

# LOUTHESK DEANERY LETTER



Feast of the Transfiguration  
August 2021



Dear friends,

Today is the feast of the Transfiguration, a major event in the Gospel, that is often hidden away in August. On that occasion, the veil was temporarily lifted, and Jesus' friends saw his full, divine nature and glory revealed before them. And then it was over, and Christ sent them back down to mountain to continue their work. But they did so knowing that with God there is always more than meets the eye; always a cause for hope, endeavour and thanksgiving. Whatever you are doing at the moment - snatching some holiday or exerting yourselves bringing in the harvest - I hope that it is fruitful and does bring the opportunity for rest and renewal. September will bring with it a chance for us all to meet and strive collectively for a clearer vision of Christ and for renewal across our deanery. Until then, I hope this letter brings you up to speed.

## BABY

On behalf of Arabella and Aubrey, can I say an enormous thank you for all the good wishes, cards and kindness that has come our way from all corners of the deanery, following the birth of our son Ivor. We have felt the loving embrace of the Christian community and it has been most appreciated. Thanks also to colleagues for helping cover over my paternity leave.



## DEANERY SYNOD

A reminder that the Deanery Synod will meet on Saturday 11th September. This will be the first time the synod has met in person for over a year, and will focus on the implications of the Resourcing Sustainable Church programme for us all. It is planned that a presentation will be given on this, which will factor in the responses that you have provided regarding 'church categorisation'. Because this is such an important moment I would encourage members to attend and also invite anyone else among you who takes an interest in this to come along. I will produce a timetable for the day nearer the time but am anticipating us meeting in Louth St James between 10am and 3pm, with time to worship and eat together as well as getting down to business! Do bring your own picnic. We will intersperse each session with prayer, and have the chance to meet our 'covenant pastor' (see below) and to discuss the future together.

## COVENANT PASTORS

As you will hopefully be aware already, as part of the Resourcing Sustainable Church programme, the Diocese is changing how Parish Share is decided upon. Each parish will meet with a 'convent pastor' team who will help them to decide how much they can pledge for the coming year. The amount pledged as a deanery will have a direct impact on how many clergy we receive. I had a good meeting with our two covenant pastors this week (The Rev'd Peter Lily and Ronnie Crighton) and they are suggesting the following schedule:

Saturday September 11th - Deanery Synod (Ronnie will attend to introduce himself describe the CP process)

Saturday October 2nd - CPs meet with representatives of each parish in the Louth, Legbourne, Wold-Marsh and Raithby groups

Saturday October 16th - CPs meeting with representatives of each parish in the Fotherby, North Chapel and Marshchapel groups

Saturday October 30th - CPs meet with representatives of each parish in the Mid Marsh, Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe groups

'Each meeting could start at 11.00am (coffee from 10.30am?) with our presentation (about an hour) and then we'll split into parish groups while people eat lunch, seeing groups at 12.15pm, 12.45pm, 1.15pm, 1.45pm etc. Those with further to travel should be seen first (during lunch); those nearer at hand can go home and come back for their slot in the afternoon. We'll work out the detailed schedule nearer the time.'

I imagine the meeting on October 2nd will take place in St James'. I would be very grateful if you could suggest good venues for the meetings on the 16th and 30th. Ideally they would well located in the area that is being visited, and have toilet/kitchen facilities. Do let me know any offers, either church or hall.

## WEDDING REGISTERS

I pleased to report that I have deposited all the wedding registers that were sent to me from across the deanery, in the County archives. Thank you to you all for searching through your church safes and getting the registers and certificate books to me. It was quite an undertaking. If you wish for your church to have a wedding register book, in which to record future weddings that take place, in the same way as your already do for baptism, then they are available here:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715111796/register-of-marriage-services>

## NEXT ROTA

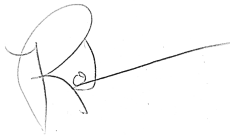
I am sending out today the rota for October and November. Needless to say, we are not in a position to do much more than we currently are, in this time of transition. I have not yet heard back from everyone about Christmas, and so I will send December and January rota out later in the month. As I

mentioned in my last letter, please do let me know what you would prefer over the Christmas/new year period. I cannot guarantee to meet all demands but need to start somewhere!

## HOLIDAYS/STAFFING

I am about to take my summer holiday. If you have a spare moment, prayer for some good weather in Wales (miracles do happen). Cameron is also away until the end of the month, and the deanery office will be closed from 23rd August - 3rd September, in order for Jules to take a very well deserved break. I am grateful to Fr Patrick McEune for making himself available should anyone have urgent need of a priest. This month we also said goodbye to Tiffany, who has been offering administrative support in the office, but who is now returning to teaching. We wish her well with this.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr James Robinson



Rural Dean of Louthesk

