Holy Trinity & St Mary the Virgin, Old Clee, with Christ Church and St Aidan’s

Serving God and looking to the future together
Welcome...

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

Thank you for taking the 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, 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 all 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’.

“We are committed to ‘having a go’, and to sharing what we know to be the good news of Jesus...”

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 we 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 become a reality, in addition to using some of these 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. The Deanery of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, of which these particular benefices are a part, connects with less than 0.6% of its population on an average Sunday, but we are committed to ‘having a go’, and 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...
We welcome you to Old Clee and Cleethorpes...

Thank you for considering the position of Priest-in-Charge of our three churches: Holy Trinity and St Mary’s, Old Clee; Christ Church, Cleethorpes; and St Aidan’s, Cleethorpes. In our parish profile, we want to show you our church communities and our town, and share with you our hopes for the future and our desire to continue serving God’s people in this place.

Holy Trinity and St Mary the Virgin, Old Clee
Often known simply as Old Clee, our ancient parish church (above) occupies a unique place at the heart of the community. Clee is a village within a town: a beautiful rural centre with all the amenities of Grimsby and Cleethorpes on the doorstep. The attractiveness of the church and surrounding area is a distinct advantage in terms of our mission.

Christ Church, Cleethorpes
Christ Church is a daughter church of Old Clee, serving the more modern housing developments built at the beginning of the 20th century. We have had a long association with uniformed organisations and this presents important opportunities for ministry among younger people.

St Aidan’s, Cleethorpes
Situated on the main road into Cleethorpes, St Aidan’s (right) is a large red-brick church that has undergone significant reordering and development. As such, we host a number of community groups and organisations and are keen to further develop our outreach.
Our location...

The town of Cleethorpes is a seaside resort on the estuary of the River Humber, and is a very popular tourist destination. With a population of approximately 40,000 people, Cleethorpes represents a significant urban area within a county largely thought of as entirely rural.

Cleethorpes boasts a beautiful beach with a newly developed pier, leisure centre, multiplex cinema and the best fish and chips that the UK has to offer! There is ongoing investment in the area, particularly with regard to amenities and attractions for tourists.

Our three churches serve an incredibly diverse set of communities within Cleethorpes, from rural idyll to modern suburbia to areas of significant deprivation, each of which presents its own potential and challenge.

Adjoining Cleethorpes is the neighbouring town of Grimsby, which is famed for its fishing heritage. Together, Grimsby and Cleethorpes have a combined population of approximately 130,000, making it one of the most urban areas within greater Lincolnshire.

Both towns offer a wide variety of schools, shops and attractions. They are served by well-connected trains and regular bus services.
Our context...

Our three churches comprise two separate benefices: that of Old Clee with its daughter church Christ Church, and that of St Aidan’s. Legally the two will be held in plurality by the Priest-in-Charge. The two benefices serve a population of nearly 15,000 people.

The joining of the three churches under one priest in recent years has contributed to the significant development of lay ministry in the parishes, and the current pattern of Sunday worship incorporates a balance of Holy Communion and lay-led Services of the Word. The Sunday pattern can be seen in the table below.

There is a team in place that deals with enquiries for baptisms and weddings. Baptism families are required to attend a short Alpha course.

We have also formed an informal relationship with the two other Anglican churches in Cleethorpes: St Peter’s, the town centre church, and St Francis, which serves a large housing estate adjoining Old Clee. At present, the five churches gather on the first Sunday of every month for a United Service. The United Services are well-liked by those who attend. We are currently exploring the pattern of these services and looking at other ways of working more closely as five churches.

