

Working with us in the Diocese of Lincoln

Clergy recruitment pack
2024

Priest in Charge (Incumbent
Designate) of the Woodhall
Spa & Bain Valley Groups



A letter from the Bishop

A Time to Change Together (TTCT) is a vision of our shared future in the Diocese of Lincoln. As a family of churches, serving one another and reaching our local communities with the good news of God's kingdom, we are committed to collaborative partnerships, relationships of generosity, and growth.

Now that the groundwork has been laid, we are in the happy position of recruiting clergy to a range of creative and adventurous ministerial posts. Therefore, in this recruitment pack, we are beginning to articulate both what we are looking for in our clergy and also what we can offer you in return.

We are committed to continue to build a culture of trust in a time of uncertainty in the Church and in the world. This demands from all of us the qualities of kindness and candour, rooted in personal and theological integrity. We are looking for colleagues who will model these qualities themselves and seek to grow them in others.

The Diocese of Lincoln needs clergy who are:

Confident – rooted in prayer and scripture, with a story to tell of their faith.

Mission focused – passionate about growth in depth of discipleship and numbers.

Collaborative – genuinely open and willing to work with and learn from others.

Adventurous – seeking to proclaim our historic faith afresh in this generation.

Resilient – knowing when to take risks, accept failure and try again.

Capable – demonstrating reliability in the skilled serving of transformation in Christ through the Five Marks of Mission within Local Mission Partnerships.

If you feel you have those attributes and would like to join us in our journey, we would love to hear from you.

Our offer to you is founded on:

- ◆ A diocesan strategy which seeks **grassroots renewal and flourishing**, not top-down restructuring.
- ◆ A vision for ministry which is about **gifts and calling**, not trying to do 'everything, everywhere, all at once.'
- ◆ **Leadership** which prioritises the life of our parishes and the wellbeing of our ministers.
- ◆ A reputation for, and commitment to, **excellence** in our clergy housing and maintenance.
- ◆ An approach to the common fund which is about **covenant and generosity**.

As you read through this recruitment pack, you will discover so much more that our Diocese can offer to you, as you consider the next stage of your journey in the service of God's Church.

I hope that you will take seriously the invitation to join us and explore the opportunities to serve in the Diocese of Lincoln.

Yours ever in Christ,



What we offer

The Diocese of Lincoln is a family of hundreds of local churches, schools, chaplaincies and projects across the historic county of Lincolnshire offering worship, growth in faith and discipleship and wide-ranging care and support to young and old in its communities.

Our aim is to grow the Church, in both numbers and depth, through attention to what we see as our core tasks of faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service, with the vision of being a healthy, vibrant, sustainable church which leads to transformed lives and communities across greater Lincolnshire making a difference in God's world. To that end as a diocese we shall support, encourage and enable local parishes, schools and mission partnerships to fulfil, within this framework, their own unique calling to serve in mission the community in which they are set.



Edward King House



*2023 Racial Justice Sunday service at
Lincoln Cathedral*



A clear vision for our shared future as a diocese



A Bishop's Staff team and colleagues in the Parish Support Office who are committed to you



Beautiful countryside in which to live and work



Top 10 Dioceses for stipends



48 hours time away recommended each month



Supported annual retreat



Access to Employee Support Programme (EAP)



Programme of installation of solar panels and electric car charging points at vicarages



Garden maintenance support



Total redecoration on appointment including carpeting of public rooms in vicarages



Direct access to the Diocesan Registrar

A Time to Change Together

The Diocese's major change programme

The Diocese's vision is to be a healthy, vibrant and sustainable church transforming lives in Lincolnshire. Recent years have been challenging for the diocese. In response to this, we have developed effective programmes which offer the opportunity to both Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance Ltd (LDTBF) staff and those in the parish focused colleagues to contribute together significant, positive change towards our vision. We hope that you will want to come to the Diocese and join in this exciting work that is Kingdom-focused and that, while demanding, we believe to be deeply fulfilling.



