WE ARE THE PARISHES OF ...
Welcome

The Rt Revd Dr David Court, the Bishop of Grimsby, writes...

Thank you for taking time to look at this particular post within the Diocese of Lincoln. As one of the largest dioceses in the country, stretching from the Humber Estuary in the north to the Wash in the south, we are home to a population of just over 1,000,000 people living in a variety of different settings, from the urban centres of Grimsby and Cleethorpes and Scunthorpe, to the City of Lincoln, to the market towns, the coastal strip, the new housing developments and the many, many small villages that mark our landscape. All are equally important to us, and we are seeking to serve in making known the good news of Jesus that has been entrusted to us.

In preparation for our recent ‘peer review’ we put together our diocesan mission and vision statements and summarised our intention as follows: ‘Our aim is to grow the Church, in both numbers and depth, through attention to what we see as our core tasks of faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service with the vision of being a healthy, vibrant, sustainable church which leads to transformed lives and communities across greater Lincolnshire, making a difference in God’s world. To that end, as a diocese we shall support, encourage and enable local parishes, benefices and mission communities to fulfil, within this framework, their own unique calling to serve in mission the community or communities in which they are set’.

In short, we don’t believe in a big top-down diocesan masterplan. We do believe, however, in supporting and encouraging our parishes in the development of their own plans, which we will then seek to support and encourage using central diocesan resources, as we are able.

With this in mind, we have begun an ambitious programme to try and increase the number of good quality, creative stipendiary clergy in the diocese by almost 50%, and we have established a regular pattern of episcopal visitations and Ministerial Development Reviews to show our support and commitment to those serving in parish ministry. We have established the principle that we are a ‘learning diocese’, and are actively creating and investing in ‘learning communities’ according to the different ‘character areas’ in which we operate so that we can learn from and support each other. We are committed to the principle of mission action planning and have a small team who can assist parishes with this. We have also released some of our historic resources to enable parishes to apply for funding so as to help them in making those plans a reality, in addition to also using some of those resources to invest in good-quality continuing ministerial development and clergy well-being.

At a recent inter-diocesan learning community we described ourselves as ‘Having a go!’ This feels like an accurate description of what we want to see happen, and the kind of clergy we want to see in the diocese.

We are not unaware of the challenges we face. On an average Sunday across the diocese we connect with only 1.4% of the population of our parishes, a figure that is also reflected in this particular group of parishes, but we are committed to ‘having a go’, to sharing what we know to be the good news of Jesus to the different communities we are here to serve. If this resonates with you, then please read on...
FORMING PART OF THE
ISLE OF AXHOLME

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ISLE OF AXHOLME

All three parishes form part of the Isle of Axholme, which is an area of land in the north-west of North Lincolnshire lying adjacent to county boundaries of Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. It is enclosed by the Rivers Trent, Idle and Don and was originally a marshy, swampy area until drainage took place in the 17th Century. The Isle consists of twelve parishes - eleven forming part of the diocese - is predominantly rich agricultural land and is extensively farmed but there are also some light industries. With the advent of Motorways this previously somewhat isolated area has become an important commuter base for cities such as Sheffield and Leeds which are now within easy reach and thus the population is increasing. This in turn creates a transitory element in the population. All three Parishes are situated very near to the M180 and close to the Doncaster (Robin Hood) and Humberside Airports. Doncaster Rail Station is approximately 18 miles from Epworth and gives a direct and speedy access to London and other parts of the country. An adequate local bus service is also available.
OUR MISSION ... is our priority.

Whilst the following profile will provide much on the history and context of the benefice, our priority is for a priest who will lead us through the challenge and opportunity of Christian Mission and Community engagement in our contemporary time and setting.

This will involve prayerful consideration and exploration of the following:

- The development of a mission plan that will focus the church upon the future
- Will promote collaboration among the benefice and wider deanery
- Also further develop our collaboration and partnership with other church denominations within the community and further afield.
- Support a discipleship of deepened personal faith and growth
- To provide imaginative and relevant worship and encourage the development of prayer and study.
- Will be open to new patterns/Fresh Expressions of church and worship
- Explore imaginative ways of using the buildings for both faith and further community events
- Develop a holistic strategy that is practical, communicates the challenge and opportunities of change and considers the implications of projected growth from our present demographic church base.

