

**Holy Trinity, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire
Diocese of Lincoln, Archdeaconry of Lincoln**

**TRAINING POST FOR:
Stipendiary Deacon who expects to be ordained Priest**

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Simon Dowson
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Date of Ordination: Deacon: June 1997 Priest: June 1998
Length of time in parish: Licensed: 28th April 2004

Experience:

1997 - 1999	Assistant Curate, Bradford St Augustine, Diocese of Bradford
1999 – 2004	Curate in Charge of Emmanuel Church in the parish of St John's with Emmanuel, Werrington, Diocese of Peterborough
2000-2001	Completed CPAS Arrow Leadership Programme
2004 – present	Incumbent of Holy Trinity Skirbeck, Boston, Diocese of Lincoln
2006 – 2008	Chair, Churches Together in Boston
2007 – 2010	Assistant Rural Dean, Holland East Deanery, Diocese of Lincoln

My passion as a church leader is to help Christians grow to maturity in faith and service and to see people come to faith in Christ. I believe faithful biblical teaching, openness to the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit and good relationships are essential to a healthy, growing church. I think we need to be creative in the way we do church in a society that sees Christianity as increasingly irrelevant and I believe that collaborative ministry is essential. I also believe that God's has a particular plan for each and every church because each and every church is different, and that it is vitally important to seek out and follow that plan or vision.

THE TOWN OF BOSTON



The parish of Holy Trinity lies close to the centre of the ancient market town and port of **Boston**. Its population is around 35,000. The wider borough has a population of approximately 55,000 (though these figures are likely to be an underestimate given significant migration into the town, mainly from Eastern Europe). Thus the town has a more cosmopolitan feel to it these days and 65 different languages are spoken!

Traditionally dependent on agriculture, Boston is now developing more manufacturing and service industries.

There is a system of selective secondary **education** in Lincolnshire with grammar schools. What were the old secondary modern schools have been very successful in 're-inventing' themselves and so within the Deanery there are a boys and girls grammar school, a technology college, an arts college and a music college. There is also an FE college which attracts many foreign students.

Pilgrim Hospital, which serves a large area of south east Lincolnshire, lies within the parish on the Eastern outskirts of the town.

There are many local sports clubs and Boston has a sports and leisure centre, swimming pool and a new sports arena. There is a theatre and arts centre, a museum, a modern cinema, a bowling alley and a music centre.

The local marsh coast, with its 2 RSPB reserves, the nearest of which is about ten

minutes drive away, while the nearest beach is at Skegness is 25 miles away.

Getting here by car, Lincoln and Peterborough are less than an hour away and Nottingham about an hour and a half. There is a railway station connecting to the main line at Grantham. In addition, there is a daily coach service to and from London. One can be in the centre of London within 2½ hours.

For **additional information** on the Boston area, please refer to the Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council websites:

www.boston.gov.uk

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY

www.holytrinityboston.org.uk

Description of the Parish

The church has 255 people on its electoral roll approximately 1/3 of whom live outside the parish. Average Sunday attendance is 155 adults and 25 children. We have a manageable number of baptisms, weddings and funerals, sufficient to give good experience for any prospective curate but not enough to be over-taxing. We welcome anyone who requests baptism while spelling out that it is a service of Christian commitment

The parish has a population of approx 8000 and is situated in a largely residential area of the town. Most homes are privately owned.

Within the parish there are 5 schools - 2 primary, 2 secondary and one special needs, all of which we have good links with; there is also a local C of E Secondary School outside the parish; a hospital (with its own Chaplaincy), a newly opened hospice (with the possibility of some chaplaincy work); two Nursing Homes, one Residential Home and two supported housing schemes.

Senior Staff Team

This is presently made up of the vicar, the full time **Youth & Children's Worker** Michaela

Carey who joined us in April 2007 and has done much to build up the youth and children's ministry, for example introducing 'Rock Solid', a Youth For Christ resourced event and helping start 'Messy Church'; our voluntary **Lay Pastor**, Nigel Andrews who has held this newly-created post since January 2011 and the part-time **Administrator**, Nikki Jackson.

Other team members

2 Readers with one in training; Children's Work Co-ordinator; assistant administrator; local RAF Padre when available.

Main Ministries and Activities

Youth and Children's work

We offer week by week groups for children and young people up to aged 18; we hold an annual holiday club which this year attracted 84 primary age children. We have good links with the local schools and among other things lead assemblies and also host church visits/services.

The church also partners with the **RoadHog Youth Bus Ministry** www.roadhogbus.org.uk which ministers to young people across the borough, providing a team for one of its 'stops



Evangelism

Every year we run a Start! Course and Alpha and are involved in Back to Church Sunday and are always on the lookout for new approaches to outreach.

Other ministries: We have teams for Pastoral Visiting, Prayer Ministry & Bereavement Support, and organize a variety of groups - Men's Group, Parent and Toddler Group, Women's Circle (roughly like Mothers' Union), weekly older folks drop in and Housegroups (12 in total). We also have an active social committee,

Deanery and Ecumenical Links

Holy Trinity plays its full part in the life of the **Deanery**, and we often work in partnership with the neighbouring Coastal Cluster group of parishes. Also given our relative size we see ourselves as a 'resource church' looking to support other congregations wherever possible. We have hosted several CPAS ministry training days and are soon to host a regional CWR Women's event.