Bishop Stephen's enthronement

Time to Change Together, an integrated approach to growth, deployment, staffing, costs, investments, and voluntary giving launched in 2022, is starting to deliver major benefits in terms of working practice and support for our voluntary and paid staff in the parishes, and in levels of income and in care of our precious and vast range of church buildings, that they better



Worship for everyone at St Faiths in Lincoln

serve the community in which they are set. Resourcing the Urban Church is applying modern approaches and external and internal funding to planting and revitalising churches in the urban centres of the diocese. Over the next decade it will drive numerical growth and strengthened care in major centres such as Scunthorpe, Grimsby, Lincoln and Grantham as well as to market towns across the diocese.

More information about our new Deanery Partnerships, Local Mission Partnerships and other elements of Time to Change Together can be found on www.lincoln.anglican.org. This includes detailed information about our new approach to oversight and focal ministry, which is locally discerned and co-ordinated by the Deanery Partnerships, and is helping clergy and lay colleagues to re-picture their ministry according to God's call today.

Our Values

OUR VALUES

The Diocese of Lincoln is the Church of England in Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. The diocese covers 2,670 square miles and has a population of a little over 1 million. Our vision is to serve our communities in such a way that people may come to know the love of God and have their lives transformed. In order to do this, we know that we need to be a healthy, vibrant and sustainable church.

Our values are that we need, as a diocese, to be faithful in worship, confident in discipleship and joyful in service. The LDTBF, known as the Parish Support office, is here to support that vision and those values cost effectively with the highest quality of customer service.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

The diocese through its churches, chaplaincies and projects is deeply committed to the flourishing of the whole population and embedded in every community across Greater Lincolnshire. Through, for example, our church schools growing children, young people and households we are committed to healthy, inclusive structures in society. The diocesan environmental policy, including a commitment to carbon net zero by 2030, informs all our work from buildings and investments to ministerial and faith training. We have a carefully implemented ethical investment policy for our historic assets. The diocese invests heavily in continuously improving the quality of our safeguarding performance.



Worship in the Diocese of Lincoln

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The LDTBF has a good record of supporting staff in their professional development. Equally, parish focused colleagues are encouraged through the College of St Hugh to develop their skills, including through degree or further degree level study, both to help their performance in role and to enhance their opportunities for career and ministry progression.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STRATEGY

The LDTBF continues to work on its performance in terms of equality, diversity and inclusion, particularly in monitoring, training and review. There is a regular forum for Global Majority Heritage clergy and ministers and the diocese is currently establishing chaplaincy for LGBTQIA+ colleagues. The majority of the LDTBF team are women and we are particularly looking to support women clergy to take oversight roles. A Time to Change Together's emphasis on partnership includes commitment to partnership between congregations and ministers of different church traditions. Respect is key to us, as is the valuing of conscience and an approach to diversity and inclusion that is rooted in the gospel rather than in statistics or quotas.

How will I be supported?

Wellbeing and Continuing Ministerial Development



WELLBEING

We offer many initiatives that safeguard your spiritual and mental health, including:

- Employee assistance program (EAP) with free access to a 24/7, 365 helpline, with calls answered by experienced in-house counsellors, legal and financial specialists.
- Local counselling sessions accessed through the Wellbeing and CMD Officer.
- We run regular Wellbeing training events.
- We recommend you take all of your annual leave, take your day off regularly, and take two consecutive days off once a month.
- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will support the wellbeing of their prospective clergy and their family through engagement with the Covenant for the Care and Wellbeing of Clergy document 'Big Conversation Document for the Local Church'. (The Covenant was affirmed and adopted by Diocesan Synod in 2021).
- A clear and agreed policy of parental leave.

CONTINUING MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Wellbeing and CMD Officer, who is a member of the College of St Hugh staff team, can offer advice and assist with a wealth of support and training including:

- Care, wellbeing and flourishing for ministers & their families at all stages.
- Ongoing training of ordained and lay ministers.
- Supervision, mentoring, coaching, and consultancy opportunities.
- Resources for developing vocational gifts and skills.
- Ministerial Development Review programme.
- Sabbatical planning for clergy; funding for study and retreats.
- Our new peer and lay facilitated MDR process includes significant focus on the wellbeing, flourishing, and thriving of the clergy person and their family.
- We provide opportunity for all clergy to join a facilitated Reflective Practice/Pastoral Supervision Group.
- We offer access to Coaches, Work Consultants and Mentors.
- From 2024 we will begin a new 3 year First Incumbency Support and Training process.
- We offer sabbatical planning, funding and retreats
- Regular opportunities to gather as colleagues within a large diocese, to offer mutual support.

