



**ST MARKS**  
GRIMSBY

# ST. MARK'S, GRIMSBY

## PARISH PROFILE



# PLANTING PIONEER



**GREATER LOVE**  
**GREATER LIFE**  
**GREATER GRIMSBY**

In September 2021 a small team came to Grimsby. We were sent by Lincoln Diocese to play our part in revitalising St Mark's, a well-known local church with a congregation of five.

Two and a half years later, God has moved. Our regular Sunday worshipping congregation numbers 150 (and is growing fast), and we are blessed to reach a wider community of over 1,400 people per week.

Now, we're offering a unique opportunity for someone to join an amazing team.

We're looking for a planting curate. Could this be you?

*'Do You Love Me? Feed My Sheep.'*

*John 21:17*



# ABOUT YOU



You are fully surrendered to Jesus. Your faith is contagious. You have a deep love for God and for those in His Church.

You're motivated by a clear calling to ordained priesthood.

You're keen to fall in love with a vision for the transformation of lives and communities. A vision that runs many years into the future.

You're keen to plant in an area of great deprivation that abounds in missional opportunities and is burstingly ripe for growth.

You are hungry to learn, grow and mature in your faith and abilities.

You aren't afraid of taking risks. You know that each adventure builds resilience for a deep and personal formation as a pioneer.

You are agile, adaptable and responsive to God's guidance. You pray, plan and pivot as you go.

You are committed to modelling our vision and values. It's natural to you to go first in praying, serving, and giving.

You're practical and adaptable. You can attach toilet roll holders and you're happy to put your hand down a drain or clean a toilet.

You don't need previous experience of life on an estate or estate church planting.

You do need to love God, have a call to ministry, love people, have wisdom, and potential for much fruitfulness.

Above all, you are a leader who understands that leaders are servants who eat last. Leadership is not about us. It's about the people we're going to love and serve; the people we put first. You will put other people first.

If all this describes you, then we will support you, pray for you, cheer you on.

Read on.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE

We **gather** to start the day and we **pray** together.

When we're **full** of a sense of the Lord, we go to our respective jobs.

We give a **warm** welcome to the many people who come into church, and we're **tireless** in reaching out into the local community.

Each day we contribute to the five pillars of our ministry:

## Alpha

We see Alpha as a strong tool for **evangelism** and we're currently running our thirteenth Alpha course. We also work in partnership with other churches to help them run Alpha for themselves.

## Leadership Pipelines

We are **committed** to identifying, raising up, and releasing a flow of new leaders to go out to build the Kingdom. This year we have taken on our first two Leadership Development Students, and our desire to train leaders extends throughout everything we do.

## Rising Generations

We have **created** our own children and youth programs from scratch, and one third of our usual Sunday morning congregation is aged under 18.

## Social Transformation

We are **engaged** in building partnerships with local social enterprises. We train people in money management, and play our part in the Love Your Neighbour movement. As a resource church, we are dedicated to playing our part rebuilding the network of lapsed churches in the deanery. Every week, we send out an army of people to bring spiritual and social transformation in their spheres of influence.

## Planting

We are committed to **planting** more churches across Grimsby, Cleethorpes and North East Lincolnshire.

Throughout all, underpinning all, is our deep, sincere **reliance** on prayer, the ministry of the **Holy Spirit**, and an ambition for **excellence** in worship.



# THE ROLE: JOIN, PRAY, SERVE, GIVE

Although you'll begin as a training curate, we hope you'll follow on to incumbent status.

We're part of the **HTB network** and we play our part in the Evangelisation of the Nation, the Revitalisation of the Church and the Transformation of Society. As a result you can expect to be connected into the HTB network and, in time, recommended for the Church Planting Accelerator Programme.

Within a couple of years we want you to be **leading a revitalised church** while contributing to the flourishing of our wider deanery partnership.

To **help you grow** into this, you will be plunged into the life of the staff team. This is a church of constant variety and learning. Two and a half years into planting, things are exciting, fast-paced, and life is very much 'all hands on deck'.

You will be **encouraged** in your faith, **coached** in your leadership and **stretched** all round to advance as a pioneer. This will come through working in partnership with the safe support of regular line management.

Peer-to-peer reflection and learning will grow you in your ability to share the gospel and to teach through preaching and other forms of communication.

