

There has never been a greater need for Rural Chaplaincy across Lincolnshire

I am very honoured to have been asked to take the Chair of the new Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy Charity. The Charity has been formed to fundraise to support the work of our much loved agricultural chaplain, Canon Alan Robson, and the expanding group of associate chaplains across the County.



We have set an ambitious target to raise 1.5 million pounds over the next 5 years so that the agricultural community can partner in supporting chaplaincy provision, and have a voice in succession planning for Alan's retirement. The rural and agricultural chaplains work with LRSN to continue the pastoral and spiritual care that Alan has provided throughout Greater Lincolnshire for the last 22 years.

Please welcome the associate chaplains into their new role as they become the face of rural chaplaincy across the County. As our industry is challenged with the greatest agricultural policy change for a generation, there has never been a greater need. Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeal to date.

Meryl Ward Chair, Lincolnshire Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy

Double vision

'Where there is no vision the people perish,'

proclaims one of the prophets of the Old Testament. One of the functions of chaplaincy is to open up visions; not just for individuals but also for communities involved in agriculture and rural life. Out of the vision of Canon Alan Robson's ministry, and those working with him, came LRSN. Now LRSN has a new vision to secure the future of chaplaincy in Lincolnshire; this vision has resulted in LRAC. It is the purpose of this charity to raise the funds to recruit, train and sustain agricultural and rural chaplaincy in Lincolnshire for future generations. Without it LRSN and all that Lincolnshire values about rural chaplaincy may well perish and that would be a tragedy.

Words from The Revd Canon Andrew Hawes SSC on the board of both LRSN and LRAC

Meet the Chaplains

Rev Canon Alan Robson MSc FRAGS FRAS
 Lead Agricultural Chaplain



Alan has served as agricultural chaplain for 22 years with ties to other Boards and projects across Greater Lincolnshire, including Chair of Green Synergy (Charity), a 'city garden' next to the Lincoln Hospital within Abbey Ward offering therapeutic help to a wide range of folk with mental health diagnosis young and older women, men and children. Through the Lincoln Agricultural Society, he has initiated several ideas not least the EPIC Building and within the ongoing work of Educational Committee encouraged a renewed emphasis on environmental challenges and conservation.

He is a trustee of the greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership; a key focus being building 'local' food hubs to ensure accessible and affordable food directly from producers to consumers thereby lessening dependence on food banks by the most vulnerable.

Now the Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy (Charity) is a key focus! More folk going down farm drives meeting whatever needs that are found amongst farmers and farm workers. More chaplains mean more direct engagement and finding those who are struggling and will rarely 'self-identify' with emotional, practical or familial problems "seek and ye shall find" being key.

Rev Al Jenkins
 Assoc. Agricultural Chaplain



Rev Al Jenkins was ordained as Deacon at Lincoln Cathedral in 2018. Al's career prior to this was in the Royal Air Force where he completed 35 years of service as the Community Support Warrant Officer at a large Lincolnshire RAF Station.

Al was ordained priest in 2019 and after completing his Curacy he was appointed as the Priest in Charge of the North Lafford group of parishes in June 2021. He was commissioned as an associate agricultural chaplain after an initial chat with the Archdeacon of Lincoln where he had expressed an interest in the efficacy of chaplaincy mission. Whilst getting to know the parishes Al has been able to combine his Parish and chaplaincy duties by dropping into farms or offices on his travels around the area.

Rev Sue Hentley
 Assoc. Agricultural Chaplain



Rev Sue Hentley was born and raised in "The Fen" and is a farmer's daughter. In 2020 she retired from the wheat breeding department at Elsoms Seeds.

As ordained local minister, Rev Sue is an assistant curate at the Haven group of churches (Swineshead, Bicker, Donington, Wigtoft, and Sutterton.)

"I would like to think my ministry as associate agricultural chaplain would be to walk with farmers and rural communities, and together, help meet their, and our, changing seasons that lie ahead.



Meet the Chaplains



Rev Peter Lister

Assoc. Agricultural Chaplain

Rev Peter Lister lives in Bourne in the South of the county. He has lived and worked in Lincolnshire all of his life. After leaving Shuttleworth Agricultural College he became a tenant farmer on the Grimsthorpe Estate in the south of the county, before going on to work for Centaur Grain (formerly Lingrain) at Boston.

Ordained in 2010 Revd Peter is Associate Priest in the Edenham benefice and part of the ministry team at the Edenham Regional House. Revd Peter says that, 'it will be a great privilege and joy to minister as an associate agricultural chaplain to the agricultural community of Lincolnshire, a community that is close to my heart. I see my role as responding to the needs of farmers by listening, making visits and offering pastoral support. I also aim to be a visible presence at as many farming events as possible.'



Rev Catherine Wylie

Assoc. Agricultural Chaplain

Rev Catherine Wylie is our newest rural chaplain and lives in the north of the county. Born in Scotland from a farming family, Catherine was a nurse and midwife for over 37 years, working across the NHS in a variety of clinical and managerial positions.

Catherine retired from the NHS in 2018 to continue pursuing her ordination training as a Priest. She spent three very happy years serving as Assistant Curate in the Caistor Group of Parishes, participating with all aspects of Parish life in Caistor and the surrounding countryside. She will continue to serve in the Caistor parishes as an Associate Priest and sees the chaplaincy role as a wonderful opportunity to integrate further and broaden her support to the local agricultural community.

Community Events

The Chaplains have been busy attending events in the farming community.

The chaplains have been busy attending events in the farming community, Rev Peter and Rev Canon Alan ran 2 very different events for Rogation Sunday in May. Rev Peter co-lead a Rogation walk around Grimsthorpe in the South of the County and Rev Alan was preaching at the St Giles Estate in Lincoln at a joint service.

Several of the chaplains attended the LRSN Insight evening where they heard more about the challenges facing the Lincolnshire farming community. Rev Al and Rev Peter were invited to attend Notts Show by Just Talk Agri a new initiative set up by 2 Young Farmers, Tom Ware & Tom Beck after the suicide of a friend. Rev Peter Lister regularly attends the Spalding Auction.

Fundraising

The fundraising has got off to a great start. We intend to raise funds from private donations, searching for dormant trusts where our objectives are aligned and from grant applications for chaplaincy projects.

We are also working under the 'Lincolnshire Rural Charities' banner with LRSN and the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society.

Thank you to all who have already donated. I am delighted to say we have now broken through the £100,000 barrier. If you are able to make a donation or are trustee of a dormant trust which you think might fit with chaplaincy work, please contact me at michael.pickles@lrac.org.uk

Michael Pickles

Campaign Manager



THE RURAL CHARITIES DINNER

The Rural Charities Dinner in April was a resounding success raising £44,000 which will be split between the 3 charities Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, Lincolnshire Agricultural Society and ourselves.

The chaplains would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped raise such a wonderful sum of money. Getting together again after the last few years and enjoying good food and conversation was a splendid way to raise money.



Progress towards our goal!



CHARITY NO. 1195180

LINCOLNSHIRE RURAL & AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAINCY

www.lrac.org.uk

Contact: Jackie Elton

Email: jackie.elton@lrac.org.uk



Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy