



Fr Ed Martin

Fr Edward Martin (Ed) was born Nottinghamshire and grew up in Girton (a small village near Newark). After attending school in Tuxford, where he met his wife Lesley, Ed studied for a BA in Politics at Hull University before working for several years at the Benefits Agency in Lincoln. He studied for the Priesthood at the College of the Resurrection in West Yorkshire and was ordained in 2003, serving his Curacy in Carrington on the outskirts of Nottingham.

In 2006 Ed was appointed as Priest in Charge of Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe on the east coast of Lincolnshire before heading northeast to serve as Rector of Scartho and Vicar of St Augustine's and St Andrew's in Grimsby. From 2019, Ed worked as Warden of Edenham Retreat House and Vicar of the Parishes of Edenham, Witham-on-the-Hill and Swinstead.

In 2024 he was given the added responsibility of being Rector (designate) of St Mary's in Stamford, the mother-Church of the town, in conjunction with the Diocese of Lincoln's 'Time To Change Together' initiative (TTCT). TTCT has encouraged Parish communities to form new working relationships and practice careful stewarding to be better equipped for mission and service in the community. Just over a year ago, discussions began to discern if the Bythams group of Parishes (Castle Bytham, Little Bytham, Careby and Creeton) might enter a new arrangement with the Edenham Parishes and St Mary's Stamford under Ed's oversight. Those discussions bore fruit and the new arrangement came into being in May 2025. Towards the end of 2025 it was announced that Ed would be relinquishing his role as Warden of the Retreat House at Edenham, in order to move to Castle Bytham and concentrate fully on his enhanced Parochial responsibilities. A new House-for-duty Warden for the Retreat House will be appointed later this year.

Ed and Lesley will be sorry to leave the Vicarage at Edenham, but he's looking forward to being formally appointed as Priest-in-Charge (Vicar designate) of the Bythams (in plurality with his roles in the Edenham Benefice and in Stamford). Ed and Lesley hope to join the resident community in Castle Bytham early in the Spring. Fr Ed is under no illusions as to the scale of the responsibility he now holds, but he's been greatly encouraged by the welcome and encouragement he's received in the Bythams as well as the invaluable assistance of his retired colleagues Canon Paul Denby and Canon Andy Hawes.

Fr Ed's interests include collecting pre-Victorian Bibles and Prayer Books (c.400 volumes), Georgian teacups, 18th century chairs and memorabilia connected with Edward King (Bishop of Lincoln 1829–1910). During the 2020 lockdown he developed a passion for pre-1960 bicycles and raised money by riding his trusty Hercules (three gears, rod brakes and a basket) to Grantchester near Cambridge, arriving just in time to unintentionally interrupt filming for the popular TV show of the same name. Fr Ed and his wife Lesley have two grown-up children both living and working in Yorkshire.

