

**INVITATION TO OPEN MEETING ON MINSTER COMMUNITIES  
ORGANISED BY SAVE THE PARISH LEICESTERSHIRE**

**THURSDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 at 7.00 pm  
Robert Monk Village Hall, FOXTON**

Are you fed up with hearing about minster communities?  
Disillusioned with the way the process has been (and is being) handled by the diocese?  
Do you feel like screaming every time you hear the phrase “it’s going to happen anyway”?  
Are you irritated by the amount of time wasted on them. .... to say nothing of the cost?  
Are you convinced it will hasten the decline and eventual annihilation of parishes?

Fear not!

You are far from being the only one. There is movement afoot to prevent this slide into oblivion. Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, of Save The Parish, declared on a recent podcast that there is an upstairs church and a downstairs church – and the upstairs church is gradually siphoning away the life-blood (ie. priests) from the downstairs church.

As Save The Parish Leicestershire, we are not saying “no” to change - change is needed - but not in the direction we are being taken by the Diocese. We hope to buy enough time to avoid having to tolerate the invidious, and increasingly imminent, invasion of these minster communities – time for a much better solution to be found which will guarantee both a financial and secure future for the Church of England in this country. A large majority (approximately three fifths) of PCCs in the Framland Deanery have voted “NO” to the Diocesan proposals. They are not prepared to sleepwalk into a permanent interregnum – an interregnum without any hope of things getting better, as the number of priests will decline in step with decreasing donations of parish share. Some PCCs were intending to vote amber (‘yes, we’ll go along with it, but we’re not entirely happy’) until they read more about what was involved and the possible consequences.

So, although it takes courage to vote “NO”, PCCs should do so if they share the same doubts, in spite of the diocese threatening to withdraw all support.

For tangible proof of the inevitable failure of such schemes, please read The Wigan Report (where a group of 30 or so churches was formed in 2012; 12 years later giving is down, congregations are down and 19 churches are facing possible closure). Also, nearer to home, attached is an email (together with two accompanying files) which was recently sent to all churchwardens and PCC officers in the Launde community, launched in April 2024, showing its instability, with hints of a “doom-loop” beginning to show.

So why not come along to an open meeting to hear the ‘other side of the story’ in  
**FOXTON VILLAGE HALL on THURSDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 at 7.30 pm**  
Please feel free to invite others along

The speaker will be **REV'D CANON PROFESSOR ALISON MILBANK**  
Professor of Theology and Literature at the University of Nottingham  
Priest Vicar and Canon Theologian at Southwell Minster  
She is the co-author with Andrew Davison of  
*For the Parish: A Critique of Fresh Expressions*  
And co-editor of *Preaching Radical and Orthodox*  
Her most recent academic monograph is  
*The Once and Future Parish*

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Also attached are pdf and Word files of this email, which can be distributed freely to anyone who may be interested.