

WELCOME TO IDLE & SANDS

From the Wardens:

We hope that you will enjoy reading this profile. We love this beautiful part of North Nottinghamshire and the people of its villages. We believe God is at work in our communities, and we hope that as you read this profile you will capture something of our vision and aspirations, and this will enable you to consider prayerfully whether God is calling you to join us on our journey.







OUR LOCALITY

Our parish lies within a short distance of the wonderful landscapes and historic houses of the Dukeries, with several beautiful parks open to the public to enjoy. The most local is Clumber Park, one of the National Trust's top ten most visited properties, which is just 7 minutes by car from the vicarage. Thoresby Park, Rufford Abbey Country Park, Sherwood Pines, Sherwood Forest and Cresswell Crags are all less than 30 minutes away ready for you to explore. With such a rich history and acres of natural beauty surrounding, our area is one of the UK's best kept secrets.



Our parish is also situated close to the historic market town if Retford which lies 26 miles east of Sheffield, 31 miles northeast of Nottingham and 23 miles west of Lincoln. A general market is held on Thursdays and Saturdays and a Flea Market on Fridays. It has a good range of supermarkets and shops, restaurants, two theatres, a museum, a library, excellent primary and secondary schools, several dental practices and three medical practices. Bassetlaw General Hospital is just 20 minutes away in Worksop.

The River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal both pass through the town centre. There are walks through the surrounding countryside, including the Idle Valley Nature Reserve. Opportunities for walking, cycling and ParkRun are also on offer at nearby Clumber Park and Sherwood Forest. Local activities for younger children in Retford include a soft play centre well as a splash park and playground in beautiful King's Park. Sundown Adventureland is also a short drive from the town. For older children, mountain biking and Go Ape are available at Sherwood Pines.

There is also a multi-screen cinema 7 miles away in Worksop. Further afield, the Derbyshire Peak District is within an hour's drive and easy access to road networks enable travel to scenic parts of Yorkshire, the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Coast.

Sports and fitness are well catered for by several gyms and a swimming pool as well as a number of football, rugby, cricket, tennis, running and bowls clubs.

The town has a very diverse social and economic mix, with levels of unemployment that are below the national average. It has a surprisingly young age profile with 7,500 under 30 and 12,000 under 44 in a total population of over 22,000.

Strong transport links enable people to commute to Sheffield, Doncaster, Mansfield and Lincoln. There is also a growing number of people who commute to London. Retford is very close to the A1 trunk road, has a main-line station taking people into London Kings Cross (the fastest train takes 90 minutes), York (40min), Leeds (25min), a cross country service to Lincoln and Sheffield, and easy access to the airports at East Midlands and Manchester.

The opportunities that exist in this vibrant town have been recognised by the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham who have pledged Strategic Development funding to re-vitalise St Swithun's church, located in the centre of Retford, and establish it as a thriving resource church with the remit to plant and graft new worshipping communities and to be a hub for training and resourcing in the local area.

Retford is surrounded by charming villages, and our parish covers several of these villages. Set in beautiful surroundings featuring farmland, woods and rivers, these also offer many local opportunities for walking, cycling, running and even wild swimming!

OUR PARISH

The Parish of Idle & Sands was formed in 2019 and contains the former parishes of Bothamsall, Eaton & Gamston, Elkesley and West Drayton which have been linked together since 1992 and Sutton-cum-Lound, Babworth & Ranby, and Scofton which have also historically been linked (please see the parish map at appendix 1).

There are eight open churches within the parish ranging from a small modern Chapel of Ease through to Victorian churches and buildings with medieval features. There is also an additional church, Gamston St Peter's, which is now under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The building is closed for public worship but, following a £1.3 million restoration project, it has recently re-opened for visitors, special events, school activities and up to six services per year (expected to be one patronal service and five school festival services). All Saints' Babworth is notable as a Pilgrim Church which attracts many visitors each year particularly from North America. Two of the churches are currently undertaking re-ordering projects to add toilet and kitchen facilities which will be able to accommodate a wider variety of worshipping styles for all ages as well as making the buildings more welcoming to the wider community.

