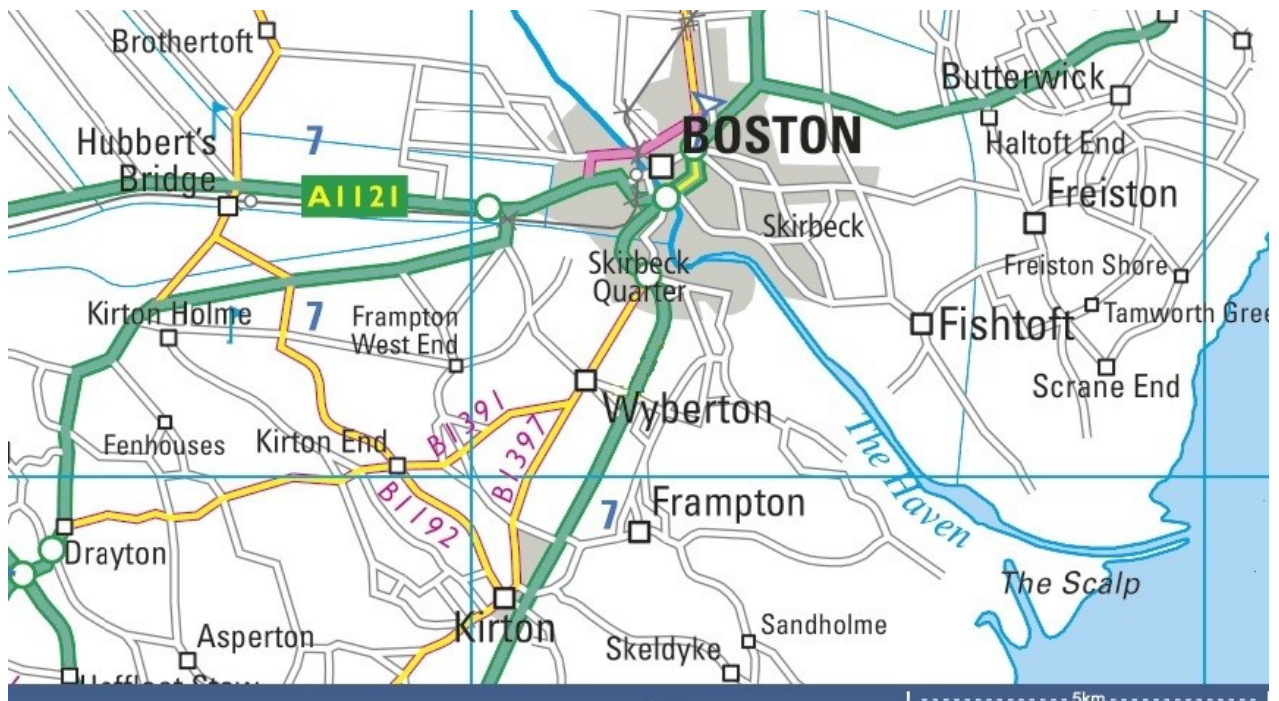


The Profile

incorporating the Statement of Need, of The Benefice of Wyberton



**The Parish Church of
St Leodegar Wyberton**



Statement of Need

Our Aim – the Vision

The aim of our statement is to inform the Pioneer curate who would embrace the challenge of living and working in the rapidly expanding diverse and multi-cultural community growing from the roots of a dynamic semi-rural location on edge of the truly historic town of Boston, Lincolnshire.

The parish has taken care through joint and public meetings to identify the present and future needs of our growing population, and now seeks to appoint a Pioneer curate to live among the residents of the largest of the new estates burgeoning in our parish. The aim is to enable this, and the associated parishes of our Local Mission Partnership, to develop and grow as the people of God, in the service of God and our neighbours, providing witness to the new growth of His creation in our community.

The Quadrant Wyberton

The Quadrant is the largest and most exciting hybrid development in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands and is here in Wyberton. Located adjoining the A16 trunk road that runs through Wyberton to the south of Boston, the development extends to 69 acres/29 hectares, with over 500 new homes. Significant commercial enterprise is developing at the same pace, bringing employment opportunity and a growth economy to the community. Homes appear to be occupied almost before the paint is dry.

