

Saint Wulfram's Church, Grantham

Catholic Missioner Parish Profile



St Wulfram's: Who are we?

St Wulfram's Grantham is a town centre, cathedral-like 'Major Parish Church' in the inclusive catholic tradition of the Church of England, which has challenged itself to grow in three dimensions (reflected in individual discipleship, attendance at services and mission).

We marked the 1300th anniversary of the death of our patron Wulfram in 2020.

The principal aim of St Wulfram's is to 'Share God's love with everyone in the heart of Grantham'.

More specifically, St Wulfram's is:

- a sacred space where all the senses will be fully engaged in the worship of God;
- a diverse congregation of all ages and from all backgrounds, where new believers are welcomed and we strive to nurture confident disciples;
- a faithful community exploring how best to serve our parish and neighbourhood, and responding to human need by joyful and loving service;
- a church that seeks to express justice locally, nationally and globally;
- a church that strives to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth;
- common ground, where an agenda of radical hospitality is practised, and from which we go out to engage with our wider community; and
- an environment where church and community actively promote the welfare of all who are vulnerable and work together to prevent harm.

St Wulfram's: A resource church

As part of a bold new diocesan programme to resource the urban church, funded in part by the national church's Strategic Development Fund, St Wulfram's has been designated as one of three urban centre churches in the diocese to become 'resource churches', alongside St George's Stamford and St Swithin's Lincoln. These churches represent the variety in Anglican traditions present across the 630 parishes and the eleven urban centres of the Diocese of Lincoln. St Wulfram's has been designated a Centre for Formation in Catholic Mission.

As resource churches, we have been given a specific mandate to play a part in the revitalisation of the diocese's urban centres, strengthening churches across the diocese and facilitating the diocesan strategy for church planting.



Programme aims

Over the next five years, each resource church aims to grow its Usual Sunday Attendance (St Wulfram's has been challenged to grow to at least 390; in 2019, we reached 280); to grow disciples; to develop both lay and ordained leaders; and to resource existing churches with training and volunteers. This will establish the groundwork, growth and pipeline needed for church planting. Each church will establish 2-3 new or revitalised 'church plants' - a total of 8 churches. The aim is for each church plant to grow by at least 150 people and become self-sustaining within five years.

The diocese will consult with key stakeholders to determine the locations and timings of the three churches that St Wulfram's has been challenged to plant or revitalise. Working alongside the leadership team at St Wulfram's, three Catholic Missioners (planting curates) will play a vital role in achieving the programme aims.

Catholic Missioner: The role

The Catholic Missioners will play an important part in this ambitious and exciting vision.

We are seeking to appoint two Catholic Missioners for 2021. A third Catholic Missioner will be recruited for 2022.

The overall purpose of the role at St Wulfram's is to:

- Support the development of St Wulfram's as a resource church.
- Prepare to revitalise an existing church in the catholic tradition in a different parish in an urban centre within the Diocese of Lincoln, after three years.

The Catholic Missioners will spend up to three years at St Wulfram's, investing in and learning from the community here, while co-developing plans with the church, the SDF programme board and the diocese for a church plant. The diocese will consult with key stakeholders to determine the exact locations and timings of the plants, and the Catholic Missioners will be a key part of these discussions.

While at St. Wulfram's, working closely with the Rector, Associate Rector, PCC and leadership team, the Catholic Missioners will support the development of St. Wulfram's as a resource church by sharing in the leadership of St. Wulfram's in its mission to the parish, town and district it serves. They will assist in the priestly ministry in the life of the parish, including preaching, leadership of services and occasional offices and pastoral care, as part of the team of clergy and lay ministers.

After three years, subject to appropriate progression, the Catholic Missioners will move to their respective plant church, where they will reach out to the community in which it is located through mission, evangelism and social action, with the vision of seeing lives and communities transformed. Support and training will be provided by the Rector of St Wulfram's and their team before, during and after the plant has taken place.

The Catholic Missioners will have a shared office at Grantham House and work with a supportive team.

The Mission Facilitator will support the Catholic Missioners in their training and offer organisational support during church planting stages, involving liaison with diocesan and other resource churches.

As part of the programme, the Catholic Missioners will have a limited amount of initial funding to recruit a small initial staff team and to help set up the new location for mission. Upon planting, the Catholic Missioners will lead their own church, with the aim to grow by 150 people within five years and become self-sustaining.

