

# The Benefice of Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe and Mumby and Cumberworth



## **WHY THE LINCOLNSHIRE RURAL COASTAL AREA?**

As a priest looking for a new parish to serve we thank you for taking the time to look at our Parish Profile. We are obviously biased but believe there is no better place to live than the rural coast of North East Lincolnshire! We trust God that you will feel the same.

Our churches are an integral part of their respective communities but in very different ways. Each presents separate challenges for our new incumbent but there are many opportunities to reach out further to the wider community creating a stronger and vibrant church in each village. We pray that our new incumbent will help us to extend our faith, love, spiritual and pastoral support to our communities, to nurture the gifts and talents of our congregation and be seen and known in the wider community.

If you are inspired by this opportunity we shall be delighted to work with you. If not, please pray for us in our quest for the right priest to lead us in worship and witness.

## **ABOUT US: ABOUT YOU**

- **WHY HERE?**
- **OUR STYLE AND VALUES**
- **WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE**
- **OUR VISION OF YOU**
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## **WELCOME BY THE BISHOP OF GRIMSBY, The Rt. Revd Dr David Court**

Thank you for taking time to look at this particular post within the Diocese of Lincoln. As one of the largest dioceses in the country stretching from the Humber estuary in the North to the Wash in the South, we are home to a population of just over 1,000,000 people. People live in a variety of different settings from the urban centres of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Scunthorpe and the City of Lincoln to the market towns of Louth and Boston. Lincolnshire has its wonderful coastal strip including Skegness and Mablethorpe, the new housing developments in many of our towns and the many, many small villages which mark our landscape. All are equally important to us, and all we are seeking to serve in making known the good news of Jesus that has been entrusted to us.

In preparation for our recent 'Peer Review' we put together our diocesan mission and vision statements and summarised our intention as follows 'Our aim then 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, benefices and mission communities to fulfil, within this framework, their own unique calling to serve in mission the community or communities in which they are set'.

In short we don't believe in a big top down diocesan master plan. We do believe in supporting and encouraging our parishes to develop their own plans which we will then seek to support and encourage using central diocesan resources as we are able.

To that end we have begun an ambitious programme to try and increase the number of good quality, creative stipendiary clergy in the diocese by almost 50%, and have established a regular pattern of episcopal visitations and MDR to show our support and commitment to those working in parish ministry. We have established the principle that we are a 'learning diocese' and are actively creating and investing in 'learning communities' according to the different 'character areas' we operate in so that we can learn from and support each other. We are committed to the principle of mission action planning and have a small team who can assist parishes with that, and have released some of our historic resources to enable parishes to apply for funding to help them in making those plans a reality, in addition to also using some of those resources to invest in good quality CMD and clergy well-being.

We are not unaware of the challenges we face. The deanery of Calcewaithe and Candleshoe, of which these particular parishes are part, on an average Sunday, connects with 0.8% of its total population, but we are committed to 'having a go', to sharing what we know to be the good news of Jesus to the different communities we are here to serve, and if that resonates with you, the please read on with all that follows.....



## Our Style and Values

The three churches work well together and support each other in services, in fundraising and social events. Mumby has only recently joined Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe and work needs to be done to fully integrate this church into the group. Clearly, this is a challenge, but also an opportunity. As well as the regular services already held there, St Thomas's Mumby could perhaps become a celebratory church for key dates in the church year, benefiting from the support of St Leonard's and St Mary's. Mumby is a high priority, as it needs help now.

In style our services are mainly traditional and centred on the Eucharist. However, there is a BCP service every Tuesday at St Mary's Hogsthorpe, a Fresh Expressions service held at Chapel Village Hall every Thursday, and there are lay-led Services of the Word. A joint group service is held every fifth Sunday hosted by each church in turn.

Ministry is shared with a Reader, two Authorised Lay Ministers, vergers, churchwardens, servers, sacristans, intercessors and readers. There is a lay-led junior church at St Leonards, which we hope will be developed. The young people join the Eucharist for part of the service.

A singing group has contributed to and enhanced our worship. They also perform music of various genres at concerts and residential care homes. We would be delighted if our new priest would support and encourage this group.

We reach out to the community with various events such as concerts, pub quizzes, open churches weekends, coffee mornings, book sales and flower festivals, to name but a few. Through these events we try and extend the love of God to the wider community. A prayer corner has been established at St Mary's, set up for private prayer where anyone can come in and speak to God. Our churches are open every day.



