

## Oversight Minister For the Launde Deanery Minster Community



## Pg 1. The Diocese Welcome



Thank you for your interest in this role. Please be assured that there are many people praying for this process of discernment, and we trust that you will know God's guidance as you explore whether it is right to apply.

As part of your consideration, it is important to understand that the Diocese of Leicester, like every diocese in the Church of England, is in transition. After a long process of discernment (a process which we called *Shaped by God Together* and which involved much prayer and literally hundreds of small group conversations in every part of the diocese), Diocesan Synod agreed a new framework for the diocese known as Minster Communities. (see more on our website). Anyone coming to work in the diocese therefore needs to be committed to engaging with this new framework and embedding it within the church communities they serve (understanding that it will be applied in different ways in different contexts) and be flexible and prayerful in discerning how their particular role fits and will evolve within this wider framework. This will be explored with you at interview, and, if you are appointed, will be major part of the induction process.

In addition to this, we are on an exciting journey of learning about church planting and fresh expressions of church, and about intercultural mission and ministry – two areas where we have received substantial funding from the national church. We are also committed to exploring intergenerational work, reducing our impact on the environment, and crossing the divides both in the church and in the world. We therefore seek individuals who are open to learning, humble in admitting that they don't have all the answers, and yet bold in proclaiming the Gospel through word and action.

These changes require not only considerable flexibility and adaptability from clergy and lay ministers but also great resilience. This is why we also place a strong emphasis on wellbeing – seeing this as a partnership where you take responsibility for your own wellbeing, while knowing that there is always support available from bishops and diocesan staff. Additional support is also offered by our partner organisations such as Launde Abbey (retreat centre), St Philip's (interfaith centre) and of course the Cathedral. I hope that I may have the opportunity of meeting you in the near future, but in the meantime be assured of my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow Bishop of Leicester

## **Pg2 Shaped By God Together – a brief introduction**

Our new *Shaped By God Together Minster Communities framework* will help our local worshipping communities to grow the Kingdom of God and live out our everyday faith. Shaped By God Together (SBGT) is the process through which the diocese is currently reshaping to ensure our ministry and mission is equipped and supported in the best way possible within our vision of the Kingdom of God, and our diocesan finances are used in order to resource our strategic priorities.

As part of this SBGT process, the Diocesan Synod voted strongly in favour of the Minster Communities framework in October 2021. Between 2022 and 2026, every parish, each fresh expression of Church, the clergy and lay ministers, chaplains and schools, will be expected to participate in conversation between local context and the diocesan leadership, in order to determine how they find their place within the framework as we form 20-25 Minster Communities across the diocese. Alongside the structural changes (which are likely to involve Joint Church Councils), we are encouraging all worshipping communities to develop how they enable discipleship and encourage vocations, grow in outwardly focused mission, engage with children, young people and schools, and work in partnership across differences. The development of a healthy culture of wellbeing is also vital.

More detailed information can be found on the Diocesan website and the SBGT webpages.

Claire Bampton, Diocesan Programme Manager



### **Pg 3 Who we are**

We are part of the Diocese of Leicester and, within this, the Archdeaconry of Leicester.