........................to enable this to take place

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ...

◆ A priest with enthusiasm and energy who will be committed to Parish life, worship and ecumenical relationships.

◆ Someone with the vision to see the potential in these communities and who can help us understand how the wider picture of the Church within the diocese, nationally and globally an inform us on our mission plan

◆ A priest with strong pastoral skills and the ability to encourage others to be involved.

◆ Someone who will motivate the unity of the group whilst at the same time respecting the individualities of the three parishes.
Someone who will motivate the unity of the group whilst at the same time respecting the individualities of the three parishes.

A confident and imaginative worship leader who can enrich our worship and inspire us to explore variety in our forms of worship that are accessible to all.

Able to communicate with children and young people and excite them with the Christian Gospel.

Able to build our congregations to provide churches as places of warmth, welcome and love from where we can serve our communities in any way necessary.

We therefore seek a priest who would lead our thriving, expanding and developing community and treasure the past with thanksgiving, embrace the future with hope and help us journey ahead with confidence.

All three Parishes accept the importance of the Incumbent having days free of Parish Activities during the week and also adequate holidays.
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS ... all three Parishes have approved the Safeguarding policy and follow its guidelines.

SUPPORT

Until recently we had a lay reader who has now left the area. Hopefully we would like a replacement in the future. Alternatively we would like to develop a Lay Ministry Team.

We do have a retired member of clergy who will help occasionally.

We also have a team who are authorised to administer the communion chalice.

During the vacancy and beyond members of the congregation are leading simple services such as family worship, this also includes leading intercessions.

ADMINISTRATION

We do have a Minute Secretary. Key officers of the PCC do their own reports and correspondence.

Also we have a competent word processing person who does much of the comprehensive reports, orders of service, programmes etc, as required.

We also have a Magazine Editor.

Technical Reports on St Andrew's building are produced by the chairman of the Restoration and Maintenance Committee.

DEANERY

We would also expect a priest to be involved with the work of the Isle of Axholme Deanery.
EPWORTH

A BRIEF HISTORY

Epworth is a small town with a rich history which began long before the Revd Samuel Wesley arrived as Rector in 1695. Evidence of Roman habitation has been found.

Epworth is situated in the Isle of Axholme, bounded by the rivers Trent, Idle, and the southern branch of the Don.

At the Norman Conquest the manor of Epworth was given to Nigel D’Albini. It was a network of lakes, pools and streams. The people fished in the lakes and rivers, trapped waterfowl, cut peat for fuel and reeds for thatching; corn was grown on higher ground and animals pastured on the marshes in the summer; farmers went to Doncaster by boat.

The medieval landscape was one of strip-farming, which can still be seen today, and flax and hemp were grown until the 19th century. In the 17th century the Crown wanted cash, and King Charles I believed the Isle was ripe for draining, so he appointed Cornelius Vermuyden in 1626 to drain the area. The Isolians resented the loss of their way of life, sabotaged Vermuyden’s scheme, and attacked his workers. Trouble simmered and problems with the drainage ensured that the old way of life continued for years. In the 18th and 19th centuries improvements were made to the fertility of the land by what is called warping - when the River Trent flooded the land it brought silt with it, the water gradually drained away through the system of dykes and sluice gates and left the silt behind, making the land what it is today.

Samuel and Suzannah Wesley arrived in April 1695 and remained for forty years. They had nineteen children, though many died as babies or young children. The stories of their sons John and Charles are well documented, and their home, the Old Rectory, is visited by many pilgrims. Epworth is known as the 'Home of the Wesleys'. Samuel is buried in the churchyard and his tomb, which John stood upon to preach to the crowds after the then curate had refused John permission to enter the Church, is also a place of pilgrimage.