The Bishops and our Vision

The Diocese is served by three Bishops. The Bishop of Lincoln the Rt Revd Stephen Conway is the Diocesan Bishop.

Our Suffragans are the Rt Revd Dr David Court, Bishop of Grimsby and The Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain, Bishop of Grantham. Each Bishop has an office based at Edward King House in Lincoln and our Suffragans are also focused respectively in the North and South of the county.

They work together along with the Senior Team and Parish Support Office to lead and serve the people of the Diocese of Lincoln.

More information can be found on www.lincoln.anglican.org



As bishops, our vision is to grow and develop us all as deeply Scriptural, praying and worshipping communities and ministers. We want to look outside of ourselves to love the people of our parishes, so that we can share with them the joy, light, hope and love of Jesus. Our covenant is to work together as a team, so that we may use our gifts with you to:



- Grow in numbers and in faith.
- Encourage new and occasional worshipers to become committed disciples.
- Continue with, and develop engagement with children, young people and families in our community, through church, and in our Church schools.
- Offer ourselves and our church building to bring our community together, and meet the challenges of a growing population.

Our aspiration is for the Church in Greater Lincolnshire to be faith-filled, open, active and deeply invitational. Our calling from God is to love, lead, teach and guard the people of our communities prayerfully and practically, as Christ loves them, and to call them to follow Him. We seek to be friendly, approachable, prayerful and helpful.

Your role

Every post has an understanding of its role that is shaped according to its context, alongside the Statement of Particulars that is required by law. A central feature of A Time to Change Together has been to gather information about the needs and aspirations of the over 600 different church communities of the diocese and to shape the distribution of ministers accordingly. In this way, new teams of Authorised Lay and Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), together with other volunteers such as church wardens or clergy and Readers with Permission to Officiate are being built across Greater Lincolnshire.



OVERSIGHT MINISTRY IN LINCOLN

Oversight ministers have the legal and pastoral responsibility for all the churches to which they are licensed – their Parish Partnership. They also share the strategic leadership of their Local Mission Partnership with other Oversight Ministers and some lay leaders. Generally each Oversight Minister will also be the Focal Minister (practically leading a particular church) of 1 or 2 churches in their Parish Partnership, but not the Focal Minister of all churches in their oversight. Find out more about Oversight Ministry in Lincoln at Lincoln.anglican.org

THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF TIME TO CHANGE TOGETHER

- churches working together with complementary strengths in wider mission partnerships
- equal valuing of all ministries
- no-one ministers alone
- as much responsibility as possible is devolved or delegated to the local area
- every church has an incumbent but few have their own incumbent

Being an Oversight Minister in Lincoln means: •

- equipping the people of God for the mission & ministry of God
- being the wider church in the local communities and churches
- having authority to shape worship, nurture and mission in a group of churches
- providing sacramental ministry along with others
- identifying, discerning & developing focal and other leaders
- delegating & clarifying responsibilities
- building collaborative and mutually supportive teams in your places of oversight
- collaborating in the Local Mission Partnership to create a richer pattern of churches
- supporting, resourcing & overseeing leaders
- establishing healthy patterns of relationship at every level
- modelling a prayerful, self-caring, generous but realistic model of life and leadership

In this phase of Time to Change Together, we are therefore working to release incumbents and others with oversight responsibility by discerning who might hold focal roles in our different communities. In this way we are moving beyond what can be the debilitating impact of Multi-parish Benefices and building a more genuinely collaborative, supportive and missional future.

YOUTH WORK

The Diocese has a new team of youth and children's enablers, working in parishes and across Deanery Partnerships, with a co-ordinator in the College of St Hugh.

MISSION

Every Deanery Partnership now has a Mission Enabler who will work with Bishop David to support the growth of the Church in Mission in Greater Lincolnshire.

East Lindsey Local Mission Partnership

Introduction

The East Lindsey Deanery Partnership brings four deaneries together:

- Calcewaithe and Candleshoe
- Louthesk
- Bolingbroke
- Horncastle

We are spread across rural and coastal areas and are made up of mostly rural communities, similar demographics and a shared sense of identity. We represent more than one hundred and sixty six churches, different communities, and a wide range of traditions.