The Catholic Missioners will evidence a strong commitment to the mission of God's church by reaching and inspiring others to reach new people with the good news of Jesus. They will be a person of prayer and vision, able to pioneer new initiatives with a willingness to build from nothing and not be afraid of taking risks, willing to learn from failure as well as success. They will have the ability to identify and invest in leaders and release and equip the saints for acts of service.

This role is likely to suit both those seeking a first training curacy, as well as those coming to the end of, or who have recently completed, their first curacy. The role would be adjusted based on experience. For candidates who have already completed a first curacy, we would expect you to play a central part in the senior team of St. Wulfram's before moving towards preparing your own plant under the SDF programme.

The person specification and details of the training programme are set out below (pages 13 to 15).

St Wulfram's: A church in the catholic tradition

The model of the catholic tradition that St Wulfram's espouses is **inclusive**.

As Jesus welcomed all people, so too St Wulfram's welcomes all people. Our commitment is expressed through membership of the Inclusive Church Network, and St Wulfram's and its people endorse the network's statement of belief:

We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

It is expected that the plants / revitalised churches from St Wulfram's will have this same character.

At the heart of our model is **sacramental worship, done well and in the power of the Holy Spirit**, as an effective tool of mission. To this end, we offer a broad spectrum of services rooted in tradition yet accessible (from family Eucharistic services to Choral Eucharists). The range of our liturgy will continue to be enhanced, as appropriate, bearing in mind modern ways of living that may take people away from traditional modes of attendance. We **celebrate sacramental priesthood**.

The foundation for St Wulfram's growth and development over the last six years is our 'sacred space, common ground' agenda of radical hospitality. A key characteristic of our model of church is a commitment to the expression of God's love through wholehearted engagement with our community (including a willingness to meet it where it is) and **serving the Common Good**.

In addition, our model of church is one that is committed to **being intentional in evangelism**, to **forming God's people**, and to **nurturing of young disciples**, a foundation for which is our excellent church musicprogramme and the high standards of choral training at St Wulfram's. Planned, regular and sustained catechesis –both ongoing discipleship that encourages the deepening and sharing of faith, and the initial forming and exploration of faith– is key to growth and is deeply rooted within the catholic tradition.

A collaborative approach is also at the heart of our model going forward. The **Catholic Practitioners' Network**, which launched in October 2020, heralded the start of this strategy, where the Centre for Formation in Catholic Mission becomes an integral part of a process and resource for renewal and growth in the catholic tradition across the Diocese of Lincoln. The Catholic Practitioners' Network will: imagine and enable the Centre's programme to creatively resource spirituality and missional activity for the diocese and within individual parishes; offer practical support in this programme by providing contexts to trial initiatives, offering physical/staff resources, and joining in collective mission activities; support the Centre, the Catholic Missioners, the leadership team, the PCC and congregation of St Wulfram's through prayer, constructive feedback on developing plans, and their presence at special services and events; participate in termly learning and training sessions at St Wulfram's, sharing expertise and covering the hallmarks of catholic mission for the benefit of those in the Network, those directly involved in the Centre and, to enhance practice across the diocese, contributing to wider diocesan training where appropriate.



St Wulfram's: Our team

Our team is growing and developing and is made up of a variety of full-time and part-time roles (from different funding sources) and roles held on a voluntary basis.

Fr Stuart Craddock, Rector and Rural Dean of Grantham, and Vicar of St John the Evangelist Manthorpe

Fr Clay Roundtree, Associate Rector of Grantham (May 2021)

Two Catholic Missioners for 2021; and one Catholic Missioner for 2022

Mthr Mel Parkin, Assistant Curate, St Wulfram's and St John the Evangelist Manthorpe

Fr James Titley, Assistant Curate, St Wulfram's and St John the Evangelist Manthorpe

Mthr June Rowland, Community Chaplain

Mr Nick Kerry, Reader

A Children, Youth and Families Worker (September 2021)

Up to two Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme participants (September 2021)

Mrs Elaine Chambers, Parish Administrator

Dr Judith Muskett, Mission Facilitator and PCC Secretary

Dr Tim Williams, Director of Music

Mr Simon Chesters Thompson, Project Co-ordinator at Grantham House

Mrs Anne-Marie Kerr, Artist in Residence

Mrs Jan Burrows, Churchwarden

Mr Andrew Gregory, Churchwarden

Mr Stephen Howe, PCC Treasurer

Mission-Shaped Facilities



St Wulfram's Church is an iconic fourteenth-century Grade I Listed Building, with a strong visual value along major transport routes. When the great wooden west doors stand ajar (all day and during services), the internal glass doors (installed to commemorate the Millennium) blur the distinction between the outside world and the internal space. The interior of the church – 'a single vast rectangle' with level, accessible floors – affords wonderful opportunities for major civic, commemorative, and school services, major cultural events, festivals, installations, community consultation meetings, etc.