Land enclosure in the Isle of Axholme was carried out between 1774 and 1861. It seems that many small landowners were unwilling to change their way of life and so, the open fields remained as they were. Those round Epworth are East Field, Church Field, South Field and Ellers Field. Over the last two hundred years some farmers have consolidated the land into working fields, though much of the land continues to be cultivated as strips. Between 1905 and 1933 the Isle of Axholme Light railway briefly linked Haxey, Epworth, Belton and Crowle, and names such as Station Road are a link with this time.

Throughout the centuries the Church has been a presence in Epworth. St Andrew’s was largely built at the end of the 12th century but work has been carried out at different times since then. During the restoration, evidence of a Saxon church was found. At Low Melwood there was a Carthusian priory between 1396 and 1538. Following the Reformation the people of the Isle were largely in sympathy with the Puritans, and Wesley’s evangelism readily took root and many chapels were built. Today the different branches of Christianity work collectively under the 'Epworth Christians Together' umbrella.

The town has grown rapidly within the last decade and, with the arrival of Robin Hood Airport (Doncaster), the 21st Century has arrived.
ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH EPWORTH

St Andrew's is an ancient church: the list of Rectors goes back to the 13th Century and includes the names of Samuel Wesley, father of John and Charles, the founders of Methodism. Samuel was Rector of Epworth from 1695 until 1735, John and Charles were both baptised in the font here, which remains in regular use.

Because Epworth is famous as the birthplace of the Wesley brothers we have many visitors coming from all over the world - some as tourists but many as pilgrims. We work very hard at St Andrew's to make sure that we provide a welcome to these people and have developed this side of our ministry.

St Andrew's however is neither a shrine nor a museum and we strive to be an effective parish church with a regular worshipping congregation of about 50 at our main service on a Sunday. We also strive to provide a ministry of pastoral care and service to all the people in the parish.

Until 1954 the Rector of St Andrew's lived in what is now the Old Rectory which was then sold to the Methodists and is now a museum.

THE RECTORY

The Rectory is a four (plus box-room) bedroom detached brick house built in the 1950s and is a five-minute walk from the church. It provides good family accommodation with large lounge, separate dining room, study, dining kitchen, cloakroom, utility and store rooms.

The house is fully double-glazed and has gas central heating. The garden is a good size and includes garage and store rooms.

The Rectory is within easy reach of the playschools, Primary and Comprehensive Schools, the shops, Doctors, Dentist, Chemist, Optician, banks and library, etc.
Epworth
Existing

Ground floor plan
Epworth Existing

BEDROOM 1

BEDROOM 2

STAIRS down

BEDROOM 3

BEDROOM 4

LTH

W.C.

BATH

BREAD OVEN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Epworth Proposed

First Floor Plan: AE
This is traditionally 'middle of the road' Anglicanism. The main service is at 10.30 am on a Sunday, which whenever possible is sung Eucharist (Common Worship). We have a fine reconditioned organ, a very good organist and a small but enthusiastic choir.

A mid-week said Communion service is held at 10.00 am on a Thursday (Book of Common Prayer).

Attendance at the main Sunday Service averages between 40 and 50 and at the midweek about 12 and is growing.

A ladies group meets monthly.

2016

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FINANCE

Income is mainly from regular planned giving, weekly collections, tax relief, fund raising events, and tourism.

The Parish Share for 2016 was £28,489 and this was paid in full.
A copy of the audited accounts is available on request.
THE PEOPLE OF ST ANDREW’S

- Wardens
- Organist
- Servers
- Choir
- Bell Ringers
- Fellowship Group
- Tourism Officer

- Prayer Group for the sick of all three parishes
- PCC/Sidespeople
- Magazine - monthly production and distribution of 320 copies over the three parishes
- Coffee Rota
- Readers’ Rota
- Flower Rota
- Cleaning Rota
- Steward’s Rota
- Event’s Committee
WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

♦ Christingle Service.
♦ Primary School visits - Epworth and from further afield.
♦ South Axholme Academy
♦ American youth choirs often ask to come and sing in the Church.
♦ Visiting Bell ringers

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

♦ Tudor Banquet
♦ Soup and Pudding Evening
♦ Concerts – Choirs and orchestras use the Church as a venue (including wonderful American choirs and Lesley Garrett),
  Brass Bands
  Hand Bells
  Dancing for Health
♦ Exhibitions
♦ Coffee Mornings
♦ Spring Fair
♦ Christmas Market is held in the town centre to complement the switching on of the Christmas Lights which raises approximately £4000 each year
EPWORTH MUSIC DAY

This is an annual celebration of music in all its many and varied forms held at a range of venues around the town in streets, parks, at the churches, public house car parks and all within easy walking distance of each other. The music consists of medieval to modern, solo artists, groups, choirs, acknowledged performers to impromptu amateurs.

