

A new chapter in the life of the Lordsbridge Team of Churches

"On behalf of the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of Ely is pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd Alison Myers as Team Rector of the Lordsbridge Team Ministry. Alison is currently a Team Vicar in the Lordsbridge Team Ministry. The Bishop of Huntingdon will institute and induct Alison on Wednesday 17 May. We welcome Alison to her new post."



Thursday 9 March 2017

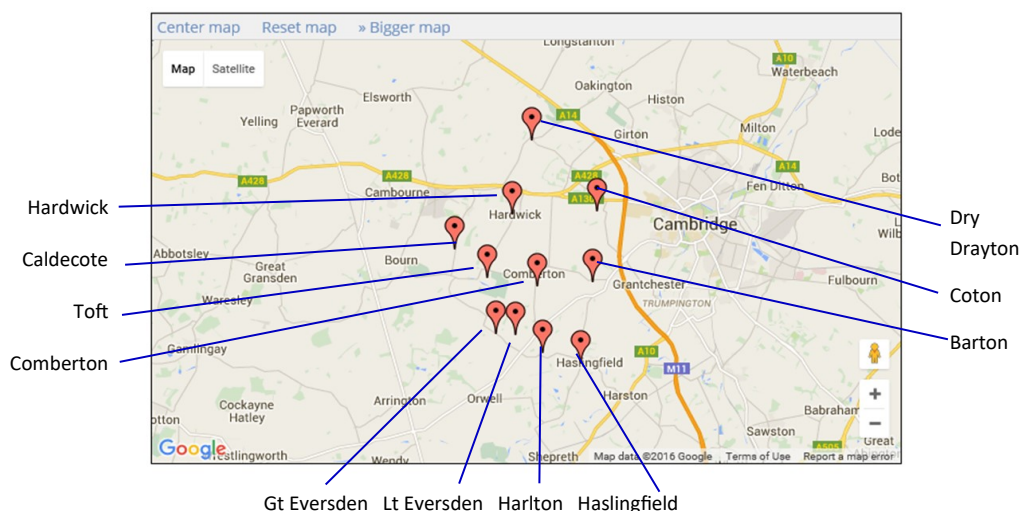
History

The Lordsbridge Team of Churches was officially brought into existence in 2010 by a legal document called a Pastoral Scheme which brought together 4 separate benefices. Revd Canon Mike Booker was appointed the Team Rector of the new benefice. Revd Alison Myers was appointed to the Team as Team Vicar at the same time, to serve alongside Mike and Revd Michael Matthews in the Core Team. In 2013, Revd Charles Fraser moved into the area and became incumbent of two of the Lordsbridge parishes.

When Michael left, Revd Becca Gilbert joined the Team in 2014 in his place.

In 2016, after 6 years leading the Lordsbridge Team, Mike was appointed Bishop's Change Officer for Market Towns in October 2016.

The Lordsbridge Team, did you know...?



11 villages in an area of approx. 9 by 5 miles
Largest village Hardwick (pop 2700; just over 1000 households), smallest Gt Eversden (pop 250; just under 100 households)

11 ancient parish churches

7 primary schools (4 church schools)

1 secondary school & **1** sixth form college

10–12 main services of worship each Sunday

13 current worshipping communities—10 in ancient parish churches, 1 Anglican Methodist Partnership with church and chapel, 1 youth community & Gateways (a potential 'Fresh Expression of Church')

4 ecumenical partner churches—2 Baptist, 1 Methodist, 1 independent



Revd Alison Myers, lead minister for Hardwick and Dry Drayton and for pioneering projects across the Team, taking a wedding in Hardwick



Revd Charles Fraser, lead minister for the Eversdens, & Revd Beth Cope, pioneer team curate, taking a united Team Candlemas service in Toft



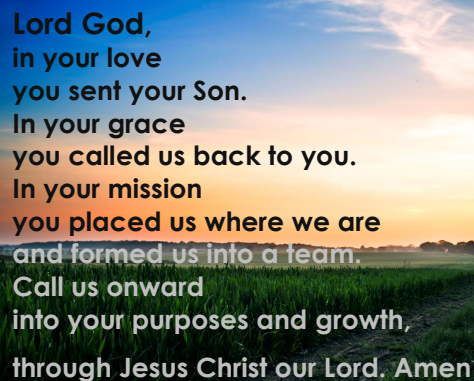
Revd Rebecca Gilbert, lead minister for Barton, Coton, Harlton & Haslingfield hosting a children's group at Haslingfield Vicarage.