To complement Sunday worship in church, more informal/contemporary services and activities have also taken place in village halls around the parish. This includes Alpha and Lent courses as well as Messy Church. More traditional church-led activities such as rogation walks, harvest suppers and door-to-door carol singing also take place in several villages. The churches are also very proactively involved in supporting their local and wider communities through outreach activities. One hosts a book swap library and several collect donations for the local Foodbank and other charities that meet the needs of struggling families. Pre-covid, St John's Scofton also hosted the only annual Remembrance Service for Road Crash Victims in the Diocese.

The demographics of many of our villages are changing. Whereas most traditionally served farming communities, new housing developments and the conversion of farm buildings into residential dwellings have meant an influx of younger families, particularly thanks to our area having excellent transport links which enable people to commute to work. We expect this trend to continue post-pandemic as flexible/remote working patterns and the desire to move out of urban areas encourage people to seek a more rural lifestyle. This brings significant opportunities to grow new disciples, particularly through our four schools. There are also opportunities to link with the activities to reach a younger age-profile that has recently started at St Swithun's.



SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH

There are four primary schools within the boundaries of the parish:

Ranby CofE Primary: A Voluntary Controlled school with 119 pupils on roll. Ofsted Good, SIAMS Outstanding. The school has a strong worshipping community both at its term-time Messy Church and services at the village church, St Martin's.

Sutton-cum-Lound CofE Primary: A Voluntary Aided school with 90 pupils on roll. Ofsted Good, SIAMS Outstanding. The school engages well with its village church with classes making regular visits for activities and worship.

Gamston CofE Primary: A Voluntary Aided school with 112 pupils on roll. Ofsted Good, SIAMS Good. Many of the pupils are the children of the staff at the Jamia Al-Karam Islamic Studies College at Eaton Hall which adds a multi-cultural dimension to the school. Festival services have taken place in the school hall or at nearby All Saints Eaton following the closure of the village church for worship in 2015, but are now resuming in St Peter's following its re-opening under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Elkesley Primary: A community school with 78 pupils on roll. Ofsted Good. The school engages well with its village church through festival services and class visits to St Giles. Families in the village started to become connected with the church through activities such as Mini Church (aimed at pre-schoolers), Messy Church and Forest Church which ran pre-pandemic.

The Jamia Al-Karam Islamic Study College is also located in the former Eaton Hall. It offers opportunities for better understanding and dialogue with Muslims, and the churchwardens and congregation at All Saints Eaton enjoy a good relationship with the staff and students.



OUR MINISTRY & MISSION

The Churchwardens take an active role in the liturgical life of the churches in the parish, offering a variety of lay-led services ranging from family services, morning and evening prayer, evensong and special services such as Christingle and Hymns & Pimms. They work together closely as a team, sharing resources and working to put together a monthly service rota which encourages congregants to travel for services between the villages whilst also meeting the needs of each community (please see appendix 2). They are supported by local serving and retired clergy for Holy Communion services and occasional offices. There is also one reader in the parish, and further congregants who have taken part in training for leading worship make up the diverse ministry team.

This combination provides the parish with a wealth of knowledge and support. In addition to services in church there are other areas where our ministry flows out into our communities. Pre-pandemic, there were numerous opportunities for families across the parish including messy church, school collective worship, school choirs and forest church. During the pandemic, the team was very active in sustaining the life of the community and this outreach continues as our lay leaders play an integral role in bringing our communities back together to re-connect and heal.

