely on leaflets and booklets, and only have the English Hymnal for singing hymns. Regular social events include a Lent lunch, the annual parish supper, an annual coffee morning, and in most years there is a church fete.

Since 2008 the church has had a 'sister church' arrangement with St Barnabas Episcopal Church in Mount Shasta in the Diocese of Northern California, with whom we share news and prayer requests. Sixteen people from there visited All Saints in 2011, and a return visit is planned for 2013.

We would like a new incumbent with spiritual depth, vigorous and forward thinking to help our restoration plans and help promote worship within our community. We would like an incumbent who is aware of and will implement recent initiatives such as Messy Church and Godly Play and will further develop our experimental ways of worship to make them more relevant to our community. We would like him/ her to promote better training and use of lay ministers in leading worship and in pastoral care, and to put in place organisational structures which are not over-dependent on the Incumbent. We need an incumbent who understands village and rural communities. We would like an incumbent who has a proven track record in building fellowship, and who is accepting of women in ministry, including women priests.



## Brant Broughton with Stragglethorpe

Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe lie on either side of the A17 in open country. They cover an area of nearly 3,000 acres and have a population of 600+. There is a wide range of housing, the majority being owner-occupied, and a variety of occupations. Brant Broughton has a range of amenities, including a Church of England Methodist Controlled Primary School with some 75 children on roll (which also serves Beckingham and Carlton-le-Moorland), a residential college for autistic young people, kindergarten, pub, a new village hall, fire station and outreach post office. There is also in Brant Broughton a Friends' Meeting House dating from 1701 and a Wesleyan Reform Chapel. See [www.brantbroughtonlocal.co.uk](http://www.brantbroughtonlocal.co.uk) and [www.brant-broughton.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.brant-broughton.lincs.sch.uk) for more information.

The two Grade 1 listed medieval churches are both in a good state of repair and have featured in



St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton

various publications, including Simon Jenkins' book: 'The Thousand Best Churches in England'. They receive many visitors, often drawn in to St Helen's by the view of its 198 feet high spire seen clearly from the A17. Between 1991 and 2010 a cleaning programme was undertaken in St

Helen's and in various stages during that time all the ceilings and walls were professionally cleaned and restored. We are

now beginning to think about installing kitchen/toilet facilities. The last Quinquennial Inspection was in 2009 and all necessary work was completed.

Our pattern of services at St Helen's has been varied with 'something for everyone', ranging from traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, Common Worship Parish Communions, Family Services, Evening Prayer and Compline. Children's work has always been active and our Family Services continue to be well attended. There are close links with the Primary School who come to church for special services throughout the school year. Occasional services are held at St Michael's, including a Harvest Festival and a Carol Service. The average number of weddings each year is 2; baptisms, 3 and funerals, 8.



St Michael & All Angels at Stragglethorpe



The Electoral Roll includes 58 people. We have one lay minister who is also licensed to assist with the chalice. Although regular attendance has fallen in recent years, the church continues to be well supported and has always paid its Parish Share, which last year amounted to £9,580, in full.

We look forward to welcoming and supporting a priest who will live and preach the Gospel and who will understand the needs of a rural group of parishes as it

faces a challenging future. We hope our new incumbent will be an inspiration to all age groups and that, alongside Common Worship, the Book of Common Prayer will continue to play a part in our patterns of worship.

*Attached: Church guide and Brant Broughton & Stragglethorpe Parish Plan*



## Caythorpe

The parish of Caythorpe and Frieston is situated on the A607 with Lincoln 15 miles north, Grantham 9 miles south, and Newark and Sleaford 9 miles west and east respectively.

Caythorpe has a regular hourly bus service between Lincoln and Grantham and a Call Connect service linking other transport routes. Grantham's railway station is served by East Coast trains, with regular services to London Kings Cross in 1 hour 15 mins.

Caythorpe is a lively and growing village housing a diverse and constantly changing population of around 1500. The village is well served with a medical centre, post office, two public houses, village store, fish and chip shop, florist, a mobile butcher and fishmonger.

The village's Playing Field and Social Club serves our sportsmen and women well in a range of activities. Sports teams of all ages are able to take advantage of new pavilion facilities. 2011 saw the completion of a new children's play area, a huge asset for children and families. The Village Hall provides a larger venue for all types of events and is regularly used by



organizations and groups.

Caythorpe Primary School has 134 children ranging from Reception to Year 6. Whilst it is not a church school, we have a very good relationship with the school and encourage them to use the church for special services. Our present priest makes regular visits into school also. The school site also houses the village's Pre-School, for children from 2 years till they transfer to school, and a Children's Centre to help families with all aspects of early years development.

To the east of the village is PGL children's holiday centre, which sees a seasonal workforce employed to supervise visiting children.

### *The parish church of St Vincent*

Our parish church of St Vincent is on the northern edge of the village; its 156 foot spire can be seen on all the approaches to Caythorpe for many miles.

Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, it continues to serve the community in all aspects of church life. It is regularly used for concerts and other fund raising activities; many times during the year we are able to have lunches and coffee mornings in an open area to the west end of the church.

St Vincent's is well loved and well cared for and is at present under consideration by English Heritage with regard to a grant for essential repairs to the nave roof and spire.

One major use in the year is to host a Memorial Service for the 216 Parachute Signals Regiment who were stationed in and around Caythorpe during Operation





Market Garden in September 1944. Each year, veterans, families and present serving 216 return to the village to join in a host of activities which culminate in the Memorial Service. 216 consider St Vincent's their spiritual home.

*The regular services are*

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9 am	Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10 am	Eucharist
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	6 pm	Celtic Worship
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30 am	Breakfast followed by Family Service

Wednesdays 9 am Holy Communion

On the Friday before the monthly Family Service is Friday Club (Messy Church) at 3.45 pm

*PCC and Ministry Team*

The three members of our ministry team assist with all aspects of ministry in the parish, supported by our 13 strong PCC who aim to uphold our mission statement, which reads:

The aim of this church is to create in the parish an awareness of the Gospel of Christ and its implications for the community, to provide a spiritual resource through which parishioners of all ages can develop wholeness, and make appropriate responses in service to the community and in worship.

The Parish Share for 2011 was £14,103 of which we paid 85.1%.

Further information about Caythorpe and Frieston can be found on the Parish Council website at <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/CaythorpeFrieston>



## Carlton Scroop

The parish church of St Nicholas Carlton Scroop is Grade 1 listed and set in the oldest part of the village, 8 miles north of Grantham on the A607.



The south nave roof of the church was renewed in Westmorland tile at the end of 2010. The clock was electrified some years ago.

Three bells hang in the tower. In the east-facing wall adjoining the church is a fine Norman arch. The east window is of some note. A 13<sup>th</sup> century knight figures in the top right of the window, which was exhibited in London as a fine and rare example of its kind.

There is a small but faithful congregation and the church remains well maintained - as is the

churchyard known as 'God's Acre', which has been stocked with a wonderful abundance of wild flowers; this is a pretty place to contemplate and provides a valuable site for wildlife and for visitors and villagers to enjoy.

In 2011 our Parish Share was £4,090, which we paid in full.

The village is set in good agricultural land and hence is surrounded by farms. There is a nine hole golf club and a busy Village Hall used by many organisations including Cubs and Scouts. There is a regular bus service from Carlton Scroop to both Grantham and Lincoln.

Neighbouring Normanton on Cliffe, whose parish church is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust, has a busy and thriving haulage business, which provides some local employment along with other small businesses and local farms. The nearest shops, post office, areas for recreation and public houses are in Caythorpe.

## Fulbeck

### *Our village and its church*

Fulbeck, with a population of around 450, is the second largest village in the Caythorpe Group. It lies roughly equidistant from Grantham, Lincoln, Sleaford and Newark, with a regular bus service to the first two. It supports a public house, a village hall, a sports club, and a complex including a craft shop, saddler and tea room. The Village Hall is used for many social activities including the annual harvest supper, and church cheese and wine parties, as well as fitness groups, Parish Council meetings, and antiques fairs.



The church of St Nicholas is mainly of three periods, which may be dated around the years 1220, 1320 and 1470. There are some remnants in the church of an earlier building; for instance, the remains of the round Norman window, which can be seen on the south wall of the nave, the piece of carved stone which has been built into the wall in the sanctuary and is now used as a credence table. The church is open during the daylight hours throughout the year.

### *Church services*

Services are normally held on the second and fourth Sundays when there is not a benefice service and are always sung Eucharist.

Morning Prayer is said in church on Friday mornings. In addition to the regular benefice services, we always hold a number of special services including a well-attended Remembrance Sunday service, a Christmas Carol Service and a Harvest Thanksgiving. Church attendance for normal services is in the mid twenties and stable. The special services are usually very well attended.

We are fortunate that we have a keen and talented church choir and team of bell ringers, which add greatly to the ambience of our services.

### *The state of our church building*

St Nicholas Church is in good repair. Having been the subject of lead thefts in 2011, the south aisle and porch is now being roofed in terne-coated stainless steel.

### *Parish share*

The Fulbeck Parish Share for 2011 was £8,243 and was paid in full.



**For further information about Fulbeck village and its church visit  
<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fulbeck>**



## Leadenham



Leadenham is a traditional rural village, previously known as Long Leadenham. The village is situated at a crossroads between four towns – Lincoln, Grantham, Sleaford and Newark.

Our population is about 300. The village is mainly a farming community of tenant farmers on Leadenham estate with some newer properties built in the late 1970s. It also has light industry, a post office, farm shop, garage and shop, stables, polo club, hotel and public house. The hotel has full restaurant facilities and rooms as does the public

house. See [www.thegeorgeatleadenham.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeatleadenham.co.uk) for more information.

