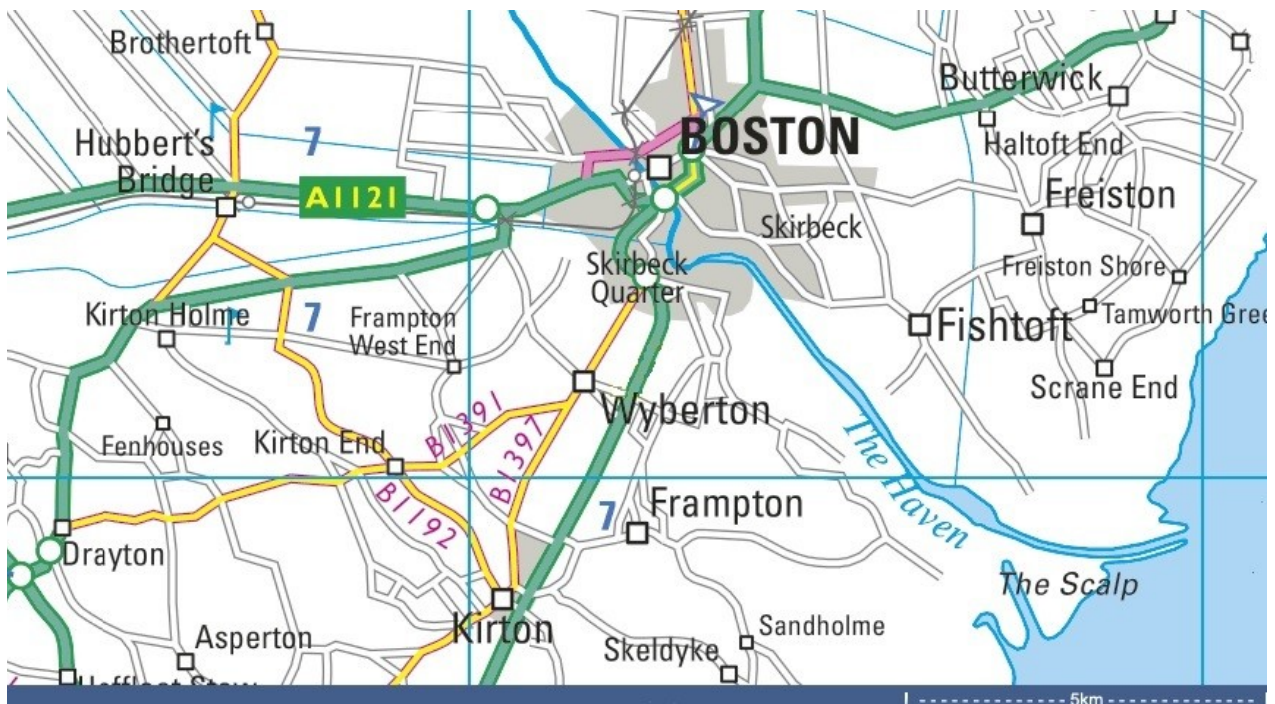


# Profile and Statement of The Benefice of Wyberton



**The Parish Church of  
St Leodegar Wyberton**



# The Wyberton Opportunity

## The Vision

This paper outlines an exciting opportunity for a Curate eager to live, work, and grow within the dynamic, multicultural community of Wyberton. Positioned near the historic town of Boston, Wyberton is a semi-rural parish deeply connected to Lincolnshire's agricultural heritage, now a hub of advanced mechanized farming. Known as the UK's primary producer of fresh vegetables year-round, Lincolnshire also leads in packaging fresh produce for markets across the UK and beyond.

The Parish Church of St. Leodegar, Wyberton, serves as a Type 2 Local Mission church within the Boston South Local Mission Partnership (LMP). It works closely with the Type 1 'Key Mission' Parish Church in Boston, as well as eight Type 3 and 4 Community and Festival churches. Together, these parishes embody a supportive network that meets the spiritual needs of our growing, diverse population.

Through collaborative public meetings and careful planning, the parish and LMP have identified current and future priorities for the community. A Curate in Wyberton would gain valuable experience in establishing sustainable church practices amidst the exciting changes to the Deanery Partnerships in the Lincoln Diocese. Working alongside our Rector, who also serves as Rural Dean, the Curate would live among residents in one of the parish's largest new housing estates, actively contributing to the spiritual life and growth of our community.

The overarching goal is to continue developing Wyberton and the Boston South LMP as a place of faith, service, and witness to God's creation. Reflecting this commitment, we are currently in the process of adding a Youth and Family Worker to our team to further engage and support our young families.