## IN DETAIL ... YOU WILL

- Be trained and equipped for short- and long-term planning alongside ministry leads and in the pre-planting process.
- Regularly lead Sunday services and help evolve our evening service congregation.
- Have endless opportunities to preach the gospel in a variety of contexts and to contribute to biblical teaching during Sunday services and in midweek Groups.
- Learn how to run and then establish new Alpha courses in partnerships with other churches and in non-church contexts.
- Lead and multiply a mid-week small group.
- Experience and learn from a growing youth and children's programme.
- Attend and contribute to the planning and delivery of our HTB network holiday (Focus) and other network events and learning communities (Transform).
- To trained and released to minister through the occasional offices: baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- Contribute monthly to the pattern of services at St. Martin's, our sister church on our estate.
- Be trained in leadership development, staff recruitment and line-management.
- Receive training and experience of building and charring a PCC, establishing good governance, and managing financial procedures.
- Receive practical training in raising money, identifying talent and how to utilise a large team of volunteers. (Our model is that everyone will serve somehow—that's going very well so far!)
- Help re-establish lost opportunities in schools work, chaplaincy and town-wide mission.
- Inspire and encourage clergy and lay colleagues that greater things are possible.
- Be taught any DIY skills required for church planting(!)

# PLANTING, DEANERY & NETWORK

*Upon planting, the Planting Pioneer will lead their own church, with the aim to grow by 150 people within five years and become self-sustaining.*

We're looking to plant into an area of heartfelt need and profound deprivation. If you want to get an idea of the **huge opportunity** to serve the Lord, look at these two short films about Grimsby:



If what you see in these videos makes you excited about the **urgency** of building God's Kingdom and **ignites a call** in your heart to Grimsby, then you're our kind of person.

As soon as we think you're ready, you'll go out to lead a church revitalisation in the town. You'll be part of a new church built entirely to bring the gospel to this community—and this could even be within your training curacy.

You won't be on your own; you'll have a team of people cheering you on, backing you every step of the way.

We believe God is moving in Grimsby. We've seen our church burst back into life, and the same thing is happening in other churches locally. If you're hungry to meet with God and serve Him, then get in touch and **come and see!**

***We believe this is the best opportunity in  
England for estate planting.  
Do you dare join us?***



A Time to Change  
Together

Resourcing Sustainable Church

**re·vitalise trust**

We are also committed to "A Time To Change Together" across our Diocese & Deanery. We play our part in shaping new patterns of working together in mission and ministry across the region. We continue to work in partnership with our family of churches connected to the HTB Network. Locally this is St. Swithin's, Lincoln and further plants from here. Nationally, the HTB network consists of over 140 plants out of HTB in the last 30 years.

# ABOUT US

We're a church plant out of St. Swithin's, Lincoln and our staff are recruited from across the country, as part of the Diocese of Lincoln's strategy for revitalising the urban centres of Lincolnshire. Within our Local Deanery Partnership we are a Key Mission Church playing our part through resourcing other churches and pioneering ministry areas such as Alpha and work with the Rising Generations. We are also part of the HTB network family of churches.

# MISSION

Our mission is to play our part in Grimsby's great story of renewal as people encounter the LOVE of God, learn to LIVE more like Jesus and GO in the power of the Spirit to see lives and communities transformed.

# VISION

Our vision is to see Grimsby reached with the love of God ... a GREATER LOVE  
To see the Church released to live for Jesus ... a GREATER LIFE  
As we go to see lives and communities transformed ... a GREATER GRIMSBY

# VALUES

OUR MISSION AND VISION ARE UNDERPINNED BY OUR VALUES:

HOME – Marked by Generosity and genuine Welcome. We want to be a place everyone can call home. Where people feel connected and a part of church life on Sunday and beyond.

REAL – What you see is what you get. We are real with one another. We don't seek uniformity but unity. We do what we say we will do. We take God seriously but we don't take ourselves too seriously.

COURAGE – We may be afraid but we will do it anyway, going deeper and further than before.