Chapel St Leonards Carnival

### **What we are and would like to be**

#### **We are a Church of the community**

For all worshippers, parishioners and visitors

#### **We strive to learn**

About faith, the power of prayer, the love of God

#### **We wish to care**

For our congregations, our villages, our neighbours and visitors

#### **We're rooted in prayer and want to blossom**

To grow a stronger and vibrant Church in the centre of our communities

#### **We desire to grow the good in us all**

To show the love of God to our communities and bring them joy and fulfilment.

## What we would like to be

During this interregnum, we are being wonderfully supported by the Rural Dean, Revd Ros Latham and her team, as well as our own Lay Ministry Team.

Our post-holders from within the congregation are knowledgeable, receptive to new ideas, and practically and positively minded. We bring a good mixture of talent and expertise with hard work and organisation. We are confident that we shall continue to grow and develop each church individually but also as part of the group with the strong leadership of our new priest. We are looking forward to working with and supporting our new priest in an exciting opportunity to bring the love and faith of God to the wider community; to focus our minds on prayer and spirituality and share our love and laughter with all who need us.

**'We are pilgrims on a journey  
And companions on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.'**

**MORE LEARNING  
SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER**

**MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
GIVING ALL THE CHANCE TO  
INTERACT WITH AND LEARN OF  
GOD'S LOVE AND WORD**

**MORE CONNECTION  
WITH THOSE WHO NEED US**



St Thomas Mumby flower festival

# Our Vision of you

**A priest whose leadership will be based on honouring God and which is accessible and relevant to all.**

- 1) It may be possible to provide some paid administrative support to the new incumbent for a few hours a week. Indeed, this is a priority which we would like to see in place. The Archdeacon is fully aware of this need. We need a priest who has the self-discipline to give themselves the time and energy to pray, read, reflect and study. We would give full backing to a priest's entitlement in terms of days off, holidays and retreats. We are looking for a priest who will be seen and known in the wider communities, building bridges between church and village life. Interaction with the wider community will of course be invaluable. We trust you will engage with all in their spiritual needs and give practical support where needed.
- 2) We hope you will be enthusiastic and confident about introducing new types of services which you consider to be important. It will be essential that you make every effort to engage with young people through the schools in Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe. There are residential homes where contact has at present been lost. Yet another in a series of challenges and opportunities.
- 3) PCC meetings are bi-monthly. The table below shows how we currently operate, although any group should be open and receptive to improvements or change:

Sun	CSL (11am)	Hogs (9.30am)	M'by (9.30am)
1st	E	E	SW
2nd	E	E	—
3rd	E	SW	E
4th	E	E	—

The BCP service is important to us and takes place each Tuesday in Hogsthorpe at 10am. Our "outreach" service and coffee morning is taken out into the village community in Chapel St Leonards village hall. Here, word of the church and its presence is spread beyond the confines of the building itself.

- 4) We need a priest who wants to improve people's lives, through action and the love of God, and to "make a difference", the key rewards of course for anyone in a caring, pastoral and spiritual profession. As with all church groups, there is always the possibility to change, improve and develop the way we engage with local communities.



Summer Shenanigans with the Singing Group at Chapel Church Hall.

**Join us on**

**our journey**

The Thursday market has been running for over 10 years now and is a vital part of our outreach to the wider community. Importantly, as well as offering an act of worship, it enables the incumbent to meet and interact with those who would not normally attend church.

# A Place to Live and Work

Chapel St Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Mumby occupy a triangle of approximately 15 square miles on the Lincolnshire coast, 45 miles from the city of Lincoln. A few miles to the north and south there are extensive important coastal nature reserves and a new Coastal Country Park has been developed between Chapel St Leonards and Sutton-on-Sea which provides walking paths and birdwatching opportunities both along the beach and inland. A North Sea Observatory with café has recently opened at Chapel Point which also hosts a variety of exhibitions. To the west are the Lincolnshire Wolds, a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. The main industries are tourism and farming; the area is friendly and very popular for retirement. It has well above the national average number of people over 60 but an increasing amount of social housing is being built in the area, bringing in more young families; and so the needs of the young should be given full consideration and present an opportunity to develop our church communities.

Skegness, a major holiday resort, is within 10 miles whilst the historic market towns of Boston, Louth, Horncastle, Market Rasen [with its race course] and Grimsby, [still an important port] are all further afield but still close by. In various ways these towns provide additional cultural, educational, hospital, recreational and shopping facilities all with associated employment opportunities. Broadband is in place.