## A Time to Change Together

This is an exciting period for the churches in and around Boston Deanery. With the Lincoln Diocese's *A Time to Change Together* initiative, the Boston Deanery Partnership is strengthening collaborative efforts, shared values, and our commitment to God's mission in our local communities. Parishes within the town and surrounding villages have a strong foundation of working together in various capacities, and this initiative is enhancing that cooperative spirit, helping us to serve our communities even more effectively.

## The Quadrant Wyberton

The Quadrant is Lincolnshire and the East Midlands' largest and most dynamic hybrid development, situated right here in Wyberton. Adjacent to the A16 trunk road south of Boston, this 69-acre (29-hectare) development includes over 500 new homes and a growing commercial district, creating a vibrant community with robust economic and employment opportunities. Homes are being snapped up almost as soon as they are completed, reflecting high demand.



A true hybrid development, The Quadrant has already welcomed notable commercial names such as Costa Coffee, Greggs, Travelodge, Papa John's, Starbucks, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and Burger King. The state-of-the-art New Jakemans Stadium, home to Boston United Football Club, along with a regional conference center, enhances the area's appeal. Many more businesses are slated to join as the project advances through its six phases. The commercial sector also serves the county's major travel routes, with the Port of Boston less than two miles away, and has quickly become a hotspot for electric vehicle charging stations.



For the Curate, the residential sector of The Quadrant—where 200 homes are already completed and occupied—will become home. Here, a Curate has the opportunity to engage with the community, bringing their unique gifts to the parish team to help foster a spiritual “harvest” in this fertile ground, where both community and faith have the potential to thrive. This is a role where a Curate can establish both a home and a supportive community circle.

More about The Quadrant and its vision can be found on its website: [The Quadrant Boston](https://www.quadrantboston.com/about-the-quadrant) <https://www.quadrantboston.com/about-the-quadrant>, which vividly captures the development’s potential.

### **The new Community.**

Successful projects like The Quadrant rely on every element growing in harmony. Here, families will find neighbours who may be strangers at first, but as children are born and grow within the community, their enthusiasm will energize and uplift those around them. The Quadrant benefits from the presence of two nearby primary schools, both guided by a Christian ethos and a commitment to fostering strong values. These schools are part of The Infinity Academies Trust, which includes 10 primary academies across southern Lincolnshire—60% of which are Church of England academies.



The church enjoys a close and supportive relationship with both schools. The Infinity Academies Trust emphasizes this connection:



“Infinity Academies Trust is very proud to work in partnership with the Diocese of Lincoln. Our articles of association are based on the Church of England model, meaning most of our

members are Diocese-approved. We also ensure Church representation locally through our Academy Development Committees. We wholeheartedly believe that working with both Church of England and community schools enhances our Trust’s ability to meet the needs of all our communities.”

More information is available on the Trust's website, which serves as a valuable resource for parents and supporters alike. <https://www.infinityacademies.co.uk/working-with-church-schools/>

### **The location - destined for growth since the Romans**

Wyberton’s rich history traces back to Roman times, with its presence recorded in the Domesday Book, yet this village is anything but a relic of the past. Nestled in the scenic fenlands of southern Lincolnshire, the parish is part of the Boston borough, which stretches from the coastal Wash inland to the historic town itself. Although the coastline has transformed dramatically since Roman times, efforts to drain the fens created thousands of acres of fertile land, ideal for diverse agricultural uses. Today, this coastline is preserved through well-managed nature reserves, ensuring access to vibrant, protected ecosystems.

The fertile fenland soil has long supported a robust agricultural industry. While increasing mechanization since the nineteenth century has reduced the demand for field workers, a substantial local food industry has developed, offering year-round employment and supporting an international trade in fruits and vegetables. Local “packhouses” process a high volume of fresh produce, utilizing the expertise of the community.

A significant portion of the workforce consists of migrant workers, initially seasonal arrivals from Eastern Europe, who have now become long-term residents, bringing their families and integrating into the area. This demographic shift has contributed to a dynamic, multicultural population in Wyberton and the surrounding towns of Boston, Sleaford, and Spalding. These towns have become thriving, cosmopolitan centres with diverse communities, reflecting a 20% population growth over the past five years—a development that has brought both opportunities and challenges to the area.