The church was one of a sample of 50 chosen for brief case studies for Historic England's 2016 report *Sustaining Major Parish Churches*. The case study on St Wulfram's included these statements: The church feels that community use is essential to the sustainability of the church, and recaptures the medieval use of the space in ways that celebrate the joy of day-to-day life. The church aims to change negative perceptions ... by welcoming the community and encouraging people to engage with the space and feel a sense of common ownership and belonging. (p. 139)

The Francis Trigge Chained Library (in the room above the south porch) is of exceptional historic significance as the earliest library in England for the use of the public and due to the rare volumes it contains. The team of stewards welcomes visitors from the UK and overseas.

St Wulfram's is a major 'heritage' asset and, as such, is recognised as making an important contribution to the visitor economy of the local district. The church and churchyard are a focal point of South Kesteven District Council's Grantham Town Conservation Area and lie within the 'Heritage Action Zone', which celebrates the town's built, social, cultural and natural heritage and is funded by Historic England. Associated with the Zone is a programme of cultural activity; and St Wulfram's is one of six local community organisations comprising the Cultural Consortium established by the district council to lead on the development and delivery of the three-year programme. St Wulfram's will deliver a Festival of Angels in Advent 2021.

While the single open space of the church is a sufficient size to accommodate large groups, the type and number of activities/events that can take place concurrently are restricted. The vision for St Wulfram's 'Sacred space, common ground: Equipping the now, resourcing the future' project, which started in 2015, has been to acquire enhanced church and community facilities.

In 2020, after negotiations with the National Trust, the PCC of St Wulfram's decided to take an initial 12-month lease on Grantham House and gardens (on Castlegate, opposite the church). The lease commenced in December and Grantham House has been prepared as our resource centre (with offices for staff) and we look forward to using the site well from the summer 2021 (subject to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions). Taking on the indoor and outdoor space on the site enables St Wulfram's to extend the range and scope of missional activities for our church community, deanery churches (whose clergy are actively exploring new ways of collaborative working in response to the diocesan 'Resourcing Sustainable Church' initiative) and the wider community. Relocating certain weekday and one-off activities from inside the church to Grantham House will facilitate a more consistent offering in terms of weekday worship and for private prayer and quiet reflection inside the church.

Our five-year plans assume a longer-term lease on Grantham House, subject to further discussion with the National Trust and the success of funding applications.

Meanwhile, one important aspect of our resourcing work at Grantham House is being delivered through the Wulfram Centre for Wholeness & Wellbeing. This is a new project towards which we received generous funding from the Allchurches Trust through their 'Hope Beyond' grants programme aimed at enabling churches to meet the changing needs of their communities in response to COVID-19, from the Evan Cornish Grassroots Fund (administered by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation) the object of which is to improve the wellbeing of people living in Greater Lincolnshire and to make life more comfortable, ease distress and isolation for those most in need, and from the Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund.

The Wulfram Centre project will promote mental and emotional health and wellbeing, address loneliness and isolation exacerbated by the pandemic and build community resilience. Provision is guided in part by Mind's Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be active, Take notice, Learn, Give. We recently recruited a part-time Project Co-ordinator and a part-time Artist in Residence, who are key to the delivery of our aims for the Centre and site.



Worship, Online Provision, and Prayer

Sunday services

Our current offer is:

8 a.m. Said Eucharist (St Michael's Chapel).

9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist – children from the Sunday Club are actively involved and lay people read the lessons, lead the intercessions and assist in the administration of the Sacrament.

6.30 p.m. Choral Evensong (school term-time) or **Evening Prayer** (outside school term) – lay people read the lessons.

At 9.30 a.m. on the first Sunday of most months, there is All Age worship or a Parade Service for the uniformed organisations, with instrumental accompaniment: these services attract a cross-section of people, young and old. In the months when All Age worship or Parade Services take place at 9.30 a.m., a traditional Choral Eucharist is held at 11.00 a.m. The distinctive style of this service (where all the senses are fully engaged in the worship of God) attracts not only regular members of the congregation, but also worshippers from other churches and newcomers.