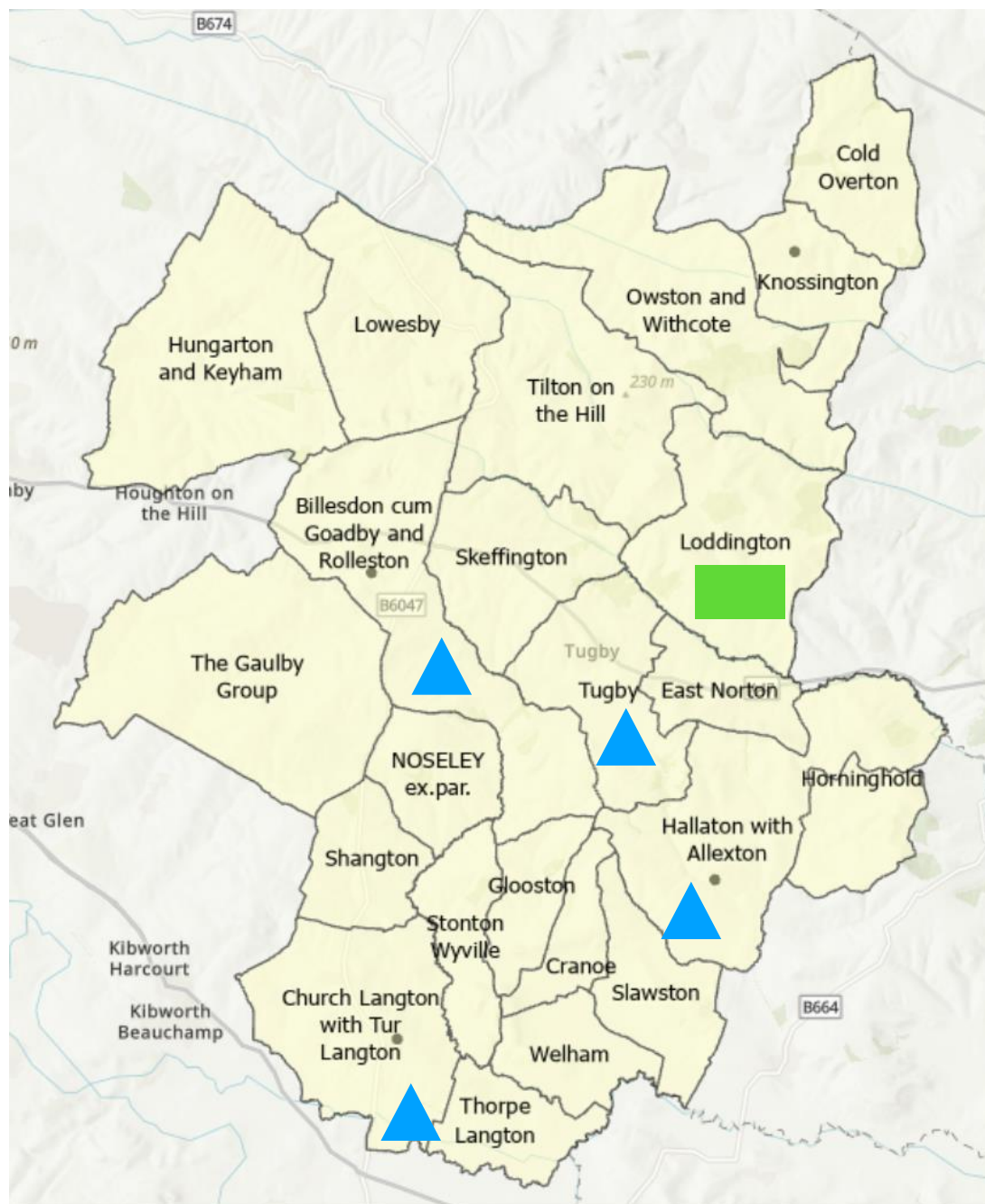
Launde Minster Community has a population of approximately 7,700 in 7 benefices made up of 23 rural parishes within the Launde Deanery alongside Launde Abbey and the Church Schools of Church Langton, Billesdon, Hallaton, and Tugby. We work together in mission and work closely with our church schools as enabled previously by our Oversight Minister. The Bishop has committed to appointing an Intergenerational Minister to the Launde Minster Community to continue the enabling ministry with our schools.

Our churches are broadly central in their traditions and theology. We feel that worshipping together and seeing how we can serve one another, in leadership, mission, ministry, pastoral care, financial support and buildings, are key.

Our Minster Community is based on the SBGT Three Key Questions of the Diocese - growth in the number of disciples; growth in the depth of discipleship; and growth in loving service of the world. We are developing a growing confidence in actively reflecting on our practice, faith and ministry as churches in a variety of ways.