Alison's bio highlights

Alison has been a Team Vicar in the Lordsbridge Team for the last 6 ½ years. As Team Rector she will continue to serve the parishes of Hardwick and Dry Drayton and serve the Team as lead minister for developments such as Gateways. Ordained in 2007, before Lordsbridge she spent 3 years as Assistant Minister in the multi-denominational pioneering church in Cambourne. In 2016 she has had published both a Grove Booklet on transition in churches, and a co-authored book for policy makers and business leaders on building relational organisations. In 2011 she completed an MA in pastoral theology with a focus on liturgy and mission in village churches.

Her earlier working life gave her 14 years of experience in management development, change management and project management with clients ranging from global corporations in the City and IT sector to faith groups such as the Salvation Army, working both as an employee and freelance. Alison was brought up in a village in East Sussex where her family was active in the parish church. She was a student at Bristol university for her first degree in Computer Science.

Beyond work, Alison is a wife and mother of two boys on the edge of adulthood; her husband teaches at a local secondary school. She and her family will continue to live in Hardwick. She says: "I am a builder of things; I enjoy being creative; I like enabling learning and growth; I am passionate about people encountering God and being changed. Amongst other things I love gardening, and find it a great metaphor for ministry!"



Lord God,
in your love
you sent your Son.
In your grace
you called us back to you.
In your mission
you placed us where we are
and formed us into a team.
Call us onward
into your purposes and growth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Recruiting a Team Vicar

Now that we have a new Team Rector, we will be moving forward quickly with the process to recruit a Team Vicar to serve the parishes of Caldecote, Comberton and Toft. As Team Rector, Alison is taking the lead in coordinating the recruitment process with the archdeacon (on behalf of the Bishop) and consulting with parishes, patron-advisors and existing core team members.

- March** Draft recruitment pack with parish profiles and team profile completed; Recruitment pack reviewed and agreed with Team Council, "parish reps" from Caldecote, Comberton and Toft, and the Lordsbridge core team
- April** Advert placed in the Church Times, on the diocesan website and distributed via various networks and on social media around Easter; Deadline for applications end of April or start of May.
- May** Shortlisting in the first half of May
- June** Discernment day with interviews in first half of June.

What is a Team Rector?

The Lordsbridge benefice is legal grouping of parishes as a Team Ministry, that means it has multiple parishes *and* multiple clergy. Each Team Ministry has a Team Rector, Team Vicars and others, lay and ordained, who are licensed by the Bishop to the Team Ministry.

A Team Vicar –

- By license of the Bishop, is the vicar of specific parishes in the Team's area ie has the "cure of souls" for those parishes
- Shares responsibility for the "cure of souls" across the whole Team with the Team Rector
- Has full incumbent status
- Shares leadership with the Team Rector and other members of the team
- Takes up other responsibilities across the Team parishes as agreed with the team eg youth or training a curate

In Lordsbridge, Becca is a Team Vicar and we now have a Team Vicar vacancy.

A Team Rector –

- Has general responsibility for the "cure of souls" in the Team and shares this with the Team Vicars and others
- Is *legally* the incumbent of the benefice, but in practice, and by license of the Bishop, leadership is shared between the Team Rector, the Team Vicars and named others
- Leads the team as "first among equals"
- Chairs the Team Council
- With the Bishop, recruits the Team Vicars (in consultation with parishes, Team Council, and licensed Team members)
- Has specific responsibility for the "cure of souls" for some particular parishes in the Team which can be different for different Team Rectors
- Can live in any of the tied houses in the Team

In Lordsbridge, Mike Booker was our Team Rector until October 2016. This is the post to which Alison has now been appointed.

Other team members can also be licensed by the Bishop to have full incumbent status and responsibility for the "cure of souls" in a particular place.

In Lordsbridge, Charles is a Self Supporting Minister and is vicar of the Eversdens.

The above explanation is taken from the C of E legal code of practice and our own Team constitution.

Glossary

Parish reps – Each PCC has appointed two people to represent them in the recruitment process. They are responsible for completing their parish profile in consultation with the PCC. Some of the parish reps will be on the interview panel.

Lordsbridge core team – The incumbent-status clergy (Charles Fraser, Becca Gilbert and Alison Myers) and Team Curate (Beth Cope).

Team Council—A requirement for a Team Ministry, its members represent the parishes, LLMs, and clergy.

Discernment day – a day on which the candidates are interviewed, and see something of the parishes and the house, in order to help all parties make a decision.

The Lordsbridge Team is a network of worshipping communities rooted in their local contexts. The Team works primarily through its worshipping communities and enables greater flourishing in their life and mission. The Team allows us to be more than individual parishes and to do things together that could not be done alone.

From the Lordsbridge Team Vision