In 2019, Usual Sunday Attendance at St Wulfram's was 280.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may mean that we have to re-think our pattern of Sunday services, possibly adding to the current offer. Whatever strategic changes are made, it will be important to retain the catholic identity of St Wulfram's and not actively to divide the congregation.

Midweek worship

Morning Prayer is said daily (Monday to Friday) in the Crypt Chapel; and members of the congregation attend on an occasional basis. Midweek Eucharists are held on a Tuesday at 12 noon and at 10.30 on a Wednesday morning. On the second Wednesday of the month, the Eucharist is an Iona service. These services typically attract between 4 and 9 people. Weekly on Fridays at 12 noon we observe the rite of Exposition and Benediction: we sit in silence for half an hour, escaping the frantic nature of our lives, with our Lord present with us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

In 2018, we added a service of Choral Evensong, most Fridays during school term-time. This service, sung by the Youth Choir supported by our portable box organ, attracts a regular congregation of between 12 and 20.

As a cathedral-like major parish church, St Wulfram's recognises the significance of weekday encounters for spiritual and numerical growth. So, we keep the midweek offer under regular review and aim to develop our midweek offer, enabling St Wulfram's to be a true seven-day-a-week church.



Online provision

As soon as the country was put into lockdown in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and places of worship were closed from 24 March 2020, St Wulfram's responded by live-streaming a range of services on Facebook (with video recordings available afterwards and 'views' reckoned over the subsequent 28 days). The Eucharist was celebrated at 9.30 each Sunday morning in the Rectory garden; and the first three videos (Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday, and Easter Day) were viewed by significant numbers (1,400, 1,100 and 1,700 respectively). From mid-May, the Eucharist was broadcast from church; and at that stage it became possible (broadcasting to Facebook through Zoom) to include lay people reading the lessons and offering intercessions.

Morning Prayer was said daily at 9.00 a.m. at the home of a member of the clergy team. The number of views indicate that in broadcasting the Office, St Wulfram's is meeting a real spiritual need. A 'Thought for the Day' or Bible reflection was offered later in the morning each Tuesday and Wednesday by members of the clergy team (in two instances involving young people, whose mature and refreshing ideas became a particular talking-point). Saturday Compline (from the home of our licensed Reader) was added to the offer in the second week of lockdown; and daily Compline was said in Holy Week.

As lockdown restrictions were gradually relaxed and places of worship could eventually re-open for public worship, our number and range of Facebook broadcasts was tailored accordingly. We replaced 'Thought for the Day' with Weekly online Prayer at noon on Tuesdays; and, through the prayer tab on our website, we invited our community to submit online prayers to be prayed on these occasions. We continue to broadcast weekday Morning Prayer and Saturday Compline; and the Sunday Parish Eucharist and evening service continue to be live-streamed from the church (using a new streaming system) to reach those who are unable to attend church in person.

The range of online worship is kept continually under review; and St Wulfram's will respond to the needs of its church community with appropriate broadcasts, as circumstances evolve.

Prayer

It is our intention that prayer is central to who we are at St Wulfram's and underpins everything we do in our relationship with God and our town. We are committed to prayer both corporately and individually; and encourage individual prayer as part of people's ongoing discipleship and relationship with God.

We create opportunities for people to pray both inside and outside the church. Candles are available for people to light; spiritual 'hotspots' / areas of reflection are available within the church; and we are developing a scheme of interpretation which will not only inform people about the church building but challenge individuals to prayer through the various zones of the church. Our labyrinth, mown into the churchyard during the pandemic, proved to be an aid to prayer for the wider community.

The Prayer Network (comprising members of our Lay Pastoral Team and others) regularly prays for those on our church prayer list (the sick, those who have died and those whose anniversary of death we mark) and those who have requested our private prayer.

In all the various 'common ground' events held within the church (Christmas Tree Festival, Beer Festival, Gravity Fields Festival) we designate space for quiet reflection and encourage prayer. We hold an annual All Souls service when friends and families can remember loved ones whose names are read aloud while the Choir sings a Requiem. Our local hospice holds a 'Light up a life' community event in St Wulfram's, bringing together friends and families to remember and celebrate the lives of departed loved ones, by lighting candles and offering prayer.