### **Our Church and Congregation**

The Boston Archdeaconry is home to two Local Mission Partnerships (LMPs), with Wyberton as part of LMP Boston South. At the heart of this partnership is the Parish of Boston—the Key Mission Church (type 1) for LMP South—located in central Boston, both geographically and spiritually. As the Local Mission Church (type 2), Wyberton plays a key role in supporting local mission and ministry across surrounding rural parishes, which are designated as Community Churches (type 3) or Festival Churches (type 4).



The partnership builds upon existing strengths and relationships, particularly the excellent civic ministry and community outreach provided by Boston Parish Church, known affectionately as "The Stump." This iconic church, standing in the town's marketplace, boasts the tallest parish tower in England, drawing both community members and visitors.

The vision of the Deanery Partnership is to expand lay involvement and ministry within both LMPs, fostering discipleship and shared growth. Training is readily available across the deanery, with the potential for developing more localized hubs to support ongoing learning and community ministry.

### **Our Parishioners**

Wyberton spans a rural area of approximately 3,000 acres, with a population of around 5,000 that is expected to grow by 50% over the next decade. Recent years have seen a significant population increase, primarily due to tourism and agricultural workers from the EU—particularly from Eastern Europe—who have chosen to settle here. In more rural areas, the population remains predominantly UK-born. In Wyberton, 70% of families live in owner-occupied homes, while the remaining social housing stock consists of private rentals (10%) and housing association properties (20%). Property quality is high, with a proactive council that actively monitors standards.

As in many areas, housing demand is strong, and several new developments have been completed, with more underway or proposed for the village. The largest of these is The Quadrant, which will bring further growth and new opportunities to Wyberton.

While the area's economy is thriving, with an unemployment rate one-third lower than the national average, hourly wages have traditionally lagged by 30% compared to the national average, and private rents remain relatively high. Though conditions have improved in recent years, there is still room for compassionate, community-focused support. Our parish actively seeks to meet these

needs through partnerships with local schools, other parish churches, and community outreach programs with Churches Together in Boston (CTIB).

Wyberton's appeal extends beyond its economic opportunities. Many newcomers have roots in Lincolnshire, having served at one of the county's RAF stations or discovered the area while visiting the beautiful east coast beaches. So, what inspires people from across the UK and Europe to make Wyberton home?

### **Our Way of Life**

Lincolnshire offers a well-established work-life balance, with residents enthusiastically participating in a variety of social activities, both sporting and cultural. Establishing a home in this rural community presents notable advantages, especially for owner-occupiers and families.



The expansive skies, stunning sunrises, and sunsets of the fenlands create a dramatic and inspirational backdrop. The region is often referred to as the "Holy Land of the English," not only for its churches and cathedrals in Lincoln, Ely, Ramsey, Crowland, Thorney, and Peterborough but also for the impressive churches within our own benefices, which reflect a rich architectural tradition linking humanity to the divine. Here, we live in harmony with nature, surrounded by a fertile landscape next to the bountiful sea. The ever-changing scenery of growth and renewal enriches our daily lives.

Being a rural community does not equate to isolation; our benefices are strategically located between the cities of Lincoln, Peterborough, and Norwich, with Hull—named the UK City of Culture in 2017—just to the north.

Boston, the county's second-largest town, offers a wealth of amenities, including a twice-weekly market, a variety of shopping outlets, a cinema, a theatre, and a vibrant nightlife. The area boasts a rich heritage, arguably unmatched by any other town in the UK. Surrounding towns and villages provide a range of sports facilities, and the region's multifaceted history promises newcomers years of exploration and enjoyment. Some may even discover the legendary lost treasures of King John while exploring the area from which the Pilgrim Fathers set sail on their journey to America.

Healthcare services are tailored to meet the population's needs, with well-equipped health care centres. Boston is home to the district general hospital, Pilgrim Hospital, and several reputable residential homes for the elderly are available within our villages.



Our community is well-supported with modern GP practices, an NHS dental practice, conveniently located primary schools, and general stores with post offices. A major out-of-town shopping area with department and superstores is located at the northern edge of Wyberton, and The Quadrant will soon offer additional commercial space.

High-speed internet access is widely available, with fiber becoming the standard provision. This significant infrastructure project is nearing completion. The A16, A17, and A52 roads run through or alongside the parish, providing easy access to nearby market towns such as Boston, Spalding, Stamford, Sleaford, Grantham, and King's Lynn, all of which feature alternative shops, theatres, and cinemas. It's no surprise that Lincolnshire, a major supplier of food for the UK, is home to

many excellent restaurants and markets showcasing the freshest local produce, alongside fast food options catering to diverse tastes.