We have an excellent Church of England Aided Village Primary School ([www.leadenhamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.leadenhamprimaryschool.co.uk)) and the Sir William Robertson High School ([www.swrhs.org](http://www.swrhs.org)), which is half a mile from the centre of the village just over the parish boundary with Welbourn.

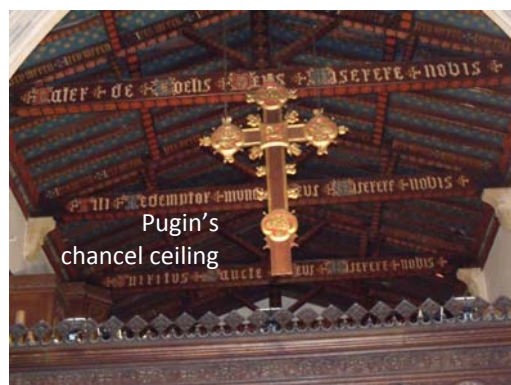
A new Village Hall was built twelve years ago. It has visiting theatre groups, mothers and toddlers, keep fit, yoga and adjoining sports field with all weather court, bowling green and children's play area.

[www.communitylincs.com/download/community\\_led\\_plans/Action%20Plan.pdf](http://www.communitylincs.com/download/community_led_plans/Action%20Plan.pdf)

St Swithun's Church, a Grade 1 listed 13<sup>th</sup> century building, stands at the south end of the village. The Pugin ceiling, dated 1841, has been cleaned and restored and is admired by many. The last Quinquennial Inspection was in September 2010; the estimated cost of outstanding repairs was £280,000. Recently a grant has been awarded by English Heritage to replace worn out lead on the nave roof and work will start in 2012.

During 2011 one baptism and five funerals took place.

Leadenham is a traditional parish. Our pattern of worship includes services from the Book of Common Prayer - Holy Communion, Matins, Evensong,



Compline; Eucharist from Common Worship, and special services on celebratory occasions, such as the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, the Diamond Jubilee of The Queen, the successful culmination of a project (for example, the completion of the restoration of the Pugin chancel ceiling), or St. Swithun's Patronal Festival. The Parish Share for 2011 was £6,120, which was paid in full.

Services are shared within our group, each parish taking its turn in hosting the main Christmas, Mothering Sunday and

Easter services. Sometimes there will be refreshments in the church or churchyard, depending on the weather. During Lent and Advent, there is usually a study group.

We look forward to being able to continue this pattern when we welcome our new incumbent, whom we hope will play an active roll in the village, visiting the school regularly and continue to support us through the challenges which face a rural community.



The stocks at St Swithun's Fete!

*Enclosures:*

A Short Guide to the Parish Church of St Swithun, Leadenham

The Pugin Ceiling

Information about Leadenham Church of England (Aided) Primary School

## Welbourn

Welbourn is an attractive, ladder-shaped, village just off the main road between Lincoln and Grantham.

It is a contented community of 650 people, which is well served with two schools, a shop, post office, hairdresser, pub, and an hourly bus service between Lincoln and Grantham. There are two residential/nursing homes, providing employment for local people. Other employment comes from farming, engineering, nearby RAF bases, building businesses and other opportunities in Lincoln and the local towns.

Our newly upgraded Village Hall provides activities most days, and various social events. The large playing field and the ancient monument of Castle Hill are attractive meeting places for our young people.

The church community is actively involved in village life, and the wider community, including those of other denominations. The village values and supports the church, particularly its social events and major festivals.



The parish church of St Chad is in a generally good state of repair with a fine peal of 8 bells. The splendid organ has recently had a major restoration. The central heating has also been upgraded recently. We have been successful in raising funds and grants to renew the roof, and, having succeeded in a large grant application to English Heritage, hope to start work later this year. There is a crack in the spire as a result of earthquake damage but this is not serious enough to prevent the bells from being rung and will be covered by the insurance when it is repaired in due time.

Our services are varied, usually three a month. Traditional forms of worship are popular with the more mature members of the congregation, but they happily join our young families for more outgoing forms of worship. Sung services are generally Common Worship. The congregation is in the range 12/25 rising to 150 for major services. Welbourn Church of England Primary School ([www.welbournprimary.co.uk/](http://www.welbournprimary.co.uk/)) has a long-standing and close association with us and joins us for a variety of services. There is scope to develop links with Sir William Robertson High School ([www.swrhs.org/](http://www.swrhs.org/)).

During 2011 there were five baptisms, two weddings and one funeral. Our Parish Share of £9,050 was paid in full. The Group Choir travels between Welbourn, Leadenham, Brant Broughton and Beckingham for special services.

There are 57 people on the electoral roll, 2 lay ministers and 2 people authorised to help with the administration of Holy Communion. Three parishioners explored the Alpha Course.

We are looking for a priest to be a spiritual guide, to encourage and inspire our young people to join us in church, be confirmed, marry, and bring their own children to baptism - and to develop the support we receive from the wider community so that they too join us in worship. We particularly need a priest to be a beacon we can emulate and so grow the faith in the village.

Useful websites:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/101663> and <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Welbourn/>