# THE CHURCH

## St. Mark's, Grimsby.

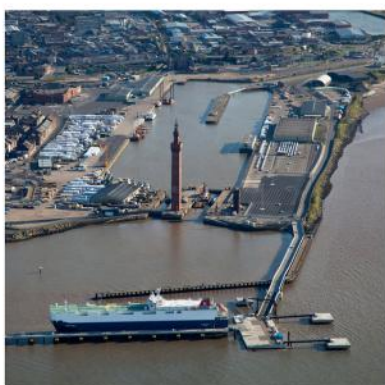
The towns of Great Grimsby & Cleethorpes are together the largest urban centre in Greater Lincolnshire. With a population of approximately 130,000, the towns are situated in North East Lincolnshire, located south of the Humber estuary. Famous for its sea port, fishing heritage, growing off-shore renewables and the golden sands of Cleethorpes, Grimsby is a place of great potential for a renaissance and future growth. The town is currently undergoing a major regeneration as part of a £67m town deal and the St. Mark's resource church plant is helping spearhead both spiritual and social transformation and renewal in the local church. St. Mark's is now seeking to appoint a visionary Planting Pioneer who can work with us to pray, plan and prepare before planting again within two years.

St. Mark's is located on a main route into the town in a largely residential area. In the area are several schools, the Grimsby Institute and the main hospital. As a designated resource church, our reach is across North East Lincolnshire. We work in partnership with local churches and organisations to reach and serve the people of Grimsby and its surrounding area. We have a particular focus on the Nunsthorpe, Grange and Bradley Park estates (the South Ward) alongside our sister church, St. Martin's.

## Services

- the10 - a lively, contemporary service with youth and children programmes.
- the6 - our evening service. Extended worship and ministry, centred around the eucharist.
- the9 - a shorter Holy Communion service, once a month, open to everyone.
- KINGDOM COME - once a term we meet to worship, seek God and pray His Kingdom Come together.

Whilst we don't regularly broadcast church online, we do release short videos through social media platforms. These comprise teaching, worship and general banter to help connect our local community with the life of St. Mark's. These are early steps in working out our missional strategy using digital platforms.





# GOING FOR GROWTH

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## Planting out of St. Swithin's, Lincoln

As part of a bold diocesan programme to resource the urban church, St. Mark's takes its place amongst a number of strategically located resource churches in the key urban centres of Lincolnshire. These churches begin to cover the large geographical area, and represent the variety in Anglican traditions present across the 630 parishes and the eleven urban centres of the Diocese of Lincoln.

As a resource church, we have been given a specific mandate to play a part in the revitalisation of the diocese's urban centres. We are to strengthen churches across the diocese and facilitate the diocesan strategy for church planting. For this, we need Planting Pioneers: individuals with the ability, desire and drive to develop, launch and go on to lead thriving urban-centre church plants.

## Programme Aims

Over the five years of the project, the first resource churches to be established in Lincoln, Stamford and Grantham aimed to grow to a usual Sunday attendance of at least 500 people, grow disciples, develop both lay and ordained leaders and resource existing churches with training and volunteers.

Each church then is to establish 2-3 new or revitalised "church plants" - a total of eight churches. A number of these plants are well underway (including Grimsby). Planting happens through the preparing, training and sending of a Planting Pioneer plus a number of congregation members to bring new life to strategically selected churches. The aim is for each church plant to grow by at least 150 people and become self-sustaining within five years. The diocese will consult with key stakeholders to determine the locations and timings of the eight plants by the project end date in 2026.

St. Mark's, Grimsby, is a revitalised church plant out of St. Swithin's and is now ready to plant again into the local area within 2-3 years, or sooner if possible.



# Alpha

Alpha plays a key role in the mission and discipleship of St. Mark's. Not only is it a great way for people to explore questions of life and faith, it also acts as an excellent leadership development tool. We run an evening Alpha course three times a year as well as running a daytime Alpha aimed at those with children at school. We are exploring running Alpha in the local college. We have run thirteen Alpha courses to date, including for youth and we're currently piloting our first kids' Alpha series. We have also partnered with other local churches to enable Alpha to run in their context whilst supporting with training, the away day and ongoing coaching and encouragement.

*'Something drew me to Alpha and I'm so glad it did. I've met people whose life has been changed by God and people who have accepted me without judgement. People who are so passionate when they speak that you can't help but listen.'*

*Alpha Guest at St. Mark's*

## Community Connections

As part of our intention to meet as many people as possible in our local community, we run a successful community drop-in morning called Open Church. Through this we meet a wide variety of people, who all come by for a brew, cake and a chat. We've also been teaching baking in our amazing kitchen, doing craft with the kids and generally getting to know people. It's endlessly rewarding to hear their stories of, and dreams for, Grimsby. Through our connections at Open Church, we were able to deliver 200 Christmas Bags of Kindness to people in our community through the LoveChristmas project in 2023.



