



REVD RACHEL HESKINS

Vicar of Lincoln St John the Baptist

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St John the Baptist Church is a Grade II listed building, designed by Sam Scorer*



Life before Lincoln

I grew up in a new town in Shropshire and my faith was nurtured in the local Methodist Church. My dad lost his job in 1982 and things were different for my family after that. I had free school meals for the next six years. I went off to university in the north east and discovered the Anglican choral tradition as well as the Quakers. I scraped a 2:2 after spending too much time writing sketches for the student revue. I went to drama school and worked extensively in retail and catering for the following three years. I then returned to university and gained a PGCE in RE and History. Teaching, marriage and motherhood followed before moving to Lincolnshire in 2007.

We run a popular weekly family activity called Free Tea Friday in the church hall.



We have a successful Ministry Experience Scheme in collaboration with All Saint's Nettleham

Life in the Diocese

I arrived in Lincolnshire with two small boys as a clergy spouse. We lived in a small village north of Lincoln, part of a multi-church parish. During my time as a school chaplain, I tested my vocation to ordination and trained with the Lincoln School of Theology and, for a year, at Westcott House in Cambridge. I served my title in Welton, Dunholme and Scothern and am now the vicar of a post-war estate in the city and look after the neighbouring parish, St Giles with a view to them becoming a united benefice. Both St Giles and St John's are Silver Eco Award churches.



Why vote for me to represent the Diocese of Lincoln on General Synod?

- I have lived in the diocese for eighteen years in villages and in the city
- I have experience of church schools as a governor, a parent and an employee
- I have been a clergy spouse and an active lay person before being ordained
- As a parent of small children, I experienced first hand the challenge of belonging to rural churches that could nurture my children as well as nourish my faith and spirituality
- I currently serve in one of the most economically deprived parishes in the Church of England. I understand the pressures of ministry with limited resources.
- I spent three years in rural ministry in a multi-parish benefice in my curacy
- I am part of the wider cathedral ministry team serving as a priest vicar
- I have served on the Bishops Council and Diocesan Trust since 2022
- I am a member of the diocesan synod
- I am a passionate advocate for including the voices of those who don't often get heard especially young people and marginalised groups
- I am part of church dedicated to sustainable stewardship of creation
- I am a training incumbent and mentor to curates and a personal tutor to an ordinand at St Hild Lincoln, and am a vocations advisor for the diocese
- I have experience of collaboration on a number of projects with the City and County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Acts Trust
- **my lived experience of the diocese of Lincoln gives me an almost unique insight into its particular strengths and challenges and I am well placed to advocate on a national level for the interests of this diocese. I can't claim to be a Yellow Belly, but I have lived in Lincolnshire as long as I have lived anywhere else. For me this is a county like no other - endless horizons, creativity and heritage, innovation and hard work. From Nicola de la Hai to Alfred Lord Tennyson, King Cnut to the Dambusters, this county is full of remarkable people and wonderful clergy whose voices and values need strong representation at General Synod at this crucial time in our Church's history**