Our Minster Community is rooted in prayer and theological reflection through a growing confidence in:

- actively reflecting on our practice, faith and ministry in church and community.
- dwelling in the Word and the Examen in Community of Practice and Synod Minster Community gatherings and PCC meetings, increasing numbers of congregational-led worship and regular Growing Faith gatherings in our four church schools.
- Several outreach-focused activities have started to reflect theologically: Saturday morning prayer on ZOOM, quarterly Agape services and a vibrant weekly lay-led ZOOM congregation every Sunday morning.
- Parishes reach out in different ways to their local communities in loving service of the world by holding coffee morning and cafes, pastoral visiting to households, involvement in school assemblies, supporting residents of Hallaton Manor Residential care home with visits, services and invitations to church events, raising awareness of the need for donations to food banks, and supporting Ukrainian families.
- Some of our churches are journeying towards festival church status.



Launde Abbey



Cos E Primary schools



## **Pg 5 Where we are**

The deanery is situated in rural southeast Leicestershire with the market towns of Oakham, Uppingham and Market Harborough just beyond our borders. The Minster covers an area of just under 100 square miles of beautiful rolling countryside, mainly farmland.

- We have 4 church schools (Tugby, Billesdon, Hallaton and Church Langton), with whom we work closely. In Knossington, there is The Grange Therapeutic School (11-16 years).
- All churches are listed buildings, most of which also act as meeting places in a variety of ways.
- Several villages have a village hall, some with outdoor facilities, two with licensed bars, where various sports, uniformed groups and clubs and societies (Drama WI, etc) meet.
- There are three residential homes, Hallaton Manor, which is a multi-category residential care home for up to 40 people who require support and assistance in coping with their health issues, Shangton Care Home and Home Instead Senior Care at Stonton Wyville.
- Few villages are on a bus route and car journeys can be difficult on winter evenings. Across the Deanery Minster community, there is little or no public transport in the evenings and Sundays, and Bank Holidays.
- Many parishes support, and residents are supported by, several local Food Banks including (Kibworth Oakham and Market Harborough)
- Launde Abbey, a retreat house and our 'spiritual home', is in the northeast of the Minster Community area.
- There are village shops in Billesdon and Tilton; more villages have pubs, most of which serve food.
- Churches Conservation Trust supported churches and Chapels: Allexton and Withcote
- Private Chapels are in the hamlets of Rolleston and Noseley
- One Festival Church (Shangton)

**Pg 6 OVERALL VISION FOR OUR MISSION Our Vision Statement is as follows:**



***We believe that the Launde Minster Community is a worshipping community, called to be those who build the Kingdom of God and who equip one another for following Jesus for the whole of life.***

**REALISING OUR VISION**

To realise our vision as a Minster Community during the next part of our development, we are seeking to:

- Grow and deepen lay- and self-supporting ministry to serve the parishes in leading worship, deepening discipleship and caring for, and joining with, our village communities.
- Further encourage Growing Faith (amongst children and young people within households, schools and churches) and intergenerational church worship and discipleship (households, schools and churches) particularly through links with four church schools; and to build upon that in youth and young adult discipleship, recognising an underrepresentation of young people within our churches.
- Develop our awareness and love of the world beyond our boundaries.
- Build upon an emerging model of rural chaplaincy.
- Partner with other Christians in our parishes.
- Further develop administrative support for parishes in terms of co-ordination of occasional offices, life events, local church service patterns, drawing in of ordained pastoral support where appropriate, parish contributions and other administrative and buildings related support.

## **Pg 7. WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

**PERSON SPECIFICATION** We seek a person who:

- brings experience of, and a heart for, rural ministry;
- has good interpersonal skills, is encouraging, supportive and a good listener ;
- is energetic with a passion for growing faith in people of all ages;
- is able to lead in difficult decision-making situations;
- is able to convene and lead ministry teams and co-ordinate the gifts of others;
- is a strategist who has experience of growing the ministry of others in both inherited church and fresh expression situations;
- Is able to travel by independent means.

