

# **ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN READERS**

## **AGM 9 October 2021**

### **Report of Reader Board and Transforming Ministry (Central Readers Council)**

#### **Reader Board Composition**

During the year we were pleased to welcome two new members of the Board, representing the Stow & Lindsey Archdeaconry: Pat Barlow and Malcolm Knapp. The current members of the Board are: Sue Slater (Chair), Marion Hewis (Vice Chair), Clare Lindsay (Education), Nigel Bacon (Governance), *Archdeaconry Wellbeing and Development Leads*: Jenny Ballantyne (Wellbeing, Lincoln Archdeaconry), Vacancy (Development, Lincoln Archdeaconry), Revd Pat Barlow (Wellbeing, Stow & Lindsey Archdeaconry), Malcolm Knapp (Development, Stow & Lindsey Archdeaconry), Revd Geraldine Pope (Development, Boston Archdeaconry), Revd Jane Robertson (Wellbeing, Boston Archdeaconry). *In Attendance*: Dr Sally Buck (Warden of Lay Ministry), Vacancy (Minutes Secretary)

We regret that the process of making further appointments was hampered by the Covid 19 pandemic. However, we hope that the implementation of A Time To Change Together – Resourcing Sustainable Church (TTCT) in the coming year will help to clarify how best we need to support and develop authorised and licensed lay ministry. We are very grateful for the professional leadership of our Warden of Lay Ministry, Sally Buck, for her encouragement and vision for the exercise of all forms of lay ministry in our diocese.

#### **Meetings**

Since the last AGM there have been six meetings of the Board or Standing Committee, mostly on Zoom. Guest speakers have been Bishop Nicholas, our President, and Revd Sonia Barron, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations. The topics considered have included: recruitment of Leads, the Annual Returns, discernment of lay vocations, role of Readers in TTCT, Vocational Conversations, Covenant Pastors, ALM training and the AGM.

We are grateful to Jenny Ballantyne and David Margaron for organising the Zoom Lay Gatherings which continue three times a year. We now invite ALMs as well as Readers. They have included an introduction, discussion of questions in small break out groups, and finished with a service of Compline or Night Prayer. We hear, from those who have attended, that these gatherings help their wellbeing.

#### **Discernment and Selection**

Despite coronavirus the discernment and selection process continued successfully. Members of the Board have been kept up to date by Sonia Barron (Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations) and Sally Buck with the national changes being implemented from this academic year.

## **Future plans**

Readers in Lincoln Diocese have played a significant role in the Resourcing Sustainable Church discussions initiated by our Bishops since late 2019 and affirmed by the Diocesan Synod in 2021. Canon Nigel Bacon is a key member of the Implementation Group, of what is now called **A Time To Change Together - Resourcing Sustainable Church (TTCT)**. He and I are both members of the team of Covenant Pastors who are visiting parishes to help in the process of encouraging generous covenanted giving to cover the cost of stipendiary ministry.

We look forward to a busy year ahead as we engage with the implementation of TTCT, with national initiatives, and with the development and stability of the Reader Board.

We look forward too, to the creation of the **College of St Hugh**, encompassing all the training that goes on in the diocese, including that of the Lincoln School of Theology. This is a unique way of organising theological education and training in a diocese, unlike any other diocese as far as I know, and we pray for the new Warden of the College of St Hugh (to be appointed), for staff members and students.

The annual weekend retreat will be at Launde Abbey in December this year, when the Revd Jackie Johnson will help us to understand the concept of 'Leading from the second chair.'

## **Transforming Ministry**

**Transforming Ministry** is the new title of the Central Readers' Council (CRC) as well as of the Reader magazine and the website, both of which provide information, advice and resources for all who are Readers or Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs). Information is also being shared via Twitter and Facebook.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the vision of Transforming Ministry is:

*"To resource Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers to:*

- enable everyday mission,*
- teach the faith, and*
- contribute to leading in contemporary church and society"*

We aim to do our best in Lincoln Diocese to encourage Readers in all aspects of their ministries, as we continue to pray for God's kingdom to come.

## **Readers who have died since the last AGM**

We remember with thanksgiving the lives and ministries of all Readers who have died in the past year. If you know of any Readers who have died since our last AGM, please let us know, so that they can be remembered by name.

Sue Slater

Chair of the Board, Association of Lincoln Readers 29 September 2021