

Working across Greater  
Lincolnshire



...raising funds to support  
agricultural chaplaincy

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

# Celebrating 25 years of Rev Alan Robson's service to the agricultural community

...and raising funds to secure the next  
25 years of a chaplaincy service

**Help us celebrate over the next year, by joining in our calendar of events or hold an event of your own. All funds raised will ensure that this vital service can continue.**

## Alan's story

Alan began his chaplaincy work in summer 1999, taking over from the first Agricultural Chaplain Rev Dr Gordon Gatward. Inducted formally at Riseholme agricultural college, he started 'cold calling' dozens of farmers across the County. Within weeks, the Lincolnshire Farmers Support Group emerged to practically support his Chaplaincy care, soon changing into the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network. In 2009, Alan was gifted a donation of £10,000 which was used to fund the first part-time nurses and health screening service at Louth Market - a service which has now expanded to Spalding Bulb auction, Melton Mowbray livestock market and the current LRSN mobile 'Health Hut'. His influence secured the first Primary Care Trust contract. LRSN has grown and diversified from those pioneering days but Alan remains a significant contributor to

the spiritual and pastoral care for farming individuals and families supporting over 70 last year. Chaplains go where others can't, and the chaplaincy service at the heart of LRSN continues to provide a unique contribution.

Setting up LRSN was very timely ahead of the catastrophic spread of Foot and Mouth. As a result of these experiences, Alan enrolled on a Masters degree in Trauma and Disaster



Management. One of the modules resulted in an idea to create a physical building provisionally called the 'Lincolnshire Life Centre' - an environmental building to house multi-disciplinary events. Using his connections and network of contacts as a catalyst for the project, this became the EPIC Centre on the Lincolnshire Showground (Environment, People, Innovation and Co-operation).

The Lincolnshire Agricultural Society connection continued with Alan appointed as honorary chaplain to the Show Society, and contributor to the education committee, helping source the funds for the pivotal appointment of the LAS education development officer. For almost 40 years, he has been a member and Chair of school Governing bodies connecting education and rural life.

Championing farming folk, Alan is a regular contributor and spokesperson on farming issues. Helping the resilience forum during the Wainfleet flooding, chairing the TB round table discussion, informing the Church on agricultural issues, the independence of the rural chaplain has been invaluable in shining a light on key issues in the Community.

A full and productive ministry touching on many areas of Lincolnshire life not least preaching and responsibility for Methodist churches.



**Alan's post is at risk and he now needs your support.  
Please join in our Celebrations and fund-raising activities.**

**This is a summary of an article on our website  
[www.lrac.org.uk](http://www.lrac.org.uk)**

# Save the dates

Join us to celebrate or hold an event of your own



## Open Afternoon at The Old Rectory Epworth

**SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2PM**

Hosted by Revd Angy Long, Methodist Chair of the Lincolnshire District. An opportunity to look around the house and gardens and to learn more about the life of the Wesley family.

Followed by a delicious High Tea celebrating rural chaplaincy in Greater Lincolnshire.

Booking essential as numbers restricted.



## #GetActiveforAlan

Can we collectively walk/run/jog 1000 miles to support Alan during May and June? Raise some vital funds for the Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural fundraising campaign, while getting active to improve your physical and mental health?

Would you prefer to join a pre-organised walk? Meryl Ward will be walking the Viking Way from Barton on Humber in the North down to Rutland Water in the South

**From 29TH APRIL to 10TH MAY**

Full details at [www.lrac.org.uk](http://www.lrac.org.uk)  
Please share your walks and miles on Twitter @LRACHaplains and LincsRuralAgriculturalChaplaincy on Facebook.



**19th & 20th June**

Meet the Chaplains at the Lincs Show

**22nd June**

Lincolnshire Rural Charities Ball

...raising funds for LRSN, LAS and LRAC



**3rd November**

Lincs County Harvest Festival at Lincoln Cathedral

**December 2024**

Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy Carol Service

(see website for information)

## The first Festival of Chaplaincy

at Lincoln Cathedral

**Friday 21st March to Sunday 23rd March 2025**

Joining with chaplaincies from all areas of County life to celebrate with a spectacular evening in the Cathedral Nave on Friday 21st March, exhibitions of chaplaincy work over the weekend and a special service of thanksgiving on Sunday 23rd March.



Ongoing updates of all events on the Lincolnshire Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy website

## Fundraising Update

**Making good progress towards our goal!**

Thanks to the History of Farming film night held by Louth Methodist Church which raised over £300 and the County Harvest Festival which raised nearly £350, and many other private donations. **Our fund now stands at over £166,000.**

If you wish to contribute personally or hold an event to raise funds, we would be very grateful. Please contact Michael Pickles at [michael.pickles@lrac.org.uk](mailto:michael.pickles@lrac.org.uk) or visit our 'How to donate page' on the website [www.lrac.org.uk](http://www.lrac.org.uk)



How to Donate

Scan the QR code to donate to LRAC via Just Giving



CHARITY NO. 1195180

LINCOLNSHIRE



Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy

LINCOLNSHIRE RURAL & AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAINCY

[www.lrac.org.uk](http://www.lrac.org.uk)

Contact: Alan Robson Mobile: 07542 272049  
or Jackie Elton Email: [jackie.elton@lrac.org.uk](mailto:jackie.elton@lrac.org.uk)