

Introducing our four RFOs (Rural Field Officers):



The Revd Canon Richard Hancock, TSSF
Rural Field Officer for Dorset Archdeaconry
Priest in Charge of Sixpenny Handley, Pentridge and Gussage St Andrew

“I am married to Kate who is a teacher and we have two boys, Alex, who is reading English at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge and Ben who is in his second year training to be a Chef at Wiltshire College.

“I have a passion for life, people and God’s mission and it is great to find a diocese that takes rural ministry so seriously.

“I believe for parishes to succeed, they need to be collaborative in all they do. I think of it as a pilgrimage, as a journey, meeting others along the way, it is all about sharing learning as we pray serve and grow. We need to be intentional. We need to collaborative, that is clergy and laity working together using all their gifts fully. But we also need to be relational and keep those relationships with your communities going seven days a week. And we need to be holistic, we must make sure everything we do relates.”



Alice Farnhill
Rural Field Officer for the Sherborne Archdeaconry

“I’m moving back to Dorset from Coventry, where alongside bringing up two small daughters, for the past few years I’ve been Project Officer for the Community of the Cross of Nails, a global net-work of over 200 churches, charities and schools linked with Coventry Cathedral through its own reconciliation story.

“It’s been a humbling and deeply inspiring journey working with all these people. I have always felt Dorset to be home, however, with such fond memories. I will miss the pioneer ministry where we worship, but am sure that I am being sent out from there ready for this next exciting chapter.”



Claire Horton
Rural Field Officer for the Sarum Archdeaconry
Licensed Lay Minister

“What an exciting opportunity to be part of the Rural Hope Programme as Rural Field Officer (RFO) for Sarum Archdeaconry, helping to support local ministry and mission in this area. I have lived, worked and worshipped in a rural setting for most of my life, so have some understanding of the challenges and joys of rural ministry.

“I am really looking forward to working alongside parishes and it will be great to be involved with team building, seeing how clergy and lay, together, can explore creative ways of sharing the Good News of God’s love in communities.

“This role offers an amazing opportunity to encourage God’s people to bring God’s Kingdom alive for this generation. I am inspired and ready for the challenge!”



The Revd Rhona Floate
Rural Field Officer for Wilts Archdeaconry
Team Vicar in the Whitton Benefice

“Rural mission was always at the heart of my call to ordained ministry. Training, development and support for others was always an energising part of my working life, so it’s amazing to be able to combine this with keeping one foot firmly planted in parish life as a Team Vicar in the Whitton Benefice.

“My father was a village policeman, so we were a very visible part of community life and good training for rural ministry. My first career was running information services in the water industry and plant science research, both closely linked to the rural economy. We did everything from ‘muddy boots’ projects to cutting edge science.

“My hopes for the future as an RFO? To be a catalyst for visionary thinking, a sounding board for ideas, a springboard for action, a signpost to best practice, and an extra pair of hands helping rural church teams share their love of Christ with others.”