This is a hybrid development. Costa Coffee, Greggs, Travelodge Hotel, Papa Johns, Starbucks, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Burger King and other commercial users are early arrivals, along with the state-of-the-art New Jakemans Stadium, the home of Boston United Football Club, and a Conference Centre for the region. Many more are destined as the project proceeds through its 6 phases. The commercial area also provides for users of the main routes north/ south and east/west of the county; and the Port of Boston is less than 2 miles away. It is already a ‘hotspot’ for electric vehicle chargers.



The residential sector is where the Pioneer curate will live and thus where the profile begins. Around 200 homes are already completed and occupied. Here is where the skill and aptitude of a Pioneer curate will have the opportunity to ‘bring in the Harvest’ of this very fertile ground, already showing the potential of a bumper crop. This is the mission to which the congregations have committed and this is where a pioneer vision will find a natural home.

The website <https://www.quadrantboston.com/about-the-quadrant> will provide the picture that paints a thousand words.

The new Community.

Projects such as this succeed when all the elements can grow together. Families will have neighbours who are initially strangers, children will be born in and grow within the new community, and their enthusiasm for life will bring joy to those around them. The Quadrant is blessed with two primary schools within a few minutes, both with a distinct Christian outlook. They are part of The Infinity Academies Trust which has 10 Primary Academies in the south of Lincolnshire, 60% of which are Church of England Academies. It is expanding Wyberton and St Thomas’ to accommodate the growing number of young families in the Quadrant.



The website is very informative for both parents and stakeholders of the academies. The church maintains a healthy relationship with both schools.



“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 articles which means that the majority of our members are approved by the Diocese. We also ensure that the Church is represented at local level through our Academy Development Committees. We believe whole-heartedly that working with both Church of England and Community schools enhances our Trust and its ability to meet the needs of all its communities”. <https://www.infinityacademies.co.uk/working-with-church-schools/>

The location - destined for growth since the Romans

The original village has evidence of Roman occupation and is recorded in the Domesday Book, but is far from being a remnant of the past. Set in the beautiful fenland of south Lincolnshire, the borders of the administrative borough of Boston in which the parish lies arise in the Wash, and are drawn north westerly to the historic town. The coastline has changed dramatically since Roman times. The draining of the fens created thousands of acres of viable land yet the environment and diversity of the coastline is preserved, now peppered with well managed and accessible coastal nature reserves. Fenland soil is very fertile and ideal for a wide variety of agriculture, and the population was traditionally dedicated to the farming industry. Increasing mechanisation from the nineteenth century to the present day has greatly reduced the need for field workers but a substantial food industry has grown up to provide local employment opportunities year round, including a thriving international import trade of fruit and vegetables to utilise the skills of the local ‘packhouses’.

The workforce has a high percentage of migrant workers who often came as seasonal workers from the eastern countries of the EU, and many stayed. Along with their families they have become permanent residents of the urban areas, and the local towns – Boston, Sleaford, and Spalding - are cosmopolitan communities with the advantages and disadvantages of an estimated 20% population expansion over the past 5 years.

A Time to Change Together

It is an exciting time for our churches in and around the Archdeaconry of Boston. With the implementation of ‘A Time to Change Together across Lincoln Diocese the Boston Deanery Partnership has developed collaborative working, sharing values and enhancing our commitment to participation in God’s mission within our local communities. The Partnership parishes within the town and surrounding villages are already used to working together in different ways, and the changes enhance the process.



Our Church and Congregation

Boston Deanery Mission Partnership (DMP) has two Local Mission Partnerships (LMP), and Wyberton is part of Boston South LMP. The Key Mission Church (type 1) for LMP South is St Botolph’s Boston, in the centre of the DMP and town of Boston. Wyberton is the Local Mission Church (type 2), responsible for helping to facilitate and resource local mission and ministry working with other rural parishes across the LMP, which are either Community Churches (type 3) or Festival Churches (type 4).