Children and Youth

Children and young people are welcomed at St Wulfram's and involved in the life of the congregation at every opportunity. This key aspect of our work is overseen by the 'Children & Youth Sub-group' established by the PCC. The sub-group meets regularly to hear reviews on each aspect of the church's work with children and young people (including safeguarding); and it also discusses the church's involvement with church schools in the parish. The sub-group celebrates achievements, and discusses challenges and points for action.

Later this year, we shall appoint a full-time Children, Youth and Families Worker (funded by the diocese for two years) who will contribute to our current church-based ministry as well as breaking new ground in Grantham with unchurched children and young people and the making of new disciples.

The Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at the same time as the Parish Eucharist. In three age groups, the Club has a full programme of teaching, prayer, music and activities. They re-join parents/carers at the Parish Eucharist during the Lord's Prayer and then show and tell the congregation what they have been doing at the end of the service. We shall continue to foster the development of the very dedicated team of Sunday Club volunteers (including three young people who are growing in confidence to plan and lead their own sessions).

Among the ways in which we seek to include children and young people in our worship, those aged 0 to 16 years are invited to celebrate the Wise Men's visit to Jesus in a costumed drama during the Parish Eucharist on Epiphany Sunday. On Good Friday, a workshop is held for children to explore the significance of the day through drama, craft and music.



Discussions are taking place about the optimum frequency for the Wednesday morning Teddy Bears Service for the 0 to 5s; and publicity for it is to be enhanced to increase attendance, now that some of the older children have started school.

The 'Rhyme Time' singing and activity group for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents/carers meets for an hour in church each Friday during term-time. The group continues to grow in numbers and several of these children and families have started to come to family services with some coming along to the Good Friday Workshop.

In the summer of 2019, we launched 'Wulfram Wednesdays', inviting families to participate in activities in the church every Wednesday during the long school holiday.

The junior choirs are a very significant part of our outreach through schools, drawing in many young people and their families, who would otherwise not have been part of our church community. Choristers join from the age of 7 upwards, without a formal audition process. They are nurtured through Choir Club (for boys on Tuesday afternoon after school and for girls on Wednesday afternoon after school) and a varied programme of social activities (e.g., trampolining and ice-skating trips).



The choral training programme at St Wulfram's (which yields significant numbers of Royal School of Church Music awards - 108 since 2011) is a pivotal aspect of discipleship training for our children and young people. Exceptional development opportunities are afforded to choristers through daytrips to cathedrals to sing Choral Evensong or for week-long summer cathedral residencies. In total, the Choir has now sung at 23 Anglican cathedrals in England/Wales.

The youth choir, which meets on Monday afternoon, has responded to the choristers as they have graduated from the boys' and girls' choirs. In the 2019-20 school year, seven 'choral scholars' were supported by the local Philip Lank Trust. The musical training of young people at St

Wulfram's includes a highly active organ teaching school: currently, 11 young scholars are learning to play the organ, supported by a range of local and national charitable trusts.

Our youth group for those in Year 9 and above (launched 2018) consists of 20+ members (a mixture of youth choir and non-youth choir members) and the young people are encouraged to invite friends to join. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month are usually held in the evening at the Rectory. The young people have been instrumental in designing the programme; and members enjoyed a range of activities. A second youth group for younger members (in school years 7 to 9) was launched in October 2019. Monthly meetings, also on the first Sunday evening of the month, are usually held in the church. There are currently 12 members, of whom 8-9 attend each time. Although they met only three times in 2019, they enjoyed fellowship with one another and the space in the church. We intend to increase membership of the two groups by advertising them more widely and encouraging current members to invite their friends.

There are seven Scout or Guide sections associated with the church and five regular parade services a year are held, involving the children in every way. Clergy and other members of the church are invited to go and speak to the groups. The groups also visit the church. The annual St George's Day Parade Service, attended by groups from the wider Grantham area, is held at the church; in 2020, the online service attracted 1,100 views from across the diocese.

Discipleship

The liturgical year is planned around courses and study days. Moving forward, there will be a mixed mode approach to delivery and locations that will encompass: monthly Bible Study, Extra Half Hour, blogs, virtual teaching sessions, signposting to various resources (videos, reading etc), study days, and House Groups.



'Extra Half Hour' (an informal Bible study) follows the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist once a month. All are welcome and the aim is to provide an opportunity to dig a little deeper into the scripture readings for the day.