Our three communities are linked by a regular bus service from Mablethorpe to Skegness (which contains the nearest railway station) and there is a *Call Connect* bus service. There is a daily National Express coach to London as well as various, mainly weekly, services to Boston, Grimsby and Lincoln. Chapel St Leonards is 10 miles from the nearest railway station at Skegness and 45 miles from Humberside Airport.

Village events are well supported and include a rich variety of musical entertainments, craft fairs, bingo, quizzes and car boot sales. There are many and varied pubs, cafes, bars and restaurants to suit all tastes. There is a thriving holiday home community including caravans, B&Bs, hotels, self-catering cottages and guest houses.

## A PLACE TO BE

- QUIET BEACHES
- GENTLE COUNTRYSIDE
- GREAT SCHOOLS
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- LEISURE ACTIVITIES



Being a rural coastal area there are plenty of places to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. Walking, cycling, horse riding are all part of life here by the sea.

Lincolnshire is a hidden gem, undiscovered by many. It is not just a holiday destination. It is the second largest county in the UK and provides 20% of the UK's food. Lincolnshire people are proud of the quality of food produced in the county and the contribution they make to the UK economy.

# CHURCHES AND VILLAGES

## Church Life Now

Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe Churches have built up a good working relationship in the last 15 years. Mumby has only recently joined us and we pray and trust that we shall build a similar working and spiritual relationship with St Thomas' Church, Mumby and the village community. Each church has different characteristics in worship and have diverse gifts to offer the group, the villages and our people.

At present, Chapel St Leonards and Hogsthorpe each have two Churchwardens and a small but enthusiastic group of PCC members who manage the day to day affairs, services, fundraising and fabric of each church. The group has the benefit of sharing our excellent Treasurer who manages the finances for all three churches. Mumby Church has no churchwarden and only 3 PCC members who do an amazing job opening the church, setting up the services and fundraising.



Pet Service at St Mary's Hogsthorpe

## Church Life Future

You will be settling in to the modern vicarage based at Chapel St Leonards next to St Leonard's. Hogsthorpe and Mumby are a short drive away, on the main A52 road from Skegness to Mablethorpe.

We wish to work with you to create the church that God wants us to be. The presence of a priest who is known and loved by all parishioners will enable this group to become more faithful to God's call, more effective in sharing His love and in calling others to follow Him. We want to see people in all our villages coming to faith, knowing and loving the God whose Church we are. We welcome all comers, old or young, sinners and saints alike to share in the Good News of God's kingdom.

## Chapel St Leonards

Adaptability is a key requirement for any spiritual leader in Chapel St Leonards, for this is not one but two different places – a thriving holiday centre in the summer and a quiet village home of approximately 4,000 people for the rest of the year. Chapel's seven hectares of Lincolnshire seaside includes two miles of lovely beach and this has been a big factor in transforming the village from the small farming community it was up to 1920s into a popular resort. The elderly resident population has grown steadily but more young families have also moved in leading, to a considerable expansion at the local primary school. A selective grammar school system exists post-age eleven.



Social activity revolves mainly around Chapel's attractive and widely-used village hall. A variety of shops, cafes, restaurants, pubs and clubs provide creature comforts. St Leonard's Church is tucked away down a quiet lane near the Vicarage. It is a very pretty church but away from the village centre and not obviously visible.

Chapel St Leonards has an 8 person social/fundraising committee whose main aim is mainly to organise social events to involve the whole village. Hopefully raising money in the process. Special events include annual civic, memorial and patronal festival services, a summer fete and joint social events with all three churches including quiz evenings and other special occasions. In the grounds of the Churchyard there is a very useable Church Room with catering facilities. This is used by various local groups and organisations including the Ukelele Band, Tai Chi and Mother and Toddler Group. Plans have recently been passed to extend the Church Room, as previous events have shown a need for a more spacious venue. A small working group is progressing this exciting venture. St Leonard's pays its Parish Share in full. As you will see from the Treasurer's Report, St Leonards are very generous in their annual charity donations.



### Services

Sundays: 11am Parish Communion  
Group Service: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month [hosted by each Church on a rota basis]  
Thursdays: 9.30am Holy Communion [said] Village Hall

The role of the priest is to bring spiritual leadership and dynamism to a church and its community. There is a solid foundation here at St Leonard's forming an ideal base for confident development and innovation.



