

# SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021 SUSPENDED BY DISPENSATION

By the Acting Bishop of Lincoln, The Bishop of Grimsby, The right Reverend David Court

## **PCC announcement about public worship 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2021**

After emergency discussion and resolution on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021 the PCC of the United Benefice of Graffoe, with the agreement of the incumbent, resolved to request a dispensation from the Acting Bishop of Lincoln of Canon 14, to allow the suspension of public worship for the month of January 2021, to be reviewed the week beginning the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

This decision was made in light of the county entering into tier 4, the knowledge of multiple cases of Covid in the parish, the escalating situation nationally, the new variant and the inability of the PCC to ensure adherence to government guidance at communal worship. Since making the decision the country was placed into national lockdown and, whilst communal worship is still permitted, the PCC has a duty of care to ensure Covid compliance which it is unable to do uniformly and thus the decision was made.

The Acting Bishop of Lincoln, granted blanket permission for such dispensation until the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 to all PCCs and incumbents submitting such a request to his office. The PCC submitted their request on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2021. Services continue online and readings, collect and sermon are published each week to be printed for those who do not have internet access. Radio 4 also broadcast a service each Sunday morning.

It has been a very tough year for all of our churches, the community and indeed the world. Whilst it is frustrating that we are in this position, especially when the churches are places of such solace, the PCC's and incumbent's utmost concern is for the health and safety of the people of this parish and so it was necessary to take these measures, joining with many other parishes in this diocese and nationally that have concluded the same.

To access the services online or to download the weekly downloadable material please visit the home page of our website.

Prayers for a better 2021 for us all, that you will all stay safe and healthy and that it won't be long before we can once again be together.

Every Blessing

Rev. Michelle Godbold

(Rector)