The event is free and captures the joy and pleasure that music brings to everyone and this year was held on 24th June 2017. Over forty different acts took part and the day concluded as usual with a concert in St Andrew’s Church. Some of the acts being:

SCUNTHORPE JUNIOR COOPERATIVE CHOIR

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE UKULELE

OASIS ALL STARS – FOLK MUSIC AND DANCING
ECUMENICAL WORK

St Andrew’s is part of Epworth Christians Together, which also consists of representatives from the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church. Meetings are held regularly and we join together for worship several times a year.

In August there is a Show Praise service the night before the Epworth Agricultural Show. This is held in a tent on the showground and is led by a different denomination each year with a visiting preacher. On show day itself the tent becomes the Church tent, offering refreshments, stalls, and a place of quiet.

In Lent we have joint Lent Courses and this is followed on Maundy Thursday with washing of the feet. On Good Friday there is joint walk of Witness through the High Street ending in the Market Place with a short service. On Easter Sunday morning the Methodist Church hosts an ecumenical Son Rise Service, followed by breakfast.

Interdenominational Women’s World Day of Prayer is held each year.

A national Ploughing Competition is held every September and the Anglicans and Methodists alternate to bless the plough.

FESTIVAL OF THE PLOUGH
PHASED RESTORATION

We realise that we are very privileged to be the custodians of such an historic building and we have taken steps to improve it so that St Andrew's will continue to provide a place of worship, pilgrimage and activity for many future generations.

FABRICS SOUND CONDITION

Over the last fifteen years there have been a significant number of condition reports prepared by architects, English Heritage and other consultants. These have been involved with the restoration of the fabric which has been ongoing since 1999 and is now complete. The core fabric is in a sound condition with the building watertight, structurally intact, damp free, a new tower roof and an upgraded surface water drainage system.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDING CAMPAIGN

The church was successful in securing funding for the fabric restoration from English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund from the scheme 'Repair Grants for Places of Worship' to the value of £500,000. Another 250,000 was raised from other funding bodies, fund raising activities and private donations.

CONSERVING AND SHARING

On completion of the fabric restoration a major project was embarked upon to improve the facilities within and around the church. The total cost of this project was £850,000 of which £457,500 was grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Additional funding came from LEADER (European Money), North Lincs Council, Epworth Town Council, other grants, fund raising in the community, drawn from church accounts, donations and HLF development grants.
THE WORK INCLUDED:

Removing the pews, existing floors and replacing with new limestone floors inclusive of underfloor heating

Introduction of a modern electrical, lighting, sound and security systems

New kitchen and toilet facilities

New ringer's gallery

Introduction of south porch lobby

Introduction of flexible oak seating

Font repositioned

Introduction of heritage room and interpretation facilities

Complete decoration

Solar panels installed on the nave roof

West window restored

NAVE BEFORE REORDERING

FOLLOWING REORDERING

NAVE

VIEW OF THE NAVE
Included within the Conserving and Sharing Project was the introduction of a heritage wall. This comprises one hundred and thirty one coloured clay tiles depicting the heritage, history and culture of Epworth and the surrounding area. Thirteen local schools were involved along with adults representing community organisations. It was well received by the community and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
PIPES AND BELLS

During 2015 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant of £44,000 for remedial work on the bells and organ.
TOURISM

Each year, on average, there are approaching 7,000 visitors to St Andrew’s, a substantial number of whom come on a pilgrimage to the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley. Approximately 40% of the visitors come from overseas countries such as USA, Canada, Korea, Japan, etc.

Occasionally there is a request to celebrate the Eucharist using the Wesley Chalice.

