

## ‘Shaping our Minster Community’

Talk by Archdeacon Richard Worsfold 6.7.23

### The Launde Deanery, the past four years:

- **2019** on a pathway as a deanery towards a new way of working together with plans for a Growing Faith Minister, encouragement of lay ministers to respond to callings of congregational oversight (lay incumbents) and simplified benefice arrangements to enable mutual support between parishes & reduce administrative burdens on stip. clergy.
- *All that deanery planning was paused in 2020 to enable Shaped by God Together to happen*
- **And 3 years later** we gathered on 30<sup>th</sup> April to inaugurate Launde Minster Community, which like all the Minster Communities to come is unique in its own way.

### Unique context of Launde as a deanery broadly overlapping with minster community

- This means that the deanery can continue to be a place where those parishes still considering full participation in the minster community can be held and be included.
- We can use the already existing structures of the deanery to enable PCCs work together. So whereas in all the other Minster Communities that will emerge in the diocese there will have to be a gathering set up where PCC representatives from every PCC can come together to work out proposals for how the PCCs might collaborate, in the case of Launde, the deanery synod is already set up as

a place where each parish sends one deanery synod representative (because of congregational size) and where each representative has been encouraged to bring a buddy, which now can be a second PCC representative.

- Equally the deanery standing committee can take on the role of the co-ordinating group
- Alongside the ministry team which will emerge over the coming months as we explore vocations together, which begins this evening with what Liz will share with us in a moment.
- But just for a moment to connect what I’ve just said about the launde minster community/deanery overlap to the MC proposal (see italic sections below) that PCCs voted on as part of the process towards:

### Areas of mission and development:

- **Firstly operations**
- *‘The Minster Community recognises the need to develop commonly shared operational practices. The Minster Community will need guidance and oversight in how we co-ordinate Occasional Offices, Life Events, Minster and local church service patterns, Parish Contributions and other administrative and buildings related support.’*
- This is something that is already ongoing – Madeleine may share more – with a planned website to aid communications about where and when services are taking place across the Launde area.

- And to help with co-ordination of that, given the overlap between deanery and minster community it is possible to use the administrative expense allocation that is given to area deans (9 hours per week) to support these operational developments.
- The overlap of deanery and minster community means that an administrator can be appointed using the diocesan allocation (9 hours per week) to support operations in the minster community.
  - *'each PCC will delegate to the Minster Community what it wishes to delegate while retaining their own decision making authority, oversight for church building(s) and responsibility for local mission and ministry.'*
  - So, in the longer term the administrator to be appointed (who will initially be employed by the diocesan board of finance) will need to be employed by a PCC or, if the PCCs decide to delegate (as indicated above) and form a Joint Church council, by the Joint Church council.
- **Secondly, Growing Faith:** explore how the spheres of school, church and home may all become spaces in which life long Christian faith can grow. This work is already ongoing
- **Thirdly, Rural chaplaincy** – recognised need for chaplaincy and pastoral training to help combat rural isolation, and ensure effective pastoral visiting from all our churches. Farming Community Network
- **Fourthly and perhaps most importantly – local leadership**
  - *'The Minster Community will take collective responsibility to ensure that every parish can participate in the life of the Minster Community and is able to offer local ministry to the best of its ability.'*
  - Whilst those who are currently offering ministry across the Launde area are already invited to meet together on a monthly basis as the beginnings of a ministry team, the first question to be looked at, before focusing on who might be called to minister and serve in which ways, is to look at what each local church believes it is called to be and to do.
  - Which is the point at which I hand over to *Liz Rawlings* to introduce the next part of our agenda about vocations. (after which there will be some time for questions).