Existing strengths and relationships are built upon, such as the excellent civic ministry and outreach to the community as well as tourists and visitors provided by Boston Parish church in the town marketplace, the iconic building known as the Stump. It has the tallest parish church tower in the country.

The vision of the DMP is to increase lay involvement and ministry across the two LMPs. Learning and growing together in discipleship. Training is offered across the deanery; there is potential for more localised hubs to develop.

Our Parishioners

Wyberton is a rural area of some 3000 acres with around 5000 inhabitants, expected to increase by 50% during this decade. In the past decade there have been significant population increases following tourism and agricultural seasonal workers who have settled here from the EU, especially the Eastern European nations. In the more rural areas the population remains primarily UK born. In our community 70% of families live in owner occupied properties, whilst the social housing stock is a mixture of private (10%) and

housing association (20%). Properties are of good quality with a pro-active council ensuring standards are monitored. In this borough, as elsewhere, the supply of housing is under pressure, and a significant numbers of new developments have been recently concluded while yet more are in hand or proposed for the village. The largest of these is the Quadrant.

Although the area is booming and unemployment is a third lower than the national percentage, the hourly wage has been 30% below the national average and local rents for private tenants were higher than those of neighbouring counties. This has improved in recent years but there remains scope for a benevolent Christian community, which our parish strive to support through our links with the schools and other churches in the parish, and projects of Churches Together in Boston (CTiB).

Many newcomers settled in Lincolnshire after service in one of the county RAF stations, or as visitors to the glorious east coast beaches. So what motivates people from around the UK and around Europe to settle here?

Weekly attendance at Wyberton averages 20, and additionally a similar number have made the financial pledge to support the churches. The weekly services are streamed live on Facebook. Attendance at festivals, and baptism weddings and funerals, is frequently over 100. The electoral roll is around 25.

Apart from Remembrance and Christmastide activities, young people are poorly represented in the church; but the seeds are being sown by the RoadHog Bus – a travelling youth mission project - and Open the Book teams in the local primary schools. There is potential for greater input both as the demand is only partially met. There are active youth groups in the villages, and some positive indications for the new harvest.



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The parish has a service every Sunday, following the Common Worship format. Every third Sunday of the month is a group service at Wyberton St Leodegar's Church. The exception is a quarterly Group service held in rotation at other churches in the Group. The Group service is often an opportunity for the host parish to provide hospitality and share fellowship with the other churches, for example the Christian Aid lunch in St Mary's Frampton. The parish churches have facilities for serving refreshment, car parking and toilets, and St Michael's in Frampton has a hall co-located with more extensive accommodation and

catering facilities.

There is mutual support with the adjoining parishes reflecting the common purpose and lifestyle the area enjoys. The benefices participate in Deanery and Churches Together in Boston (CTiB) activities, such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the annual Party in the Park. Reflecting rural interests the annual round of Flower Festivals involving many village churches in the area brings residents and holiday makers alike to see the fantastic displays.

Useful Website addresses

Our Churches website:

www.wybertonandframpton.org

Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/framptonmarsh>

Boston Borough

<https://www.boston.gov.uk/>

Our Outreach

We are blessed with 2 other churches in Wyberton. Boston United Reformed Church (URC) is in Wyberton and Beacon Church which is an independent church part of the Alive Network of Churches. Any outreach

we do in the community we do together under the umbrella of Open House which we are in the process of registering so we can apply for funding. Regularly we worship together as well. At URC church we run a coffee morning every week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Since 2022 this has turned into Winter Warmth offering soup and a roll as well. At Christmas we give Christmas hampers to vulnerable families in Wyberton. Last couple of years we were able to support 50 families each year. We were able to do this working with Wyberton Primary Academy and Boston Seeds Limited.

Our Way of Life

The opportunities of a beneficial work-life balance are well established in Lincolnshire, and the population engages enthusiastically with social activities, both sporting and cultural. The cost of establishing a home in a rural community can be advantageous, particularly for the owner-occupier and family group.