In Eaton for example, when the Parish Council withdrew its grant for churchyard maintenance, the churchwardens at All Saints decided to turn this financial challenge into an opportunity. They established a monthly working party where volunteers from the local community were invited to help out with mowing and weeding on a Saturday morning in return for refreshments and fellowship. This has developed into a valued opportunity for the community to come together to socialise, and attracts people of all ages including many who have not worshipped in church apart from occasional festival services. It has resulted in new connections being made between people as well as with their church. Following a conversation, one regular volunteer decided to come along to an informal Hymns & Pimms service and is now worshipping regularly. With the church building being the only public indoor space in the village, these connections and opportunities to try different worshipping styles will continue to develop when the re-ordering project to add toilet and kitchen facilities is completed.



Similarly in Elkesley, an Easter walking trail around the village which was started by the churchwarden during the pandemic is becoming a successful annual event which has continued due to popular demand. In April 2022, families turned out in force to enjoy a treasure hunt, fun activities in the church building and cakes and picnics in the churchyard. Plans are being made to further develop these links through work with families and the village school.

Pastoral care is well supported throughout the parish with close knit rural village communities. This extends to the churchwardens and the wider PCC who meet regularly as a whole as well as in smaller church teams. Members of the PCC are motivated and highly supportive of each other; sharing resources and expertise. They keep in regular contact with each other between meetings through means such as WhatsApp.

There are a number of house groups that are held across the parish which are lay led. In 2019 we put forward four candidates for Confirmation following a successful confirmation course, much of which was supported by the parish ministry team. We have candidates currently interested in Confirmation who we are working to support via the Deanery.







OUR NEW INCUMBENT

Person Specification for the Transformation Change Post as the incumbent of the Idle & Sands, Retford parish.

The parish, deanery and diocese are looking to appoint a person who has:

- A personal devotion to the Lord reflected and rooted in prayer
- A vision for, commitment to, and experience of, evangelism and church growth across all ages,
- An aptitude, experience and gifts in exercising strategic leadership, especially towards vision and implementing plans for growth
- Excellent relational gifts, emotional intelligence, tenacity and resilience,
- The ability to discern, develop and deploy the gifts of others in mission and ministry
- The willingness to work with the existing team of clergy and laity to build and sustain lifegiving teams
- The ability to lead and enjoy a variety of worship and musical styles, including contemporary expressions and the Book of Common Prayer
- A commitment to, and expertise for, engaging biblical teaching and whole-life discipleship
- The ability to relate to, and inspire, children, young people and young families
- The capacity to see new missional opportunities and implement them

The post holder will be:

- A visionary leader able to motivate and foster a pattern of shared leadership
- Humble and hopeful,
- Eager to learn and grow in faith and ministry, naturally welcome coaching and mentoring
- At ease relating to all people in the community including those with significant responsibilities in the city and county.







The priorities of the role will be:

- To grow the churches numerically so that they reflect the age profile of the parish population, in particular growing significantly the ministry amongst young families, their children and young adults
- To engage with the three Church of England schools at Gamston, Ranby, and Sutton-cum-Lound (as well as the community school at Elkesley) and to explore the possibility of midweek new worshipping communities based in one or more of the schools
- To explore how best to resource the spiritual needs of all members those new to faith as well as the current congregational members
- To enable and oversee the lay leadership across the parish including the identification and deployment of Licensed Lay Ministers, Local Missional Leaders and collaboration with churchwardens
- To create a sustainable pattern of services (both traditional and new contemporary styles) that will focus on growing disciples and will be delivered by the ordained and lay resource available.
- To develop and implement the Growing Disciples Plan in collaboration with the lay leadership across the parish
- To create a strategy to develop the stages from first enquiry through to full participation and integration in the church.

This post is an interim Priest-in-charge post offered under section 29 (1) (j) and (7D) of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of service) Regulations 2009 as amended. As a result, before the end of the first three years there would be a review involving the postholder, PCC and diocese to assess progress against the priorities outlined in the person specification section of the profile. This review could lead to a further extension of up to three years. The post could be made permanent after the maximum six-year period.



OUR VICARAGE

The modern four-bedroomed vicarage is situated in a quiet residential cul-de-sac in the centre of Elkesley. A new kitchen has recently been installed and there are gardens to the front and rear.