St Andrew’s has a voluntary Tourism Officer who co-ordinates activities and gives short guided tours. He is assisted by a small team of guides and stewards.

There is an Epworth Heritage Forum of which St Andrew’s has been an active member for many years.

Epworth, with a population of approximately 4,000 is a thriving small town with excellent communication links, which provides all the main services and facilities
AMENITIES AROUND EPWORTH include ...

Education

Epworth is fortunate in having both a good primary school (Primary Academy) and a good comprehensive school (South Axholme Academy). Both schools are located fairly centrally in the town and stand in pleasant grounds.

South Axholme has been extensively enlarged and the facilities are wide ranging, catering for approximately 900 pupils and excellent Ofsted Reports.

Pupils of different ages study the Church from both historic and religious perspectives.

John Leggott and North Lindsey Colleges based in Scunthorpe offer post 16 education as well as adult education courses. Both colleges have a national reputation for the quality of their results in A level and vocational studies. The Humber UTC, also based in Scunthorpe, specialises in the subjects of Engineering and Renewable Energies for 14 to 19 year olds.

- Thurlow Playgroup is attached to the Primary Academy
- Primary Academy
- South Axholme Academy with 6th form
- John Leggott 6th Form College, Scunthorpe
- North Lindsey Technical College
- The Humber UTC

Medical

- South Axholme Group Practice
- Chapel Street Clinic - babies, toddlers, chiropodist etc
- Hospitals in Scunthorpe, Goole, Grimsby, Doncaster, Hull and Sheffield
- Optician
- Dentist
- Chiropodist

Shops

- Bank, Building Society, Insurance Broker, Bakers (2), Butcher, Post Office, Chemist, Florists (2), Card Shop,
- Gifts, Cobbler, Drycleaner, Hospice Shop,
- Dress Shops (3),
- Shoes, Interior Design Shops (2), Motorist discount and repair shop,
- Barber(2),
- Unisex Hairdressers (3), Antiques, Fruit and Vegetables, Garden Centre,
- Small Supermarkets (2), Co-op Grocery,
- Garage and Filling Station, Travel Agent, Solicitors, Estate Agents
- Newsagent with Off Licence and sweets
- Beauticians (4)
SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES IN AND AROUND EPWORTH

- Brownies
- Guides
- Billiards
- Bowls
- Football
- Golf Society
- Tennis
- Riding
- Hockey
- Sharks Swimming Club
- Epworth Folk

- Family History
- Men's Society
- Wesley Women's Network
- Tae Kwan Do

- Knitters
- Pilates
- Horticultural Society
- Flower Club
- Radio Club
- Rotary Club
- Lions
- Orchestra
- Mechanics Library
- Leisure Centre
  - Swimming Pool
  - Gymnasium
  - Badminton
- Isle Choral Society
- Metres to Miles Fitness

Accommodation and Eating

- Public Houses (3)
- Hotel (1)
- Guest Houses (2)
- Newland Holiday Park
- Wine Bar/Restaurant
- Garden Centre Restaurant
- Fish and Chip shops (2)
- Indian Restaurant (2)
- Indian Takeaway (2)
- Chinese Takeaway (2)
- Pizza Takeaway
- Tea Shops

Services

- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Warden Controlled Accommodation
- Library/North Lincs Council Link Office

SWIMMING POOL

GYMNASIUM

RED LION HOTEL

THURLOW PLAY AREA
NOTEABLE PEOPLE

In addition to John and Charles Wesley, other notable people are associated with Epworth including:

(a) William de Mowbray, 6th Baron of Thirsk, 4th Baron Mowbray (c.1172 - c.1224).

He was a Norman Lord and English noble who was one of the twenty five executors of the Magna Carta. He was described as being small as a dwarf but very generous and valiant. The Mowbray Manor House was located to the south side of the church and is currently subject to archaeological research.

Representations of the twenty five shields of the barons are frequently on display in the church. They were made by pupils of the South Axholme Academy.

(b) Alexander Kilham, founder of the Methodist New Connection, born in Epworth.

(c) Ian Botham, cricketer, former resident.