Local Mission Churches: these provide a focus for worship, mission, and belonging.

As part of the Horncastle & Bolingbroke Local Mission Partnership. All churches in the Diocese of Lincoln have been invited to identify their distinctive calling using five types:

- Woodhall Spa is a **Local Mission Church**
- Tattershall is a **Community Church**
- Langton with Old Woodhall, Bucknall, Horsington, Stixwold, Kirkstead, Coningsby, Kirkby on Bain and Roughton are all **Festival Churches**

The incumbent will hold the cure of souls and the associated legalities and governance for these churches.



Community Churches: these provide local centres for prayer and worship.



Coningsby School Nativity

Festival Churches: these provide occasional services and remain open for prayer and support to community life.

Woodhall Spa & Bain Valley

We are seeking a parish priest for our newly forming benefice.



WHO WE ARE

A Time to Change Together (TTCT) is a vision of our shared future in the Diocese of Lincoln. As a family of 10 churches, we are committed to collaborative partnerships, relationships of generosity, and growth.

As we seek to reach out to our communities with the good news of God's kingdom.

The parish church of St Peter's is our centre for mission and ministry, as a Local Mission Church. We are seeking to appoint a stipendiary incumbent with a specific brief to grow the church both in numbers and depth of discipleship.

This family of churches is seeking to work together to build a relationship with God, share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and welcome both regular worshippers and those who visit with a range of services and churches.

Ministry among these smaller churches will be supported by a team of colleagues.

OUR VISIONS

'We seek to welcome all, giving the opportunity for worship and spiritual growth. We aim to promote a real sense of community, enabling people to feel they belong to God's family and We look to be relevant to the age we live in.'

WOODHALL SPA

'We would like our churches to be seen as vibrant and attractive to people of all ages, and look for an incumbent to continue and encourage the work that is going on in our integrated group of churches/communities. We see as a priority the work we are doing in the three local church schools and Tattershall Primary Schools'

BAIN VALLEY



Our Pledge, Your Qualities



Welcome and help the priest and the priest's family settle in and become part of our communities.



The Woodhall Spa & Bain Valley Group will continue to **work together** to support one another, and are open to changes in structure and governance to ease the burden on our smaller churches.



Continue to **utilise lay resources** to lead services as and when appropriate and to chair local PCC meetings



Give the priest **space to develop** his or her own ideas and consider any new ideas and challenges with enthusiasm, flexibility and positivity.



We will cover all **working expenses**, incurred in full, **paid regularly**.



Communicate with, and **listen** to, our priest.



Support the priest in taking proper days off and holidays.



Support the priest if he or she wishes to take an **annual retreat**.



Be willing to **encourage** and facilitate training for **lay ministry**.

The Woodhall Spa & Bain Valley Group fully supportive of the ordination of women and would welcome interest from men or women looking to share this vision.

- an ordained priest within the Church of England.
- a lively and infectious faith, with a story to tell of their own journey
- a vocation to and love of parish ministry and an awareness of the challenges this brings
- a strong understanding of parochial ministry and the importance of pastoral encounter, as a way of drawing people more fully into the life of the Church
- the ability to lead Christian mission, evangelism and discipleship
- a willingness to work in the 'mixed ecology' of the church – ministering across different traditions and expressions of church and to engage ecumenically with the chaplaincy team at RAF Coningsby, and other denominations through Churches together
- a love for people, who can grow and support teams, build relationships, recognise talents, encourage discipleship and lay ministry through sensitive collaboration within the church and across the community
- the ability to relate effectively to young people and schools
- excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- a commitment to our strategic priorities, including collaborative ministry and the implementation of TTCT in the Local Mission Partnership.
- an understanding of and commitment to good safeguarding practice, equality, diversity and inclusion; Able to embed good practice in the life of the parishes, seeking to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.
- a commitment to maintain their own spiritual growth, particularly by giving time to prayer, study and training
- a good understanding of self-care and the importance of rest, recreation, family life, and friends
- a full driving licence and access to a vehicle

Your Team

Currently, the Woodhall Spa and Bain Valley parishes are pleased to have an active team as a supportive network that our new priest can draw upon. The team is supported by well-informed administrative assistance, and everyone works effectively together. In addition, members of the team officiate at occasional services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

There are current service plans in place, but these remain flexible and we do not expect the burden to fall on the next incumbent. There are many willing volunteers, but also opportunities to grow individuals and their gifts in order to offer a mix of Lay and Ordained Ministry across the parishes and churches.