Elkesley has a shop, primary school and a playing field which has recently been re-developed to add a playground, basketball court and BMX track. There is also a village hall which hosts regular social events such as quizzes.

The village borders ancient woodland that once formed part of Sherwood Forest, and through which the Robin Hood Way passes. Elkesley lies alongside the A1 which enables easy access to the churches and schools in the parish, and there are also regular bus services which serve surrounding areas including the secondary school at Tuxford (Ofsted Outstanding) to which Elkesley primary is a feeder school.





ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

A statement from the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams and Archdeacon of Newark, the Venerable Tors Ramsey.

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham incorporates the City of Nottingham, the whole County of Nottinghamshire and five parishes in South Yorkshire. The population is 1.15 million – 51% live in the greater Nottingham conurbation, 31% in ex-mining areas and 18% in rural. There are 305 churches (252 parishes), served by 142 stipendiary clergy and licensed lay workers.

In 2016 a refreshed diocesan vision was embraced across the diocese, recognising the imperative for 'Growing Disciples: wider, younger, deeper'. (see https://www.growingdisciples.co.uk/)

'Wider' in that we will seek to grow disciples in every part of the diocese, with no retreat from any community: urban centre; outer estates; rural villages; or market towns.

'Younger' in that we will seek fresh ways to harness the boldness and creativity of children, students and young people across the diocese, not least in Nottingham which is the 4th youngest city outside London.

'Deeper' as we grow in knowing Christ, so that as his disciples we can be an increasing blessing to the people among whom we live and serve in the workplace, family and community.

Compelled by the love of Christ, we are seeking to:

ministry costs)

- Welcome 7000 new disciples into the fellowship of Christ and his church
- Commission 1000 younger leaders (especially 15-30 year olds) equipped and inspired to serve the purposes of God in the Church and society.
- Plant or graft 75 New Worshipping Communities (NWCs) across the diocese to increase our reach in telling the story of Jesus to all.
- Grow 25 larger Resource Churches with clear commitment to develop leaders, plant New Worshipping Communities, and disciple the young.
- Serve and pray together as one Church contending for the gospel in every community and sphere of public life in our city, county and region.

If you would like to understand our approach to new worshipping communities, please visit southwell.anglican.org where we share some of our stories. It is possible to apply for a grant to assist the costs of setting up a new worshipping community.

Every parish is encouraged to create its own 'Growing Disciples Plan' so that it can play a significant part in the strategic commitment to 'Growing Disciples wider, younger and deeper.' This may include identifying the opportunities to reach new people within the parish through a new worshipping community. The diocese has a 'Growing Disciples Fund' so that each parish can apply for up to £2000 per year to support its Growing Disciples Plan.

As a diocese we are seeking to invest in the post at Idle and Sands, Retford with the expectation that the following three objectives set around three core values will be met.

Grace (local ministry team equipped and inspired, not dependent on stipendiary leadership)

Growth (clear numerical growth), Generosity (financial sustainability, at least meeting direct

BISHOP PAUL & ARCHDEACON TORS

A STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM, THE RT REVD PAUL WILLIAMS AND ARCHDEACON OF NEWARK, THE VENERABLE TORS RAMSEY.



Bishop Paul has said: "It is my hope that each worshipping community will develop a compelling picture of its own future in God's purposes with an expectation of growing numerically and in the scope of its mission. It is my prayer that the new vicar of Idle and Sands, Retford will have the creative leadership and imagination to develop discipleship, plan for growth and reach out to the unchurched of all ages in its locality."



Archdeacon Tors writes, "The Parish of Idle and Sands, Retford is on a journey as a single parish that started with the previous vicar. The next incumbent will be building on all that is good and valued, but with a renewed focus to expand and develop evangelism and discipleship with those who are not currently connected to the church communities, especially younger families."