(d) Benjamin Huntsman, inventor and manufacturer, born Epworth 1704. He invented crucible, or cast steel. His method was the most significant development in steel production up to that time. He was also a clockmaker and instrument maker.

(e) Sheridan Smith, actress, born Epworth in 1981

(f) Lesley Garrett, soprano, part time resident of Epworth. Lesley has given one or two very successful concerts in St Andrew's Church.
WEST BUTTERWICK

ST MARY’S CHURCH

Opened in 1841 on the site of earlier churches, the building has a capacity of around 120 seated. The style is the typically plain construction of the Victorian era. A number of the stained glass windows on the east and south sides are said to be of significance in their construction and execution by Queen Victoria’s favoured stained glass designer.

In the last decade or so the following works have been carried out:

◆ Renovation of the chancel roof
◆ Refelting of the boiler house roof
◆ Internal redecoration throughout the Church
◆ New boiler installed
◆ Refurbishment of eight windows
◆ Improvements to electrical installations
◆ Internal double doors replaced

The building does not have any direct water supply. However, plans to introduce a water supply are well developed. A programme of fund raising is being developed with the advice of the Diocese and is being carried out with the support of two enthusiastic volunteers.

A new architect, Mr Stephen Calvert, has been appointed in the last year.

The clock which is a key part of West Butterwick life (hence the floodlighting) is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, who also fund the grass cutting in the churchyard.

Other maintenance work falls to the PCC to fund.

The organ, refurbished in the late 1950s has recently been serviced. We are very fortunate to welcome an organist in the congregation which is a real blessing.

Recently a meeting took place with members of the village to highlight the importance of greater participation and also asking for financial support in meeting maintenance costs.
FINANCES

Income is derived from weekly collection, stewardship, tax relief and a number of fund raising events that centre on an Autumn Fayre, Lent Coffee Moring, raffles etc. The Friends of St Mary’s Church are actively fund raising for the water, toilets and kitchen project.

Expenditure follows the usual pattern for a small church:

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CHURCH LIFE

The electoral roll currently stands at 17, with average Sunday attendance of 9 - with one exception the age of the parishioners is universally above 55.

In the last 3 years there have been 9 baptisms, 4 weddings and 8 funerals which are mainly burials.

At the present time Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.00 am, with the exception of the 4th Sunday which alternates between Family Service and Morning Prayer.

Significantly so far attendance has remained fairly constant. However it is a long established view that local people will generally support fundraising events but apart from special occasions such as Christmas Eve Crib Service (congregation 75+) do not normally appear at weekly services.

The link with the school is considered vital and services held each term are fairly well attended.
LINKS WITH VILLAGE LIFE

We have a good relationship with the Methodist Church, situated next to St Mary's, with occasional joint services eg Remembrance Sunday and the hire of the Methodist Hall for fundraising and other events. A monthly lunch, organised by the Methodists during the winter, autumn and spring is also attended by a number of parishioners from across the 'Epworth Group thus providing a useful point of contact

CHURCH SCHOOL

The school has a strong link with the neighbouring Church and the current Head Teacher is also Head of other schools in the Trentside Federation namely Owston Ferry and Haxey. St Mary's Church is represented by two governors. Apart from the previously mentioned links there is a strong desire to increase these, reinforced by the last Ofsted Report and Diocesan inspection which were outstanding.

CHALLENGES

◆ The need to increase the number of Church attendees from the village.
◆ The need to continue to develop the two-way partnership with the village school.
◆ To support, serve and communicate

Within the village there is a continuing problem with leisure time activities for young people. The Village Hall facility created in the mid 1990s has potential for increased usage. This indicates a need for development of partnerships with North Lincolnshire Council, Methodist Church, Parish Council and other bodies.
◆ Actual loss of village facilities and the need to develop joint awareness programmes.
ST PANCRAS CHURCH WROOT

THE VILLAGE

Wroot is situated between Epworth and Doncaster at the very western edge of North Lincolnshire, 6 miles west of Epworth and 11 miles east of Doncaster. Lincoln is approximately 40 miles distant.