Across our 10 churches, we are working with:

- 3 active **retired priests** with permission to officiate at Holy Communion services
- 1 **Lay Canon** & 1 **Lay Reader**
- A **verger** based at Woodhall Spa
- A **Director of Music**
- 3 **Organists**
- Active and engaged **Church Wardens**



Our Lay Ministry team support regular worship across the churches and work collaboratively to lessen the burden on the Incumbent. Along with a wealth of talent from our Organists and Director of Music the next Incumbent will be very well supported.

The Group also has the benefit of a very efficient administrator who works across several Benefices' in the East Lindsey LMP, She is based in St Marys Parish Office in Horncastle.

Special service sheets are prepared by the administrator who acts as the initial point of contact for Wedding Couples, Baptism Families and Undertakers.



Our Parishes

The Woodhall Spa and Bain Valley Group

The Group comprises ten churches located in ten villages located on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, which are designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are a short drive from stunning views and great walks. Each village and church have their own distinct identity.

About 4989 people live in the Woodhall Spa Group and 7521 in the Bain Valley Group. The churches are within a 10-minute drive of Coningsby where the rectory is based:

- St. Margaret's, Bucknall
- St. Peter's, Horsington
- St Peter's, Woodhall Spa
- St. Leonards Without, Kirkstead
- St. Margaret's, Langton
- St. Peter's, Stixwold
- St Michael's, Coningsby
- St Mary's, Kirkby on Bain
- St Margarets, Roughton with Haltham
- Holy Trinity, Tattershall



Woodhall Spa and Coningsby are the two largest communities in the Group and have a wide range of shops and facilities. This includes five primary schools and the large secondary Barnes Wallis Academy. There are also grammar schools at nearby Horncastle, Alford and Skegness.

Tourism plays a key part in the community with several touring caravan and camping sites located around Woodhall Spa and Tattershall, along with several prominent hotels.

St Peter's was instrumental in Woodhall Spa becoming the one of the first places to achieve Fair Trade status in Lincolnshire in 2006.

Woodhall Spa has a wide range of independent shops with two small supermarkets. We are a rare sight compared with most villages and towns as all our shops continue to be fully occupied.

Tattershall and Coningsby boast a National Trust property in Tattershall Castle and a large Farm Park open all year round. There is also Pharmacy, Doctor's surgery, Post Office, Dentist, Optician, 2 Supermarkets, Hairdressers, Newsagents, Gift shops, Do-It-Yourself Shop and Public Houses.

We have a strong farming community in our parishes, with the majority of our farms being independently operated.



Our Parishes

St Peter's, Woodhall Spa

VILLAGE LIFE

Woodhall Spa is regarded as one of Lincolnshire's most attractive villages with a variety of attractions.

The mineral springs, found under Woodhall in the early 19th Century, helped the village develop as a Spa destination.

The Petwood Hotel became home to the Officer's mess of the R.A.F.'s 617 Squadron – the famous Dambusters – during the Second World War. The hotel remains proud of its history and many artefacts remain on show both in the building and grounds.

Across the road is Jubilee Park with a host of leisure facilities, including a popular open-air swimming pool, tennis courts and cricket ground.

Woodhall Spa is the home of the English Golf Union, with world-renowned course located amongst the picturesque woodland which surrounds the village. The course has been voted the 20th best golf course in the world and it brings many visitors to the area each year.

For the nostalgic, the Kinema in the Woods - or 'Flicks in the Sticks', as affectionately dubbed by the servicemen who used it during wartime - is a multi-screen independent



cinema. The unique Kinema was one of the first cinemas in Britain when it opened in 1922. The building still retains much of the character of this era and seeing a film in these charming, historic surroundings makes the experience truly special. Enjoy the latest blockbuster or a trip down memory lane with a classic film – and perhaps an ice



cream in the interval! –accompanied by the sound of the awe-inspiring Compton theatre organ, played by Alan Underwood.

Alan is also resident organist and Musical Director at St. Peter's Church.

Apart from its fascinating history and attractions, Woodhall Spa is twinned with Roëzé-sur-Sarthe, not far from the Loire Valley in France and exchanges between our two villages have been taking place for over 20 years.