## Hogsthorpe

St Mary's Church is situated on the High Street in the village centre at its junction with Thames Street, making it an impressive focal point of the community. The High Street is the A52 coast road from Ingoldmells to Sutton-on-Sea and, like St Leonards is busy with tourist traffic in the summer months but a very quiet village off season. It is two miles from the sea and its neighbouring villages of Mumby and Chapel St Leonards. The church is set within spacious grounds which have been cleared of the gravestones and was closed as a burial site in the 1980s. The church itself is large and is one of the finest mediaeval marshland churches in the area. There has been a church here since the 13<sup>th</sup> century (the first recorded incumbent is in 1232).



The Parish of Hogsthorpe is populated by approximately 1200 people living in over 400 homes. A primary school, two pubs, a shop with post office, farm shop and a restaurant make up the static amenities. A large village hall is on Thames Street with the recently refurbished playing fields behind. There is one nursing home (Meadow Court), which is next to the church. St Mary's would welcome the opportunity of developing a pastoral relationship with them. A short Eucharist used to be held at the home once a month on a Tuesday but this has lapsed within the last year. Our new priest will need to feel comfortable working with the elderly and families, especially during bereavement.



We would like to develop a better working relationship with the local primary school. The school uses the Church for their own special services at Harvest and Christingle but generally do not attend normal Sunday services. We would welcome guidance and support to develop a strong relationship with the school and the younger generation within village life.



Coffee after the Tuesday morning service

The regular Sunday congregation is between 15 and 20 people with more at special services. There is currently no Sunday School at St Mary's. We have no choir but we have an organist on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. We have recently purchased a digital hymnal with a hearing loop which is used on the Sundays when we have no organist. St Mary's pays its Parish Share in full.

### Services

First Sunday	9.30am Lay led Service of the Word
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	9.30am Eucharist
Tuesdays	10.00am BCP said Eucharist

## Mumby

Mumby is a village of a little over 200 houses on the A52 midway between Skegness and Mablethorpe. The countryside is fairly flat, this point and the fact that we are only a few miles from the sea encourages a lot of retired people to move here. This is reflected in the large number of bungalows in the village and the lack of family houses. We have a thriving pub, two caravan sites and On Your Marques model car collection and have a good relationship with them all. We have no shop, school or village hall.

St Thomas Church is about 800 years old and its main claim to fame is its Norman South door and some good carvings of assorted heads at the top of the pillars in the nave. We also have a much admired Victorian stained glass East window.

About 25 years ago St Thomas was made into a dual purpose building with the nave becoming a Community Centre and the Chancel being the area for worship, although with the door open to see the altar, and chairs put out in the nave we can quickly become a full sized church again. We are overall in a good state of repair but require constant maintenance in order not to deteriorate further and feel that our current financial prospects will not meet our needs. We have a very small PCC with only two people on it who actually live in the village, one who used to live in the village and a treasurer. We have no Churchwardens, verger or any other officers except a Safeguarding Officer. We also currently find it difficult to get support in the village but feel this would improve with a more community orientated priest. Even lacking these resources we manage to put on up to twelve fund raising events a year.

St Thomas is loved by its small but regular congregation but it needs a vicar who can introduce more people to the benefits of giving and sharing that love. He/she needs a personality to draw them in, not wait for them to come to them. As mentioned, we have an above average number of retired people in the village often with the time to spare and talents valuable to the church but we need someone to engage with them and draw them into the church community. The new priest needs to be seen in the village and be seen to be working for the good of the building as well as the pastoral care of his/her flock. Because so many people have come to the village late in life there is little feeling of loyalty to the village. 'Home' for most people is somewhere else, the place where they grew up or raised their families and probably where they will return to when one partner dies or they become sick. It is a challenge but we need someone who can make Mumby feel like 'home' for more people, a place where they feel loved, needed and valued.



Our priest must be happy with half their church being a Community Centre and value it as a place to meet people who are not currently churchgoers.

Our services have been at a set time and an unvarying format for a long time and someone who could change that may find their congregation increasing. We would like a priest who would consider increasing the frequency of services. We know that one Eucharist a month is not enough for some of our congregation.

### Services

First Sunday  
9.30am Eucharist

Third Sunday  
9.30am Service of the Word

# The Vicarage



The Vicarage is one of the newest in the Deanery. It is a spacious modern dwelling built in the traditional style in 1993.



The Ground floor consists of:-

Entrance hall, good sized study, WC, kitchen with oak units and gas cooker, utility room, dining room with a door into the garden, sitting room with Baxi Grate coal fire and French doors on to the patio and garden.

First floor:-

Master bedroom with en-suite shower, second bedroom with wash basin, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.



Outside:-

Double garage with tarmac drive, large lawned gardens with both newly planted and mature trees. The property is fitted with oil fired central heating.