### **ROLE DESCRIPTION**

Alongside the generic role description for Minster Community oversight ministers in the diocese (see page 13), in the coming seasons of our Minster Community the key areas of responsibility for the Oversight Minister in Launde will be:

- to develop our responses to the Three Key Questions of our Diocese;
- to enable lay- and self-supporting ministers to serve all the parishes and to provide local leadership;
- to enable the continued flourishing of Growing Faith ministry, intergenerational church worship and discipleship, particularly through links with the four church primary schools;
- to exercise oversight of the ministry of others in this particularly the new intergenerational minister as and when appointed;
- to lead the Minster ministry team of stipendiary, self-supporting, retired and lay ministers;
- to oversee the provision of operations, administrative and ordained pastoral support within the parishes;
- to provide strategic leadership of the Minster Community Co-ordinating Group, Standing Committee & Minster Community gatherings

To enable exercise of the above leadership responsibilities within the Minster Community, the Oversight Minister will be licensed as Incumbent of the Coplow Benefice and priest in charge of the 5 other currently vacant benefices: the Gaulby Group; Whatborough Group; Hallaton and Allextun with Horninghold, Tugby and East Norton; The Langtons and Shangton; and Welham, Glooston, Cranoe and Stonton Wyville.



## WHAT WE CAN OFFER

- A praying community
- Administrative support (paid and voluntary)
- A friendly group of parishes who are proud of their progress as a minster community journey
- Hospitable and supportive church officers and members committed to caring for their new minister and ensuring their mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing
- A dedicated group of self-supporting and retired priests and lay ministers
- Some churches with Wi-Fi, servery facilities and toilets
- Church congregations who enjoy offering hospitality and working together
- Good community support for parish churches across many of the villages where people recognise the historic nature of our churches and the burdens of maintenance
- An informative and developing website
- An interest in our Diocesan links and other global contacts



## Pg 9 Our worship and services

Our patterns of worship continue to evolve, generally based on geographical groupings.

Details of these are published on the website and in the weekly news sheets.

The weekly Zoom service welcomes everyone, across all borders, and enables widespread families to worship together. It is a friendly community of people who support and pray for each other.

[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [WHO'S WHO](#) [WHAT'S ON](#) [PRAYERS](#) [OUR CHURCHES ON ACNY](#) [MOTHERS' UNION](#) [NEWSLETTERS](#)

[ZOOM SERVICES](#) [MINSTER EVENTS](#) [OUR SCHOOLS](#) [SMILETIME](#) [PCC ADMIN INFO & FORMS](#) [CONTACT](#) [LINKS](#)

### MINSTER COMMUNITY ZOOM SERVICES

#### SUNDAYS AT 11-00 am

Joining Details are below

The Zoom link is opened around 10-40 am, for informal conversation before the service.

To request prayers for someone, please contact [Mary Twidell](#)

Details of the week's service leader and reflector can be found on the [Newsletters Church Services schedule page](#)

Click this button to join the Launde Minster Sunday Zoom Service

If needed  
Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342  
Passcode: 079282

**Other activities in and across the Minster Community include:**

- Lent courses.
- Prayer groups, including weekly Saturday morning prayer (Zoom), both lay- and clergy-led.
- Pilgrimage walks.
- Monthly Community of Practice meetings at Launde Abbey.
- Launde Abbey offers courses, retreats, hotel accommodation and cafe.
- Mothers 'Union.
- Food for Thought.
- Agape meals.
- Monthly services at Hallaton Manor.
- 'Opening the Book' assemblies at Tugby, Hallaton and Billesdon schools.
- Seasonal/weekly cafes at Tilton, Gaulby, Hallaton and Church Langton.
- A treasurers 'group, developing across some parishes for mutual support.
- Increasing collaboration across parishes to pool knowledge and expertise.
- Concerts in some of our churches.
- Support for charities, local and beyond, e.g. Christian Aid, One Roof Leicester, Bishops Lent Appeal.

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**Where you will live - Billesdon Vicarage, Gaulby Road, Billesdon**

The Parsonage House, Gaulby Road, Billesdon is a detached four bedroomed, erected in the grounds of the Old Rectory in 1992 by A J Stimson & Son (Somerby) Ltd to the design of Granger & Jones, architects, of Medbourne.