Clergy-led courses are run for members of our congregation and others to explore the Christian faith more deeply. Most recently, we used the national 'Pilgrim' resource focusing on the Beatitudes and 'Your SHAPE for God's service', which enabled participants to understand their unique gifts and how they might wish to use them. Further themes from the 'Pilgrim' resources will be explored.

Through Fr Stuart's role as Rural Dean, St Wulfram's has taken the lead in launching the new diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry discernment/training course 'To Love and Serve the Lord'. The first cohort from the Grantham Deanery completes their initial 16-session course of study in March 2021; and the second cohort (drawn from the Grantham and Loveden Deaneries) will start their course in June 2021.

Midweek encounters

All our midweek fellowship groups were established in response to identified needs. A prime example is our Sunday lunch group for people of any age (who would otherwise eat alone), which has flourished for more than a decade. Around 20 members (in their 40s to 90s) visit a local restaurant or pub on the second Sunday of each month. Gatherings moved online in response to the pandemic; and a proportion of group members now meet via Zoom to chat for an hour each second Sunday.

Two new monthly fellowship groups were launched in the autumn 2019. The Wulfram Men's Group holds evening meetings to enjoy dining out and visits to local landmarks and exploring topical and relevant issues that connect with men's lives today. The St Wulfram's Curry Club also meets in an evening at a local pub prior to going to a local restaurant: while all are welcome, the club is aimed at those within the 30 to 50 age group. Our monthly art and knitting groups, which developed from Lenten devotional activities a couple of years ago, will move from the church to Grantham House in 2021.

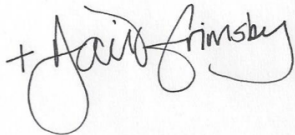
A message from the Bishop of Grimsby

Our vision as a diocese is to grow in faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service. Our nationally backed SDF programme to resource the urban church is necessarily considered, strategic and detailed, but it ultimately serves the same diocesan vision: that God is worshipped, that our communities are served by the disciples of Jesus Christ, and that lives are transformed.

This programme addresses the need in our urban areas to significantly increase the church's reach and impact and will, I pray, contribute to the revitalisation of our urban communities. As a Catholic Missioner, you will play your part in this programme of urban transformation, learning from and leading at St. Wulfram's: one of our three resource churches in the diocese, before establishing or revitalising your own plant.

This comes at an important time for the diocese. At the current time, as is the case in many other dioceses, the Diocese of Lincoln is very actively exploring its model of stipendiary deployment, to better equip it for the missional task ahead. While these posts are clearly based at St. Wulfram's ahead of a future plant location, and any future planting position be rooted in incumbency, all ministry roles in the future will be exercised across a wider geographical area than parish alone, according to skills, gifts and experience, as a resource to these communities. As with all roles therefore, the Catholic Missioner and Plant Leader roles will develop over time alongside this new model of ministry for the diocese.

We invite you to join with us on this exciting journey in our diocese.



The Rt Revd Dr David Court
Bishop of Grimsby
Strategic Lead for Mission & SDF Programme Lead



Next Steps

Housing

Housing will be provided through either a diocesan property or a housing allowance.

Additional office space will be provided at Grantham House.

How to apply

Please apply via the Pathways website (<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/>) by 12 noon on **Wednesday 14th April 2021**.

Candidates are welcome to request an individual parish visit prior to interview.

Interviews will be held at Grantham House, Castlegate, Grantham NG31 6SS on Thursday 13th May 2021. Partners are welcome to attend but there is no expectation.

For more information about this post, or an informal discussion, please contact:

Fr Stuart Cradduck, Rector and Rural Dean

Email stuart.cradduck@stwulframs.com

Telephone 01476 569582

Catholic Missioner: Person specification

Additional to all Formation Criteria for Ordained Ministry at the end of IME2

Experience (in a Christian or any other context)

A track record of innovation: of 'firsts', of initiative, of solutions, of starting something new.

A willingness to take risks and show courageous faith: with a capacity to build from nothing, through risk-taking and experimentation, learning from both failure and success.

An ability to communicate the gospel to those outside the church, in an effective, culturally-relevant way.

An ability to release and equip others, identifying and investing in leaders.