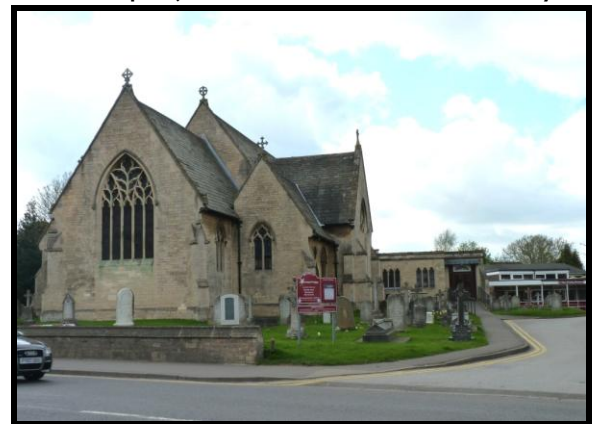
Meanwhile we are fully committed to working with **Churches Together in Boston** in projects such as **Street Pastors** and the soup



kitchen as well as joint services. CTIB are planning on a sports-based event cum service for the community in the local park in the run up to the Olympics Recently we have run the CPAS **Growing Leaders** Course in partnership with the local Methodist circuit

Facilities

We have excellent facilities for a wide range of activities. The church itself was built in 1848 but we have recently installed a state of the art video projection and sound system.



In addition we have a multi-purpose lounge added in the 1980s. Then we have a large hall with a variety of meeting rooms and a medium-sized sports hall with a grassed area suitable for outdoor games, Barbeques etc.

NewWine

Local churches changing nations

Over the past 7 years we have grown in our involvement in and commitment to the New Wine movement, and we now take around 50 people to the summer camp each year. This involvement has been significant in the spiritual growth of a number of individuals and of the church and our bi-monthly 'Encounter' service aims to introduce folk to what might be called 'New Wine style worship.'

WHO WE ARE

We have tried to sum up our identity and aims as follows

Identity

We are a growing, vibrant, Spirit-led evangelical Anglican parish church, seeking as a fellowship to be a 'family like no other.'

Purpose

We are a church where we:

- Worship Jesus
- Welcome all
- Want to grow

Values

We believe

- In worshipping God with our lives as well as our lips
- That the Bible is our guide for faith and conduct
- That prayer must be at the heart of all we do
- That we are empowered by the Holy Spirit
- That we are called to serve whoever God brings across our path

Vision

Under God, as 'a family like no other', we are seeking to be

- A worshipping community to whom God matters
- A loving community where people matter
- A community of disciples to whom spiritual growth matters
- A visible, outward-looking, serving community
- A forward looking, visionary community which follows God's leading

We are aware that there is work to be done on these statements and that there is some overlap, and we are aware that we are far from the finished article as a fellowship, but feel they do show how we view ourselves and our mission.

Sunday Worship pattern

8:00 am

Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am

1st Sunday Common Worship Communion

2nd and 4th Sundays informal Service of the Word with worship group

3rd Sunday All Age Service

Evenings



1st Sunday Messy Church 4pm, Deeper 7pm

2nd Sunday Common Worship Communion

3rd Sunday Praise and Ministry Service alternating with 'Space', a reflective gathering

4th Sunday Youth Led informal service

We are aware that this pattern reflects a 'Come to us' model of church and are keen to consider

The New Curate

Holy Trinity has a long tradition of making curates and their families feel welcome and helping give them a strong grounding in ordained Anglican ministry. The appointment would be made on the basis of prayer and by careful consideration of the issues of **Character, Competence and Chemistry** as outlined by Bill Hybels in his book, 'Courageous Leadership' pp 80-85

Possible Areas of Responsibility

These would depend partly on the gifting and experience of the person appointed but are likely to include:

- **Mission and Evangelism including encouraging /developing appropriate Fresh Expressions of Church**
- **Ministry to the 20s and 30s age group**
- **Nurturing and Discipling of believers**
- **Conducting public worship**
- **Sharing in the occasional offices**
- **Ministry to Residential and Nursing Homes**
- **Ministry across the Deanery not least to learn from expertise beyond the parish**

Our desire as a parish will be to try and utilise and help develop any curate's gifts within our overall vision but also to give the newly appointed curate the opportunity to experiment and try new things. .

The Purpose of a Curacy

To share in the mission and ministry of the People of God in a particular place and

to establish patterns of prayer which will shape and sustain ministry, in order

to acquire the knowledge, skills and expertise in ministerial, representative and sacramental leadership in the local church and the Church of England;

to reflect, in supervision, upon a wide range of experiences, in order to develop ministry in the curacy and for the future. Participating fully in IME will also be part of this;

to encourage personal development through integrating past experience, spirituality, and theology with the practice and understanding of ministry.

Bishop's Notes for Training Incumbents and Curates

ACCOMMODATION

There is an excellent 4 bedroom detached house provided and maintained by the Diocese which is very aware that housing is an issue of major importance to prospective candidates.



AND FINALLY

please do not hesitate to contact Rev Simon Dowson for more information/an informal chat.