Our current Sunday pattern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Sunday</th>
<th>2nd Sunday</th>
<th>3rd Sunday</th>
<th>4th Sunday</th>
<th>5th Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old Clee</strong></td>
<td>United Service</td>
<td>11am Communion</td>
<td>11am Communion</td>
<td>11am Word</td>
<td>11am Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ Church</strong></td>
<td>United Service</td>
<td>9.30am (*) Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Word</td>
<td>9.30am Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St Aidan’s</strong></td>
<td>United Service</td>
<td>9.30am Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Word</td>
<td>9.30am Word</td>
<td>9.30am Communion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) The service of Holy Communion at Christ Church on the second Sunday of the month is currently taken by the parish priest at St Francis.
Holy Trinity and St Mary the Virgin, Old Clee

The parish church of Old Clee is the oldest building still standing in Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The Saxon tower dates from c1050 AD, with later additions during the Norman period. Despite the ongoing growth of both Grimsby and Cleethorpes, to some extent Clee retains its identity as a village. The church itself is situated in a secluded and peaceful area, which understandably proves attractive to those seeking weddings and baptisms. Much of the surrounding area consists of open grass and woodlands, which contrasts sharply with areas of significant deprivation in the northern part of the parish.

Our tradition is central: vestments are worn and we have a small robed choir and team of servers. The regular congregation comprises more older people, although we have made considerable progress with our younger people’s ministry in recent years. The Net youth group for those aged 11+ is based at Old Clee Church but includes members from the other Cleethorpes churches. On occasion they lead our Sunday worship, giving space for a more informal and creative service. A recent introduction has been The Net Juniors for those aged 5–11 years. There is a large number of schools in our parish, although none of them are Church schools. Previous incumbents have been involved with two local primary schools, taking assemblies and hosting them for church services.

The church hall is used regularly during the week for activities such as our Parent & Toddler Group, evening Bible study, and social afternoons for older people. The hall is also used by uniformed organisations and let to casual hirers for parties and other events. Our excellent kitchen facilities mean that we are able to offer a regular Parish Breakfast, which is often supported by members of other churches.
Christ Church, Cleethorpes

Christ Church was built on the main Grimsby to Cleethorpes road at the beginning of the twentieth century to serve the rapidly expanding seaside resort. Our church has a strong history of mission among visitors and tourists.

Today, the church maintains a small but loyal congregation, which is committed to supporting the surrounding community. The building itself is a dual-purpose hall: the sanctuary can be closed off, which means that the church can be used very flexibly by hirers and local community groups. We also have a well-appointed kitchen and toilet facilities.

The church runs a Hobbies Group and a Ladies’ Group, and we also sponsor a thriving Scout Group, which uses the building regularly. The opportunities for fundraising events and social functions make Christ Church an important asset for the local area.

The Benefice of Clee

As Old Clee and Christ Church comprise one benefice, both churches’ interests are vested in a joint PCC, with combined financial activities. Together, the two churches run a variety of joint events, including our Christmas and Summer Fairs, flower festivals, coffee mornings and auctions. There is a strong sense of shared identity and fellowship between the congregations.
St Aidan’s, Cleethorpes

St Aidan’s was built in 1906 as a large-capacity church to support the growing communities around the fishing, docks and railway industries. The church was extensively redeveloped in the second half of the 20th century to provide space for a community centre. One-third of the building comprises the church and vestry, and the remaining two thirds were rebuilt internally to provide a church hall and kitchen on the ground floor, and a series of flexible rooms on the first and second floors. Those rooms are let out to different organisations, which makes a substantial contribution to the church’s finances, and users include Sure Start Babies and Toddlers, a history and archaeological society, a dementia group, and friendship and craft groups.

The church is located on the main road into Cleethorpes from the A180 bypass, close to the boundary with Grimsby and opposite the current site for Grimsby Town Football Club. The parish of St Aidan’s is one of the most deprived areas in the town and as such there are significant needs that we would like to be addressing as a church. The current size of the regular congregation is small, but there has been some recent growth. The majority of members are elderly, although there are some young members who attend, and for some of our services we involve members of the local Guides and Brownies.