The big skies, glorious sunrises and sunsets of the fenland are dramatic and inspirational and reference to the area as the "Holy Land of the English" is not just because of the churches and cathedrals of Lincoln, Ely, Ramsey, Crowland, Thorney and Peterborough; nor indeed the churches of our own benefices which reflect the same strong architectural tradition that implicitly links man with God. We live in harmony with nature, in a highly productive landscape next to the bounty of the sea; an ever changing scene of growth and renewal permeates our lives in some way every day.



Boston is the second town of the county with commensurate local amenities: a twice weekly market, numerous shopping outlets, cinema, theatre, and a thriving nightlife. It has a strong claim to have more heritage than any other town in the UK. Sports facilities of every sort surround the town and villages. The area has an intriguing multi-faceted history which will give the newcomer many years of pleasure uncovering; the lucky one could even find the fabled lost King John treasures whilst exploring the area where the Pilgrim Fathers first left on their mission to America.

Healthcare is focussed on the needs of the population with well run and resourced health care centres. Boston has the district general hospital of the area – the Pilgrim Hospital - and the facilities for care of the elderly are well met with several popular residential homes in our villages.



Wyberton community is well resourced with modern GP practices close by and an NHS Dental Practice, conveniently located primary schools, and general stores with post office. There is a major existing out of town shopping area comprising Department and Superstores at the northern edge of Wyberton, and the Quadrant will provide an additional out of town commercial area.

Modern high-speed internet access is available throughout, with fibre now the majority provision. This is a major project nearing completion. Three main roads, the A16, A17 and A52, are within or adjacent to the parish giving easy access to our local market towns of Boston and Spalding, as well as Stamford, Sleaford, Grantham and Kings Lynn with their alternative shops, theatres and cinemas. It will come as no surprise that Lincolnshire, the county that feeds much of the UK, has many fine restaurants and markets serving the freshest local produce, as well as fast food outlets catering for every taste.

Wyberton has The Sir Joseph Banks Country Park with extensive all weather paths, woodland walks and



wild flower meadows created by the local Boston Woods Trust. There are cycle paths and country walks throughout the area.



Adjacent to the country park is the Westwood Lake fishing complex, a series of lakes with holiday lodges.

Much of the Frampton Marsh RSPB Nature Reserve is also within Wyberton

The east coast is renowned for beautiful sandy beaches and the best are around Skegness and Mablethorpe, less than an hour from us.



There are fast rail links on the main north-south railways at Peterborough and Grantham (to London in 65 minutes) – with which the local railway stations at Boston and Spalding link and also provide cross-country services. East Midlands and Humberside airports have both domestic and international scheduled and holiday flights to hundreds of locations. There is a dedicated schools bus service for entitled pupils.

Our Invitation

Our new Pioneer curate, having read the profile so far, will have started the process of responding to the *cri de cœur* of a community that has sensed the opportunities that lie ahead and is determined to respond to God's call.

To you, Greetings! We invite you to join us, to lead the newcomers arriving to our community along the path which is so clearly being marked out for them and us.

Be prepared to bring your own vision and enthusiasm to inspire them through your faith and example; to help us explore and develop a greater understanding of our faith. As a team, we can support you to promote the Gospel within this new community. There will be times when things don't go quite to plan so keep your sense of humour sharp, and be ready to share the elation of successful mission in this time.

We welcome you.....

The Pioneer curate of vision, enthusiasm and inspirational faith prepared to inspire a new community through example and instruction, to explore and develop a greater understanding of our faith, to live in love and peace with the great diversity of neighbours winning people for Jesus.

As a team, we will support you in all you do to promote the Gospel.

The approachable curate, visible to the growing community, focussed on pastoral duties, providing a friendly and positive image for the church community as a whole.

The curate relishing the opportunity to work with people of all ages, having a particular interest in working with young families focusing on the Quadrant development.

A minister ensuring that the lay members eager to support you are fully prepared for the task, working collaboratively with the Diocesan and Deanery initiatives to ensure continual development of this new aspect of our parish life.