The excellent community website and Facebook page hold a great amount of local information, including local clubs and community groups in Woodhall Spa and surrounding area along with useful information about local business and services.



Our Parishes

St Peters, Woodhall Spa

THE CHURCH HALL

St. Peter's Church was built in 1893 and seats around 350-400. The church is brick built and surrounded by established gardens.

The church is well maintained. It opens daily for visitors as well as the regular services.

St. Peter's Church has no burial ground.

There are two cemeteries in Woodhall Spa. The first – St. Andrew's (the site of the former church) - is found in the centre of the village and is closed to burials. The second is located on the edge of the village and continues to serve the community. Both are maintained by the Parish Council.

St. Peter's Hall adjoins the church. The hall seats around 200 and is a community resource freely available to the church. It is in regular use due to its central location, size and facilities which include kitchen, toilets and disabled access, along with a public access defibrillator outside.

The hall has a stage which is used for a variety of concerts.

In addition to services, monthly Communion is taken at some local care homes and sheltered accommodation.



SCHOOLS

We have an excellent relationship with our primary schools, with regular participation in community events and services.

Members of the group visit the primary schools for 'Open the Book' on a monthly basis.



Our Parishes

Holy Trinity, Tattershall

The parish church of Holy Trinity is a splendid example of 15th Century perpendicular architecture. Situated next to Tattershall Castle, it was built by Ralph Lord Cromwell and started in about 1440 under a charter granted by Henry IV. It was completed by about 1480 and in its heyday had seven priests, one of which was the warder, six secular clerks and six choristers. The church provided at least one chorister for Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and mother to Henry VII.

When finished the building would have been magnificent, with some of the finest stained glass in England. The remains of which can be seen in the great East Window. There are six brasses which have been moved into the North Transept, for safe keeping. You can also see Tom Thumbs grave which is by the font

The Church is open every day between Easter and the end of October. Refreshments are served on Sunday's, Bank Holiday Saturday, Bank Holiday Monday's and as many days as possible during the Summer Holiday's.



St Michael's, Coningsby

The largest church in the Bain Valley group, is open daily, and from Easter until the end of

September the Heritage Centre is open in the Nave providing refreshment. Much use is made of the large Nave, major services, school services, concerts and art exhibitions.

The village has a population of approximately 3,200, and there are 2 Primary schools, one of which is a Church of England School as well as a Secondary School (Barnes Wallis Academy).

The church is of Norman origin parts of which date back to 12th century. The building shows traces of 13th, 14th and 15th Century architecture, though the chancel has twice been rebuilt, firstly in 1741 and then by T C Hine in 1870. The material used is hewn blocks of Ancaster limestone supplemented by greenstone rubble and the roofing is slate.

On the church tower is our famous one handed clock still in working order and said to be the largest single handed clock in Europe. An active team of bell-ringers call us to worship each Sunday.

The Church is the custodian of a Dutch flag used to cover the bodies of one British and two allied aircrew shot by the Germans having been found in a "Safe House". The lady, Coba Pulskens, was arrested and sent to a concentration camp and 7 months later died in the gas chambers.

Our Parishes

St Leonard's without, Kirkstead

Kirkstead Abbey was founded in 1139 and is Grade I listed. Only the remains of the abbey can be found nowadays but this includes a tall section of the south transept wall which strikes an imposing sight and can be seen from miles around.

Built between 1230 and 1240, Saint Leonard's 'Without' is thus named as it was outside the gates of the abbey.

Its walls are steeped in almost a thousand years of history, the feeling of which is palpable and some of the original features remain to this day.

As you approach the church, passing the abbey ruins, the history of the site will undoubtedly move you. It is a beautiful place of stark simplicity, serenity and solitude.

The building has no electricity so is only used monthly between Easter and Harvest but there is always an atmospheric candlelit carol service at Christmas.



St Margaret's, Bucknall



The local parish of Bucknall and Tupholme is situated about 5 miles from Woodhall Spa.

The village has a population of approximately 365.

Grade II* listed Saint Margaret's Church is prominently placed within the village. The church was restored in 1884 and remains well maintained.

The church is well used for normal services as well as special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and the church regularly recognises the area's military history too.