**Wyberton** boasts the Sir Joseph Banks Country Park, featuring extensive all-weather paths, woodland trails, and wildflower meadows, all developed by the local Boston Woods Trust. The area is rich with cycle paths and countryside walks, making it ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.



Adjacent to the country park is the Westwood Lake fishing complex, a picturesque series of lakes that include holiday lodges. Much of the Frampton Marsh RSPB Nature Reserve also lies within Wyberton, providing a haven for wildlife and nature lovers.

The east coast, famous for its beautiful sandy beaches, is just a short drive away, with Skegness and Mablethorpe being less than an hour from Wyberton.



For those needing to travel further afield, fast rail links are available at Peterborough and Grantham, offering direct services to London in just 65 minutes. The local railway stations in Boston and Spalding connect to these main lines and provide cross-country services. Additionally, East Midlands and Humberside airports offer both domestic and international flights to hundreds of destinations. A daily National Express service operates from Boston to London via Kirton, which borders Wyberton and Frampton, alongside regular bus services connecting Boston and Spalding to local villages. A dedicated school bus service is also available for eligible pupils.



In terms of church life, Wyberton averages a weekly attendance of around 25, with a similar number financially pledging support to the church. Weekly services are streamed live on Facebook, and attendance at festivals, baptisms, weddings, and funerals often exceeds 100. The electoral roll currently sits at around 25.

While young people are currently under-represented in the church outside of Remembrance and Christmas activities, initiatives such as the RoadHog Bus—a travelling youth mission project—and Open the Book teams in local primary schools are sowing seeds for future growth. There is potential for greater youth engagement, as current demand is only partially met. Active youth groups exist in



the surrounding villages, indicating a promising opportunity for nurturing the next generation.

The parish holds a service every Sunday, following the Common Worship format, with a quarterly Group service rotating among other churches in the LMP. These Group services often provide an opportunity for the host parish to extend hospitality and foster fellowship, as seen during events like the Christian Aid lunch at St. Mary's in Frampton. Each parish church offers facilities for refreshments, car parking, and restrooms, with St. Michael's in Frampton featuring a hall that includes extensive accommodation and catering facilities.

There is a strong sense of mutual support among the adjoining parishes, reflecting the shared purpose and lifestyle of the area. The benefices actively participate in Deanery and Churches Together in Boston (CTIB) events, including the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the annual Party in the Park. Additionally, the annual round of Flower Festivals, involving many village churches, draws both residents and visitors to admire the stunning displays.

#### Useful Website addresses

Our Churches website:	<a href="http://www.wybertonandframpton.org">www.wybertonandframpton.org</a>
Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve	<a href="http://www.rspb.org/frampton_marsh_">www.rspb.org/frampton_marsh_</a>
Boston Borough	<a href="http://www.boston.gov.uk">www.boston.gov.uk</a>

#### **Our Invitation**

As a newly ordained curate reading this profile, you may recognize the unique opportunities that a semi-rural community presents, offering a blend of challenges and fulfilment. This role will draw upon your experiences and the commitment that led you to answer God's call.

Greetings! We warmly invite you to join us in guiding the newcomers who are finding their way in our community, as we collectively navigate the path that lies ahead.

We encourage you to bring your vision and enthusiasm, inspiring others through your faith and example. Together, we can explore and deepen our understanding of our beliefs while promoting the Gospel in this evolving community. While there will be moments when things don't go as planned, we urge you to keep your sense of humour intact and celebrate the joy of successful missions together.

#### **We welcome you .....**

We are looking for a curate with vision, enthusiasm, and inspirational faith who is ready to join us in motivating our entire community through both example and instruction. Your role will be to explore and deepen our understanding of our faith while fostering love and peace amidst our diverse neighbors.

As a team, we will fully support you in all your endeavours to develop your vocation and promote the Gospel.

We envision an approachable curate who is actively engaged with the growing community and attentive to the pastoral care practised across the parishes. Your presence will help cultivate a friendly and positive image of the church community as a whole.

You will have the opportunity to work alongside fellow ministers and our lay team, engaging with individuals of all ages. Whether you have a particular interest in connecting with young families from the new developments in the village or enjoy working with people of various backgrounds, we will acknowledge and leverage your unique strengths in our mission.

Rest assured, our ministers and lay members are eager to support you, ensuring you are well-prepared for the task ahead. We are committed to collaborating with Diocesan and Deanery initiatives to foster the ongoing development of our parish life.

We would invite any interested candidates to 'come and see' as this is a truly unique context and opportunity. Come and visit us and see the town, meet the team and hear how we see God working amongst us.