## Rising Generations

We have a growing ministry with children, young people and their families. This runs through groups on Sundays, baby and toddler groups (Little Lions), youth groups and socials. We also work in a growing number of schools to deliver collective worship, lessons, visits to the church. We are running a Life and Faith club in partnership with a local school and the Diocese's Board of Education. We are passionate that our children and young people encounter the love of Jesus; are filled with the Spirit; get involved in the life and leadership of St. Mark's; and are equipped in their schools and with their peers to see lives and communities transformed.



## Midweek small Groups

Each new term we relaunch midweek small Groups. These are gatherings of people meeting throughout the week in various venues in and around Grimsby and are key expression of Church and places to connect with God, with one another and with our communities to make a difference. From these Groups, we encourage people to meet in smaller gatherings for prayer and discipleship. Each term we gather our Groups leaders for prayer training and encouragement.

We are also discovering a local need for life courses and are aiming to launch some new courses in 2024, such as the CAP money course, Parenting Course & Marriage Course. We have already run Pre-Marriage Courses, Prayer Course and Lectio Course.

## College Chaplaincy and Young Adults

Grimsby's college and university centre places over 17,000 students within our benefice. As part of our community outreach, we offer weekly student chaplaincy as part of the college's welfare team.

We also work in partnership with St. Swithin's, Lincoln to reach young people. We offer joint projects including socials and an 18-25s weekend away.

## Staff Team

Our staff team is made up of a variety of full and part time, paid and unpaid roles.



**Rev. Matt and Nay Rodgers** *Centrally funded*  
Vicar & Senior Leaders



**Rev. Pat Barlow**  
Non-stipendary Assistant Priest



**Ben Shave** *Part funded by SDF*  
Worship & Production Pastor & Alpha



**Matt Schwarzenberger** *Part funded by SDF*  
Rising Generations Pastor



**Angela Dawson** *Part funded by SDF*  
Operations Officer



**Toni Hunt**  
Bookkeeper



**Matt Gooseman**  
Leadership Development Year



**Shane Yull**  
Leadership Development Year

# ABOUT THE VICAR (TRAINING INCUMBENT)

"I began my working life in the motor industry, but quickly moved into a role as a Children's & Youth Pastor at St. Stephen's, Tonbridge, whilst training at Cliff College.

In 2014 I and my wife Nay moved to Lincoln. We were part of the planting team to revitalise St. Swithin's church. My first role was a lay Assistant Pastor with oversight for establishing youth and student ministry.

Seven years of planting in this city-centre context taught me a lot about the stamina, resilience and faith needed for church planting. I had plenty of opportunities to learn from risks and mistakes along the way.

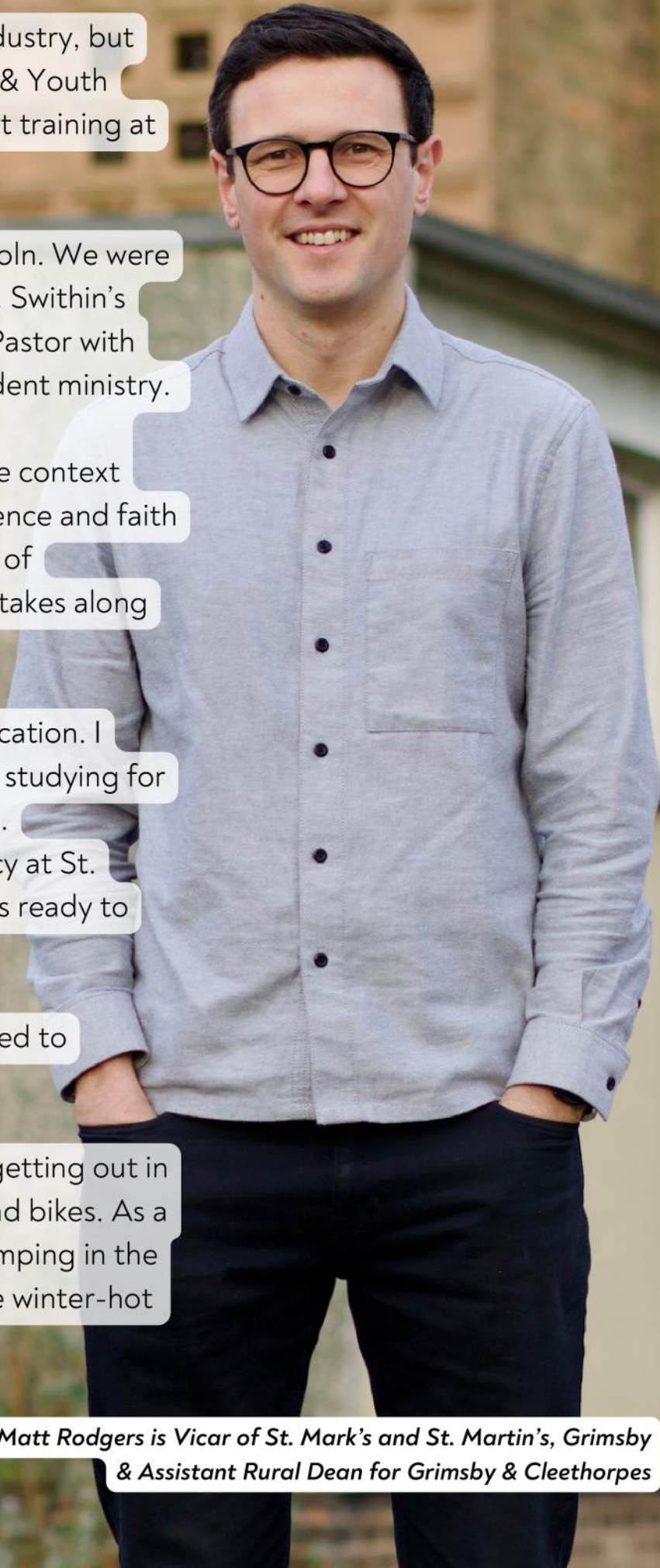
Over this time I discerned my priestly vocation. I trained at St. Mellitus College (London), studying for an MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission.