St Margaret's has an open graveyard which is also well maintained by the local community.

Bucknall has a modern village hall which is used for a variety of community events along with harvest festival suppers.

Bucknall Primary School is small but recognised for its excellent teaching and facilities including state of the art I.T. resources.

St. Margaret's Church maintains good links with Nightingale House residential home which is located near the primary school.

Our Parishes

All Saint's, Horsington

Recorded as "Horsintone" in the Domesday book, Horsington is located five miles north from Woodhall Spa and 5 miles west from Horncastle.

The village has a population of approximately 220.

All Saints Church was re-built in 1860 using red brick which dominates the skyline.

Inside, the building is light and welcoming, and its main stained-glass window is none other than truly spectacular. The church yard is open.

All Saints Church is a focal point

There is a sense of community spirit in the village which the church plays its part.



St Margaret's, Langton



Langton with Old Woodhall has a population of just 35.

The chocolate-box village is located about two miles from Horncastle and six miles from Woodhall Spa.

The quaint church, once part of a larger church with a tower, was built in 1415 and is the centre of this village community.

The church itself is built of sandstone and is in an excellent state of repair and also has a well maintained open burial ground supporting both Langton and Old Woodhall Parishes.

Services are well supported by the mainly farming community and the annual harvest, supper and carol service remain very popular.

The church is home to a medieval Chrismatory, the only other example of which can be seen in the British Museum.

The modern Jubileum organ is a relatively new acquisition for the church.

The church is a wonderfully peaceful place steeped in history making it a hidden gem.

Our Parishes

St Margaret's, Roughton with Haltham

The Church is situated on an unclassified road off the B1191 west of Horncastle. For over 1000 years the people of Roughton have been baptised, worshipped, married and buried here.

The present Church, a Grade II* listed building is mainly 13th/14th Century with later modifications. It has no pretensions to architectural beauty, being of greenstone (local sandstone) and Tudor brick as used in Tattershall Castle, and in various architectural styles. The belief being that success or otherwise of the harvest determined the rate of progress. There were major restorations in 1435, 1870 & 1948.

Of special interest is 18th Century East window, depicting, in the centre, Jesus with children, flanked on his right by the Virgin Mary and on the left by St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music. The carved Altar Table with screen behind, were designed, carved and donated in 1910 "In loving memory of Henry Spurrier" – a former Rector.

A list of Rectors from 1564 shows that the Hereditary Grand Champions of England—John Dymoke (father and son of the same name) were successively Rectors of Roughton 1798-1828 and 1828-1867.



St Peter's Stixwold



The ancient village of Stixwold is located two miles northwest of Woodhall Spa.

The village appears in the Domesday Book as "Stigeswalde".

A Priory of Cistercian nuns existed at one time in the parish but now only a few mounds remain to show where the Abbey once stood.

St Peter's Church was re-built in 1831 reputedly using some of the stones from the derelict Abbey.

The magnificent building is found in the centre of the village. The church yard is open to burials.

The Grade II listed building holds occasional services.

The platform and signs of the former Great Northern Railway Station still remain but the building itself is now a tranquil place of spiritual retreat ("Time Away").

Stixwold station is on the 'Viking Way' National Cycle Route and is to be found on the banks of the River Witham on the edge of the village.

Our Parishes

St Mary's, Kirkby on Bain



Situated between Coningsby and Roughton this village Church sits proudly on a site that has been occupied by Church's for about a thousand years. The present one dates from approximately 1802. When it was rebuilt, a quantity of the original stone was used and where there was not sufficient, brick was used.

The old box pews were replaced with the open seating pitch pine ones in the mid to late 1800's at, the same time a gallery at the west end was removed. The church was reopened in 1902 by Bishop Wordsworth.

In 1926 it was decided to buy a War Memorial window and put it in the central light in the East end. However the amount contributed exceed all expectations and there was sufficient money to put a single light on either side, The glass is by William Morris and the central light depicts "The Resurrection" whilst the two smaller windows have figures representing "Valour" and "Fortitude".

Around 1933 there were further alterations at the West end of the Church. The last three pews on either side were removed, those on the North side to make room for a Vestry and those on the South for a Children's corner. The Vestry was thought to be necessary as a robed choir had started. At the same time the same time the Font in the middle of the Children's corner



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