The property is situated adjoining and with access to the parish churchyard. The house is constructed with external cavity walls off a blue brick damp proof course with facing bricks to all elevations. The pitched roofs have a slate covering. All windows are double-glazed U-pvc. To the ground floor, the accommodation comprises entrance porch, hall, study, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom & WC. To the first floor are four bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. The house has a detached single garage and inter-connecting car standing covered way, incorporating fuel and garden stores. The property has a tarmacadam driveway and brick paved car standing to the front of the house. The house has extensive gardens on all sides.



Side view from drive



Rear View

## **Pg 12. Meet the Minster Community Leaders**

### **Minster Community Co-ordinating team:**

Oversight minister, Madeleine Wang (lay chairman, Tugby), Hilary Painter (Gaulby), Keith Evans (Billesdon), Revd. David Palmer (Self-supporting Priest), Vera Williams (Shangton), intergenerational minister (to be appointed).

### **Launde Deanery Standing Committee:**

Oversight Minister. Madeleine Wang (lay chairman, Tugby), Wendy Lewis (administrator), Mary Twidell (Horninghold), Hilary Painter (Gaulby), Keith Evans (Billesdon), Revd. David Palmer

### **Pg 13. Generic Role Description for Oversight Minister**

**Oversight Ministers share with the bishops in the oversight of the churches in the Minster Community. They are to work with the Ministry Team to build up the body of Christ in each place, to share with them the sacraments, preach the Word and discern the gifts and calling of all God's people. They are to connect the churches through a free exchange of gifts, and to lead the Minster Community in mission and engagement with the civic, business and community life of the area. They are to work for unity and peace and bring to the bishops' attention the particular needs and concerns of the communities in their care.**

Oversight Ministers will:

1. Either now or in due course, be Incumbent / Priest-in-charge for one or more churches within the Minster Community, taking full responsibility (in partnership with the PCC) for worship, pastoral care and mission
2. Oversee the Minster Community Ministry Team (however constituted) to:
  - a. form and build a genuine sense of collegiality, partnership and team working
  - b. pray for one another, and the churches and communities of the MC
  - c. ensure sacramental, worship, pastoral and teaching provision across all the churches, fresh expressions of church and schools of the MC (ensuring worship and teaching is appropriate to that church's tradition)
  - d. enable growth in depth of discipleship, numbers of disciples and loving service of the world
  - e. explore how the diocesan priorities of new communities, intercultural community, intergenerational communities, eco-communities and reconciling communities can be embodied locally
  - f. enable shared discernment of missional opportunities and priorities across the MC, and engagement in the public square
  - g. ensure good communication and coordination of activities across the MC
  - h. discern vocations and ensure the gifts and experience of the whole people of God are being used to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom
  - i. ensure good governance (including implementation of safeguarding policies) and good management of finances and buildings through the leadership exercised by the Ministry Team
  - j. connect the local MC into the wider life of the diocese
  - k. work with diocesan staff to ensure locally contextualised support and training for all with the MC



3. Meet regularly one-to-one with each member of the Ministry Team holding a ministry leadership role across the whole Minster Community, in order to offer support and encouragement, and to explore development and training needs
4. In partnership with Bishop, Churchwardens and PCC, appoint, and ensure good support for, the “local leadership” in every church and fresh expression of church. This person or persons will act as the key local contact for that place. This may be a priest, deacon, associate minister, assistant minister, reader, pioneer, churchwarden or another individual(s) who is well known and well respected within the local community and can act as the ‘first point of contact’ for the church in that place. They will regularly attend worship and community events in that place and will liaise directly with the Oversight Minister or a designated member of the ministry team to ensure follow up of all contacts, enquiries, requests and concerns.
5. Meet regularly with school headteachers / chairs of governors / MAT leaders to ensure that schools are fully included in the mission and ministry of the MC
6. Participate in diocesan meetings as invited by the bishops and archdeacons