Subsequently, I began my planting curacy at St. Swithin's. In my third year of curacy, I was ready to lead on the revitalisation of St. Mark's.

In July 2021, I, Nay and our children moved to Grimsby. The adventure truly began!

Life at St Mark's is busy, but I still enjoy getting out in my classic Mini and tinkering with cars and bikes. As a family we love the outdoors, whether camping in the summer or walking along the coast in the winter-hot doughnuts in hand, of course!"

*Rev'd Matt Rodgers is Vicar of St. Mark's and St. Martin's, Grimsby & Assistant Rural Dean for Grimsby & Cleethorpes*



# NEXT STEPS

## Housing

A suitable property will be found for the planting pioneer, from either existing diocesan housing or the rental market.

## Parish visits and interviews

For further information or an informal chat about the role, please contact the Vicar, Rev. Matt Rodgers on 07476 950414 or email [matt.rodgers@stmarksgrimbsby.org.uk](mailto:matt.rodgers@stmarksgrimbsby.org.uk)

**Applications close:** Applications open immediately and close once the right candidate is appointed.

**Parish visit:** By prior arrangement. Accommodation and meals will be provided where required.

**Interviews:** To be confirmed. At Edward King House, Lincoln, LN2 1PU

**Prior to interview:** We ask all candidates to send a recording (or links to a recording) of three of their sermons and attend a parish visit before interview.

**At interview:** Candidates will be asked to present for ten minutes on a topic related to church planting.

**Post start date:** As soon as possible in 2024.

*'You will arise and have compassion  
on Zion,  
for it is time to show favour to her;  
the appointed time has come.'  
Psalm 102*

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## A message from the Bishop of Grimsby

Our vision as a diocese is to grow in faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service. Our programme to resource the urban church is necessarily considered, strategic and detailed, but it ultimately serves the same diocesan vision: that God is worshipped, that our communities are served by the disciples of Jesus Christ, and that lives are transformed.

This programme addresses the need in our urban areas to significantly increase the church's reach and impact and will, I pray, contribute to the revitalisation of our urban communities. As a Planting Pioneer, you will play your part in this programme of urban transformation, learning from and leading at St. Mark's: one of our plants from St. Swithin's, before establishing or revitalising your own plant.

This comes at an important time for the diocese. At the current time, as is the case in many other dioceses, the Diocese of Lincoln is very actively exploring its model of stipendiary deployment, to better equip it for the missional task ahead. While this post is clearly based at St. Mark's ahead of a future plant location, all ministry roles in the future will be exercised across a wider geographical area than parish alone, according to skills, gifts and experience. As with all roles therefore, the Planting Pioneer role will develop over time alongside this new model of ministry for the diocese.

We invite you to join with us on this exciting journey in our diocese.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Court".

**The Rt Revd Dr David Court**  
**Bishop of Grimsby**