The linear settlement dates back to Roman times. The arrival of Dutch engineers, most noticeably Vermuyden, in the 15th and 16th centuries who drained the land, created the rich agricultural landscape that exists today.

Whilst its make up still remains a strong agricultural base, the emergence of Doncaster as a manufacturing, heavy industry and coal mining centre in the 19th and 20th centuries have been a continuing influence. It is consistent with the rest of the Isle of Axholme with employment spread over a wide area.

Wroot won the best kept village in 2005.

The population at the 2011 census was 445. This was split into 233 Male and 222 Female residents.

The census also indicated:

Employment

- Economically Active - 67%
- Unemployed - 3%
- Students - 3%
- Retired - 20%
- Carers - 3%
- Disabled - 2%
- Other - 2%

Age Range

- 0 to 15 - 13%
- 16 to 29 - 11%
- 30 to 44 - 16%
- 45 to 59 - 25%
- 60 to 74 - 29%
- over 75 - 6%

The nearest railway station is Doncaster and Wroot is currently served by a Dial-A-Ride bus service.

FACILITIES WITHIN WROOT

- A village shop which opens 5 morning a week
- Visiting Post Office twice weekly
- Cross Keys public house
- Self-Catering Accommodation
- Church of England Primary School (currently 43 pupils)
- Village Hall and Playing Fields
- St Pancras Church
The Church of St Pancras is situated at the eastern end of the village on rising ground.

Opened in 1879, the present building replaced one that had been on the site for centuries. The style is typically plain construction of the Victorian Gothic era. The building has a seating capacity of approximately 60.

St Pancras is famed for being the curacy of John Wesley between 1727 and 1729. His father, Samuel Wesley was Vicar prior to this date.

Mary Wesley, known as Molly and sister to John, was crippled and stayed at home until she was in her thirties. She married the Rev John Whitlam who became Rector of Wroot on the resignation of his father-in-law. She died at the age of 38 and is buried in the churchyard at Wroot.

The building does not have any direct water supply. The heating is by mains gas.

The next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2021.

In February 2017 fundraising in the village facilitated the installation of a stained glass window. This was dedicated by the Bishop of Grimsby on June 4th 2017.
FINANCES

Income is derived from weekly collections, stewardship, gift aid and a number of fund raising events. These have included social evenings, church lunches, sponsored walks and fayres.

Expenditure follows the usual pattern for a small church. St. Pancras has always met its quota and met expenses associated with general repairs to the building. The church owns 2.5 hectares of Glebe amongst its assets.

In addition to a reserve fund of £3,500, recent performance is indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<td>Net</td>
<td>£868</td>
<td>£1234</td>
<td>£973</td>
<td>-£3096</td>
<td>£285</td>
<td>-£2134</td>
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</table>

The net loss in 2014 was mainly a result of having to replace part of the heating system. In 2016 the net loss was the result of essential work following the last quinquennial inspection.

CHURCH LIFE

The electoral roll currently stands at 11, with an average Sunday attendance of 12. The age profile of the majority of parishioners is over 60.

In a typical year there is one baptism, one or two weddings and one or two funerals which normally includes burial within the churchyard, which is well maintained by the parishioners. Before the interregnum Holy Communion was celebrated three times a month. The style of the service is traditional.

Over the last two decades various experiments have been undertaken with the form and timing of services which have resulted in the current format. The changes in lifestyle, particularly since ‘Sunday Opening’ are considered to have had a major local influence. Significantly, attendances have been improving recently.

The link with the village school is considered vital and termly services are well attended.

LINKS WITH VILLAGE LIFE

A monthly lunch is organized during Spring, Summer and Autumn and is attended by a number of parishioners from across the Epworth group and is a useful point of contact. On the whole, the church is well supported in its fund raising activities by the village and by the village Parish Council. Within the village there are a number of regular activities. Principal amongst these is the Annual Wroot Feast every July.
There is a strong link with the school and St Pancras’ Church is represented by two governors. Every opportunity is taken to integrate the Church and the School and there are a number of services held at St Pancras each school year.

CHALLENGE

To increase the congregation, and especially to increase the number of younger worshipers.