

**Update for Holland Deanery – May 2022**

It has been confirmed that Holland Deanery will under the new plans be one Boston (or Holland) Deanery Partnership, incorporating all the parishes currently included in the deanery. This is great news, as we already work together well across the deanery, having successfully combined the two previous Holland deaneries in the past. We have now been asked to look at how we can work collaboratively together to cover local mission and ministry in our deaneries. This includes looking at possible groupings of parishes as Local Mission Partnerships. At the moment we are still waiting for the last parishes to confirm what they think they can pledge as their contribution to the cost of paid clergy across the deanery partnership. Once that has happened, we will be able to look at the number of stipendiary clergy that our deanery can afford and work out the most effective way to deploy them. There are some imminent retirements we know about in the next two years, and Revd Aly Buxton moving from Boston to become the new archdeacon. No new appointments will be made until there is more certainty about what our contributions to costs are.

All parishes will continue to be part of the deanery which is a legal entity, and there will continue to be representation at deanery synod from every parish as at the moment. In our case, as we are already one deanery becoming one deanery partnership, there will be one Partnership/Rural Dean and one Partnership Lay lead/Lay Chair; these posts have not yet been appointed. Each deanery partnership will have some centralised administrative support based in Lincoln. By the end of May 2022 we have been asked to suggest a possible pattern of Local Mission Partnerships within the Deanery Partnership. At the meeting of the Deanery Partnership Steering Group, which includes TTCT team and Diocese representatives as well as the current members of our deanery council, it was suggested that looking at the distribution of church types, the hope might be to have two Local Mission Partnerships – the type 1 churches for these would be the Stump/Parish of Boston to the south of the deanery and Holy Trinity to the north. Each Local Mission Partnership would have one or two type 2 churches and approximately the same number of type 3 and type 4 churches.

In order to become an LMP each PCC will need to vote that they are happy for this to happen. By the end of August 2022 we have been asked to come to an agreement about the operation of Local Mission Partnerships through local, collaborative conversation, prayer, worship and reflection. Decisions need to be fair, workable, and consistent with the Recommendations and Commitments agreed by Diocesan Synod and work will continue on this until consensus is achieved.

**Will we still have an incumbent/parish priest?** Perhaps not in the way your parishes have had in the past but there will always be an ordained clergy person who is your first point of contact. Some of this will depend as well on the level of commitment to paying for what we as a deanery want. Most parishes in our deanery have had a heavily subsidised ministry in the past – some parishes have paid little or no contributions via parish share to the cost of clergy. If parishes choose to continue to pay very little this cannot continue and there will not be enough stipendiary clergy to do what we would like to in the future.

**What about St Nicholas’ and the Richborough group?** This is up to St Nicholas’, but there is no conflict with having sacramental oversight from outside the deanery whilst being networked with the other Richborough parishes in the diocese and still belonging to the Deanery Synod here in Boston and sharing in the LMP.

**What is next?** Discussion at Deanery Synod, an open Deanery meeting on Wednesday 6th July and discussion and voting in PCCs about the potential Local Mission Partnerships. Please ask if you would like Rev Lis Ward (Rural Dean) or Chris Ladner (Lay Chair) to come to your PCC to answer questions if we can!