THE DEANERY

The furthest north in the Diocese, the Bassetlaw and Bawtry deanery is made up of 46 parishes, working together as 15 benefices, with both rural and town locations. In the main, the deanery matches the local government district of Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire but also includes one part of South Yorkshire in the benefice of Bawtry with Austerfield. There are three MPs: Brendan Clarke-Smith (Bassetlaw), Nick Fletcher (Don Valley), and Robert Jenrick (Newark).



Our deanery serves a population of approximately 120,000 people, with a variety of backgrounds including farming, mining (in the West), and industry. Located adjacent to the Sheffield City Region and Doncaster, these conurbations provide the main employment opportunities. Connected by the A1 road, the East Coast Mainline and Lincoln/Sheffield railway lines, The Deanery has ready access to London in just an hour and a half, alongside various local and international destinations

The deanery has churches with larger and smaller numbers of attendees, vibrant market town churches, estate ministries, with many commuters working in the surrounding cities, and rural contexts. All, though, are well connected to their local communities through schools, occasional offices, community projects and a growing number of New Worshipping Communities, as well as many iconic church buildings. The churches in our deanery cover all traditions and the area is rich in Christian history with a number of churches boasting links to the Mayflower Pilgrims. This Christian heritage with the Separatists that formed the Mayflower Pilgrims, originated in the local villages of Austerfield, Scrooby, Babworth and Sturton-le-Steeple. With Worksop, being the Gateway to the Dukeries, the four historic ducal seats of Worksop Manor, Welbeck Abbey, Thoresby Hall and Clumber House are all close by and provide ample space for walks, days out and historical fact finding.

The clergy of the chapter work closely together and offer support to each other through regular meetings, praying together, socials and fellowship, and encourages input from the wider Diocesan leadership team with regular speakers. Deanery Synod meets three times a year with lively discussion and information sharing. All parishes within the deanery have embraced the Diocesan vision of creating disciples, wider, younger and deeper and fully engaged with our objective of achieving an extra 7000 disciples by 2025. To this end, a number of New Worshipping Communities have begun in the deanery as well as ongoing local activities and innovation.

The Deanery has an administrator, who is employed by the Diocese, and, together with Area Dean and the Lay Chair, they provide incumbents and parishes with practical and pastoral support. We would encourage you to consider our deanery as a great place to work and further your ministry. For further information about the deanery and parishes please contact our Area Dean, Dave Gough, Tel: 01909 570434 or e-mail: stannesvicar@hotmail.com

TO FIND OUT MORE

Thank you for considering this profile. We hope it has given you a flavour of our beautiful part of the diocese and the opportunities that exist within it, and we would love to invite you to consider if God is calling you to join us here.

If you would like more information, please contact Ven. Tors Ramsey, Archdeacon of Newark at archd-newark@southwell.anglican.org or 01636 817226.

You can also find out more by following the links to some of our Facebook pages.

Idle & Sands parish www.facebook.com/Parish-of-Idle-and-Sands-Retford-103196687863553

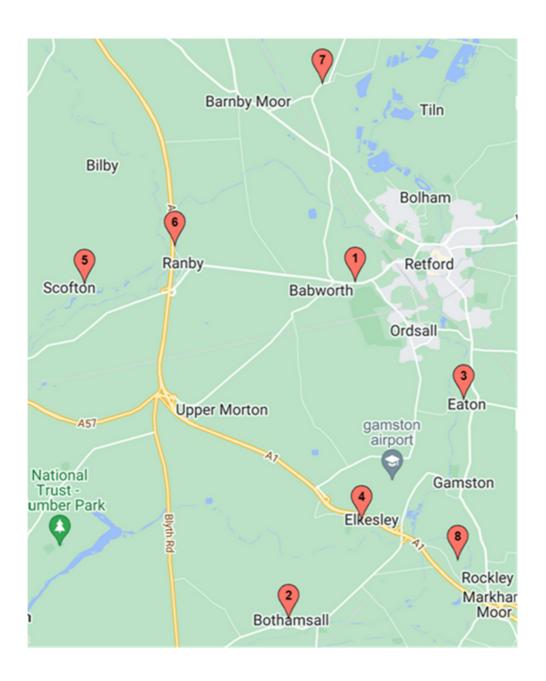
Eaton & Gamston: www.facebook.com/allsaintseatonandgamston