There is a strong history of outreach from St Aidan’s: in the past, the church has benefited from the services of a Community Development Worker and a Church Army evangelist. There is huge potential to build on our work in the local community. At present, we are supporting the community through our extensive facilities, with services including uniformed organisations and other social events. Some of our rooms are let as office space, and our main kitchen is used for a breakfast and after-school club.

We have an administrator, and as a team we enjoy helping with the occasional offices, such as in baptism preparation.
Schools information

We have the following schools in the area.

Primary schools
- Old Clee Primary Academy
- Reynolds Primary Academy
- William Barcroft Junior School
- Queen Mary Avenue Infant School
- Elliston Primary Academy

Secondary schools
- Havelock Academy

Deanery information

Our three churches are part of the Deanery of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, which comprises the urban portion of North East Lincolnshire. The more rural communities outside the towns are part of the separate Deanery of Haverstoe.

Deanery Chapter meets every six weeks for a service of Holy Communion and lunch afterwards. Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and the current lay chair is a Reader at St Aidan’s.

Ecumenical information

There is a variety of Christian churches and communities in the wider area and which maintain good relations. Churches Together in North East Lincolnshire operates as an umbrella organisation that particularly supports the work of the Street Angels; an anti-human trafficking campaign; and CARE (a Christian organisation providing social and community services).

There is also a subgroup known as Cleethorpes Churches Working Together, which meets regularly for prayer and works collaboratively to support Christian mission in the town of Cleethorpes.

Members of The Net, which meets at Holy Trinity and St Mary the Virgin, Old Clee.
Living accommodation

We have a lovely four-bedroom house with a manageable garden. It needs some attention to upgrade the bathroom and some other improvements. The successful candidate will be invited to help choose between various options for these improvements. There is also office and private meeting space available in the churches, if that is preferred.

What we have to offer

- Our three churches are well-maintained and each one has extensive community facilities
- All our churches have strong community connections, with numerous community organisations and groups using our halls and facilities
- We have developed a committed lay leadership team, including two Readers (one of whom is licensed to officiate at funerals), two Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) and a Reader Emeritus
- We are forward-looking and excited about the possibilities for growth under new leadership
- We have a ministry to younger people that is ripe for expansion, and opportunities for mission among families who come for the occasional offices
- Several of the local schools would welcome further involvement, and we want to build on good relations with them
- We offer a rich pattern of worship that allows for flexibility and creativity
- There is a strong sense of fellowship among our congregations and a wide variety of social events are held throughout the year
- We work closely with the two other Anglican churches in Cleethorpes and their clergy, and are keen to grow that relationship together.
What we’re looking for

This role will involve

- Leading the church communities
- Nurturing the different styles of worship and opportunities for mission in each church
- Developing opportunities for mission with occasional offices
- Building relationships with local schools and with the many community organisations that use our buildings
- Enabling and nurturing lay ministry and leadership
- Maximising the potential of our church buildings
- Developing the relationship with other Cleethorpes churches.

Person specification

Our parish priest will be someone who...

- enjoys leading worship across a range of different styles
- is committed to involving others in the planning and leadership of worship
- welcomes occasional offices, understands their importance, and invests the necessary time and resources to this ministry
- is an enabler, who can develop and supervise the existing lay ministry team and allow all people to flourish in their discipleship
- is serious about developing their own spiritual life
- has experience of developing good relationships with community organisations
- isn’t afraid to talk about money, who can challenge us in our stewardship and help us fundraise
- appreciates and enjoys working with young people, especially in our uniformed organisations and schools
- is a good listener, preacher and teacher
- is friendly, approachable and values the social life of the churches as part of our mission.
## Appendix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics for 2017</th>
<th>Old Clee</th>
<th>Christ Church</th>
<th>St Aidan’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Sunday attendance</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral roll</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Serve God and looking to the future together*
Holy Trinity & St Mary the Virgin, Old Clee

Christ Church, Cleethorpes

St Aidan’s, Cleethorpes