**Shaped by God Together – Minster Communities.**

The Leicester Diocesan Synod in October 2021 voted to approve the diocesan framework for Minster Communities. A Minster Community is defined as ‘A designated group of parishes, fresh expressions of church, and schools brought together collectively for mission’. Bishop Martyn has frequently stressed the centrality of the parish to our vision and mission, saying “what we are trying to do is to resource local churches such that they can serve their local communities. I believe that Minster Communities offer the opportunity for churches to grow and flourish. We know growth is the gift of God. It’s God’s work to grow the church and we seek only to respond and work with God”.

Minster Communities have been forming since the beginning of 2022, and now our Ironstone parishes are being invited to be part of this process. Together with all the other parishes in Framland Deanery and some from Goscote Deanery, we have been invited to take part in facilitated conversations with a view to forming two minster communities across North East Leicestershire. The initial introductory meeting is taking place on Thursday 27th April, and every church is being asked to send up to two representatives to that meeting.

We have been invited to embark on a new journey together across our churches and communities. While we don’t know what the destination will finally look like, we are travelling with each other, and with God. As the process unfolds, I’ll try to provide you with regular updates. Please do keep all who are taking part in your prayers.

John Barr, Rector and Area Dean of Framland