Ability (including potential ability, to be learned)

Able to cast a bold vision and to lead others in this

Able to gather people, to build and lead strong teams

Able to handle and resolve conflict

Able to initiate change

Character

Self-motivated

Flexible, resourceful, thriving in unfamiliar contexts

Maturity and robustness for the planting context, with a capacity to:

Lay aside personal preference for the sake of vision and mission

Cope effectively with pressure, ambiguity and change

Have a consistency of character in varied circumstances

Persevere for the long-term

Work with people of all backgrounds

Show good emotional awareness

Discernible signs of a calling to a church planting type ministry

Be inclusive in approach.

Subscribe to the vision and model of church at St Wulfram's.

This role is likely to suit both those seeking a first training curacy, as well as those coming to the end of, or who have recently completed, their first curacy. The role would be adjusted according to experience. For candidates who have recently completed a first curacy, we would expect you to play a central part in the senior team of St Wulfram's, before moving towards preparing your own church plant under the SDF programme.

While the role is clearly based at St. Wulfram's, ahead of a future plant location, the diocese is in the process of developing a new, more sustainable model for stipendiary deployment for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire that involves fewer, better resourced churches, served by larger, diverse teams, working over a larger geographic area. It is therefore a requirement of all roles going forward that individuals are open to future collaborative working across larger areas in accordance with skills, giftings and experience.

Catholic Missioners: Training programme

Role at St Wulfram's

Formation as a Catholic Missioner

A weekly one-to-one reflective meeting with the Rector or Associate Rector;

Monthly supervision meetings, which in addition to the 'normal' training incumbent supervision will focus on planning, strategy, mentoring and troubleshooting, with a view to church planting.

Attendance at termly training sessions at St Wulfram's, involving the Catholic Practitioners' Network, covering the hallmarks of catholic mission.

Prayerful support from the Catholic Practitioners' Network.

Encouragement to attend external courses, attend conferences, go on retreats, all in order to continue to strengthen areas within personal and professional development.

Undertake a special project to encourage spiritual growth in St Wulfram's (or possibly with an allied organisation, e.g., Grantham Ark, Grantham Poverty Concern) – the nature of the project to be determined in consultation with the Rector and Associate Rector, after a needs assessment. Building a team, planning and delivering the project will develop/enhance skills necessary for the planting strategy.

Formation as a curate

As part of their general formation, the Catholic Missioners will work alongside others in different aspects of daily life in a busy parish church and community. They will play a full liturgical role in the Mass, preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and supporting other deanery churches. They will learn how to apply their skills by taking responsibility for specified areas of growth and nurture, along with the Rector and Associate Rector. They will be treated as equals, but in the knowledge that ultimate responsibility lies with the priest who has the cure of souls.

More specifically, especially in the case of a first curacy, training and experience will be given in the following aspects of ministry, which are crucial aspects and expressions of church growth:

- Preparing people for their child's Baptism;
- Preparing young people and adults for Baptism and Confirmation;
- Sharing in the wider arrangements for catechesis, which will involve work in schools;
- Work with groups: group work skills, faith sharing and personal evangelism;
- Nurturing faith development;
- Funerals and the care of the bereaved;
- Ministry to the sick and dying, including taking Holy Communion;
- Work with children and youth;

- General pastoral visiting;
- Contact with local community organisations and with other churches and faiths;
- Preparation for Marriage;
- Preparation for the administration of the sacraments, Eucharist, anointing the sick, hearing confessions;
- Personal interviews and counselling;
- Church governance (through service on the PCC and sub-groups);
- Planning and chairing meetings;
- Church communication.

Role within the diocese

As part of the cohort of planting curates in the diocese, the Catholic Missioners will share some learning experiences (e.g., cross-tradition) with their peers at resource churches, attend networking meetings at St Swithun's Lincoln and St George's Stamford, and invite their peers to St Wulfram's from time to time.

The Catholic Missioners will attend Deanery Chapter, offering creative content and/or leading sessions as appropriate and as the need arises. They will build relationships:

- within the Grantham Deanery;
- with the Loveden Deanery Chapter (with which the Grantham Deanery Chapter is beginning to work collaboratively under the diocesan 'Resourcing Sustainable Church' initiative);
- across the whole diocese; and
- in the plant locations (with support from the Rector of Grantham and the SDF Board, as appropriate).

From time to time, and as the Missioners' duties at St Wulfram's allow, there may be opportunities to support/resource another church (in the deanery or beyond) in a new or ongoing initiative, for a limited period.

The Catholic Missioners will play a full part in the Catholic Practitioners' Network; and will work with fellow members in delivering work across the diocese.





