



## **The Revd Mother Karen Gooding**

Karen is very excited to be continuing her ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln by returning to rural ministry- her first love- in the Louthesk Deanery. Prior to ordination, Karen trained at the Royal Academy of Music and combined teaching music with being the mother of five (now grown up) children, the youngest of whom Aidan lives at home with her.

Karen was ordained Deacon in 2011 in Grimsby Minster after training in the Lincoln School of Ministry. She subsequently moved to London to serve her title in the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Enfield where she was priested and studied for a M.A in Contemporary Ministry and Apologetics at Kings College, London. Karen then moved to St Andrew's Church, Southgate and remained there as Assistant Priest while serving as School Chaplain in All Saint's Academy, Dunstable.

Karen has always been a country girl at heart and she was delighted to move to a Kent village in 2016 to serve the Wantsum Benefice. An invitation to combine this ministry with the nearby town church followed and Karen became Priest in Charge of St Saviour's, Westgate on Sea in the diocese of Canterbury in 2019.

Karen soon created new ways of communicating with her parishioners, viewing the challenges of the pandemic as opportunities to expand her ministry online and tackle livestreaming- as well as working closely with the Town Council to alleviate hardship and suffering locally, especially amongst the many people who were isolated and the refugees and migrants constantly arriving on the Kent coast. Since 2022, Karen has served as Team Vicar of Louth with a particular focus on the town's schools- pupils, families and staff.

She is keen to share her passion for The Church as Family throughout the Deanery of Louthesk.