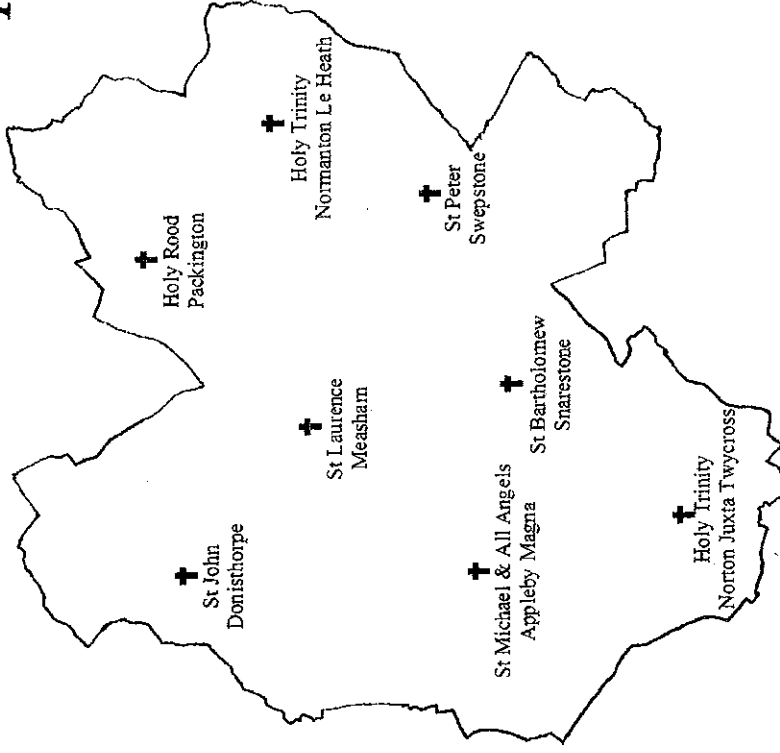


Woodfield Team

and Mission Partnership



Inauguration Service

**Sunday 25th January 2009
at 6.00pm**

**St Laurence's Church
Measham**

Welcome to our 'launch' service this evening.
it is good to be together for this time of celebration.

What are we here to do?

We are marking the commitment of the churches of the Woodfield Team to work together as a Team and a Mission Partnership. The name 'Woodfield' acknowledges our industrial heritage (being the name of the coal seam running under much of this area, being mined at Measham, Donisthorpe and Rawdon collieries) and our present as an area of forest and fields. Moves towards this stage of commitment have been going on for some 10 years. Then in 2005, Revd Robert Hughes was appointed as Team Vicar designate. In 2006 Canon Vivien Elphick was appointed as Team Rector designate.

In September 2008, the Church Commissioners formally created the new Team. Shortly after, the team was confirmed by the Diocese of Leicester as a 'mission partnership'. A Mission Partnership is defined as 'an alliance of local churches working together across traditional boundaries and sharing gifts, resources and ministries in the service of God's mission.'

Which all brings us to tonight!

And tonight is all about celebration and a recommitment to serve God in this area. The ordained clergy and licensed lay workers will reaffirm their desire to follow Christ (and will be receiving new licences), but it is for everyone to join in this commitment to work to share the love of Christ with all.

And what a day to launch the Team! It's the day when the Christian Church celebrates the conversion of St Paul: St. Paul who turned from being a persecutor of the early Church to become the one who took the good news of the love of God to so many in the Mediterranean area. It could be said that he is one reason why we are sitting here today!

However we need to remember all those who've faithfully handed on the good news from that time right up until today. Some of them are well-known – others we do not even know their names. But they have all been links in the chain that has brought us to faith. Each of us has the responsibility to be links taking that chain of faith into the future, so that our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren also know and enjoy the new life offered in Christ Jesus.

Please do stay for refreshments after the service - in the church hall.

We are making a collection for Christian Aid to bring relief to the people of Gaza.

If you would like to give, there are plates at the back of church.

Churches of the Woodfield Team:

St Michael and All Angels, Appleby
St John the Evangelist, Donisthorpe
St Laurence, Measham
Holy Trinity, Normanton-le-Heath
Holy Trinity, Norton-juxta-Twycross
Church of the Holy Rood, Packington
St Bartholomew, Snaresstone,
St Peter, Swepstone

The Licensed Team Workers

Team Rector

Team Vicar

Self-supporting ministers

Curate

Lay readers:

Mr David Harrison

Mrs Debbie Kent

Dr Glennys Kerr

Mr Frank Mugglestone

Miss Rhona Passey

Mrs Tina Sherriff

Mr Derek Tomlin

Pastoral Assistants:

Mrs Judith Selby

Mrs Joan Smith

Evangelists:

Mr & Mrs David and Elisabeth Harrison

Canon Vivien Elphick
Revd Robert Hughes
Revd Stella Polashek
Revd Lesley Birtwistle
Revd Hazel White

Churchwardens of the eight churches light a candle from Paschal Candle and then take the light to different parts of church to light the candle of each person present. This is a sign of our commission to take the light of Christ out into His world.