Elkesley: www.facebook.com/ElkesleyStGiles

Sutton-cum-Lound: www.facebook.com/St-Bartholomews-Church-Sutton-cum-Lound-973862712656862



APPENDIX 1: PARISH MAP



Number	Name of Church
1	Babworth, All Saints
2	Bothamsall, Our Lady & St Peter
3	Eaton, All Saints
4	Elkesley, St Giles
5	Scofton, St John
6	Ranby, St Martin
7	Sutton-cum-Lound, St Bartholomew
8	West Drayton, St Paul

APPENDIX 2: OUR CURRENT WORSHIP PATTERN

We currently have a rota which allows for one clergy-led service across the parish each Sunday, supplemented by a variety of lay-led services to meet the mission and ministry needs of each village. Lay leaders from within the parish support each other to deliver these services and share resources.

		Month A				
	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday	
All Saints Babworth	Morning Worship Lay Led 11:00	Matins Lay Led 11.00	Holy Communion 11:00	Songs of Praise Lay Led 11:00		
Our Lady & St Peter Bothamsall				Holy Communion 09:15		
All Saints Eaton & Gamston		Evening Prayer Lay Led 18:30				
St Giles Elkesley			Family Service Lay Led 11:00		Group Holy Communion service.	
St John Scofton with Osberton	Holy Communion 09:00				Rotates round the villages each month with 5 Sundays	
St Martin Ranby						
St Bartholomew Sutton cum Lound	Family Service Lay Led 09:30	Family Service Lay Led 09:30	Worship for All Lay Led 09:30	Songs of Praise 09:30		
St. Paul West Drayton		Holy Communion 09:15		Morning Worship Lay Led 10:30		

			Month B		
	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
All Saints Babworth		Matins Lay Led 11.00	Morning Worship Lay led 11:00	Matins Lay Led 11:00	
Our Lady & St Peter Bothamsall					
All Saints Eaton & Gamston		Evening Prayer Lay Led 18:30		Holy Communion 09:15	
St Giles Elkesley			Holy Communion 11:00		Group Holy Communion service
St John Scofton with Osberton	Morning Worship Lay Led 09:00				Rotates round the villages each mont with 5 Sundays
St Martin Ranby	Holy Communion 11.00				
St Bartholomew Sutton cum Lound	Family Service 09:30	Holy Communion 09:30	Worship for All Lay Led 09:30	Songs of Praise Lay Led 09:30	
St. Paul West Drayton				Morning Worship Lay Led 10:30	

APPENDIX 3: OUR FINANCES

Parochial Church Council of Idle and Sands Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

		Unrestric	cted Funds			TOTAL FI	JNDS
		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment		
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		12/25/2000		91292333333		2010/2012/01/01	1772.052.0537
Voluntary income	2(a)	42,434	-	75,484	-	117,918	67,825
Incoming resources from charitable activities		3,072	-	2,625	-	5,697	9,611
Investment income	2(c)	4,162	3	1,623	2	5,790	6,050
Other incoming resources	2(d)	15,228	-	•	-	15,228	8,797
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		64,896	3	79,732	2	144,633	92,283
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Charitable activities	3	77,101		10,172	-	87,273	75,482
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		77,101		10,172		87,273	75,482
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCE	S	(12,205)	3	69,560	2	57,360	16,801
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		16,235	-	7,223	681	24,139	14,013
Transfers between Funds		1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		5,030	3	75,783	683	81,499	30,814
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2021		213,517	4,277	111,778	6,016	335,588	304,774
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		218,547	4,280	187,561	6,699	417,087	335,588

Note: Full accounts available on request

Voluntary income includes a restricted legacy of £57,000