All the people of the Woodfield Team make their commitment

Team Rector:

O God, we place this our life in your hands
Take all that we bring, our gifts and talents,
Our longings and our faith
And add your power for life,
For we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Team Vicar:

Let us make our commitment to walk together on this journey:
We will walk this way together with Jesus Christ in our midst.
Our hands are open to receive, our hearts are open to give,
Our minds long to learn and our souls reach out to each other.
This time is eternal time for us and God will be our blessing.
Amen

Hymn 673: There is a redeemer

Archdeacon:

The Lord bless you and watch over you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace. Amen

Welcome by Canon Vivien Elphick, Team Rector.

The hand of God encircles us:
God of our beginnings holding us firm.

The feet of Christ walk before us:
God of our journeying showing us the way.

The wings of the Spirit lift us up:
God who is our company, our energy, our joy.

Hymn 564: Praise to the Lord

Prayers of Penitence

In order to prepare ourselves anew for the work to which God is calling us,
let us call to mind our sins...

Lord Jesus, in your love you call us to be a likeness of yourself.
For those times when we have marred your image in us...

All Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear
fruit.

For those times we have not trusted in the power of your
Spirit...

All Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, in your power, you send us out to be your faithful
witnesses:

For those times we have fallen short in word and in deed...

All Christ have mercy

Team Rector The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;

the Lord defend you in your ministries and keep you from all
evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

Taize chant:

'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom'

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Read by Mrs Sheila Moore
of Holy Rood Church, Packington

Hymn:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Archdeacon: At your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God, preaching the gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?

Priests By the help of God, we will.

Commissioning for New Ministry

The Team Rector/Mission Partnership Convenor and the Team clergy and licensed lay workers move to stand before the Archdeacon, who says

Let us ask God to bless them in their ministry together, and to renew them with the gifts of His Spirit.

*The whole congregation prays in silence.
The Archdeacon says*

Heavenly Father, giver of all good things,
May your blessing rest upon them.
Where there is change, transition and variety,
May your peace be known;
In Christian service may your joy be found;
And at all times may your love bring unity and strength;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn 590: Seek ye first

Intercessions: led by Revd Stella Polashek

All licensed lay workers stand

Archdeacon My brothers and sisters, by water and the Holy Spirit, you have been made a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord, members of the Body of Christ, and part of the priesthood of all believers.
You are raised to new life in him, renewed in the image of his glory, and empowered to minister for Christ in word and in work.
Readers, Pastoral Assistants, and Evangelists, do you renew your commitment to him and the proclamation of his Gospel in this place, this county and in all creation?

All We do, with the help of God our Father.
In the name of Christ and in the power of your Spirit, we commit ourselves anew to you and to one another, to live, work, and pray as one body in Christ, to trust each other as fellow workers in your Church, and to give ourselves with body, mind and spirit to the ministries to which you have called us.
Give us vision, give us courage, and give us joy, that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, to your eternal glory.
Amen

Archdeacon May God who has moved us to promise these things, give us the grace to keep them to the end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Renewal of ordination vows
The archdeacon addresses the clergy of the Team and Mission Partnership.
Archdeacon: Vivien, Robert, Stella, Lesley, and Hazel, will you, before God and this congregation, reaffirm the promises you made when you were ordained and accepted the Priesthood out of love for the Lord Jesus and his Church?

Priests We will

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

c.1981 Daniel L Schutte and New Dawn Music
CCL No. 296208

New Testament Reading: Acts 9:1-22
Read by Mr Derek Tomlin
lay reader from St John's Church Donisthorpe.

The Sermon: The Venerable Paul Hackwood

Hymn 359: Jesus calls us

Affirmation of faith

The Archdeacon invites the people of the new Team and Mission Partnership to reaffirm their baptismal faith.
To do this the people of the churches of Team and Mission Partnership stand.

People
Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

People
Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

People
We believe and trust in him.

*The Archdeacon then invites all members of the congregation to stand.
Those who feel able to do so make the following affirmation.*

This is the faith of the Church.

All
This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Commissioning for all in the Team and Mission Partnership:

Archdeacon: my brothers and sisters
by water and the Holy Spirit,
you have been made a holy people
in Jesus Christ our Lord,
members of the Body of Christ,
and part of the priesthood of all believers.
You are raised to new life in him,
renewed in the image of his glory,
and empowered to minister for Christ
in word and work.

Do you as the people of God
in the Woodfield Team and Mission Partnership
renew your commitment to him
and promise to proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All: With the help of God, we do.

Archdeacon: Will you faithfully work together
in this new Team and Mission Partnership,
wholeheartedly sharing gifts, resources and ministries
in the service of God's mission?

All: With the help of God, we will.

Archdeacon: Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All: With the help of God, we will.

Archdeacon: Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over
human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak,
and by seeking peace and justice?

All: With the help of God, we will.

The Archdeacon extends his arms.

Archdeacon: I commission you, in the name of Christ,
to be shaped by God as his people,
and to join in shaping the communities of this world
according to his purposes.

May the love and power of God, Father, Son and Spirit,
go before you, be revealed within you,
and flow out of you into the world he created
and calls back to himself, now and always.

All: Amen.

Archdeacon: Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

(Teresa of Avila: 1515-1582)

**All: Lord, may your hands be found in all our doing.
Lord, may your lips be found in all our speaking.
Lord, may your eyes be found in all our seeing.
Lord, may your feet be found in all our travelling.
Lord, may your heart be found in all our loving.
Lord Jesus, may you be found in all our proclaiming.
Amen.**

Hymn 624: Take my life