



Going Deeper into God • Transforming Communities • Making New Disciples

## **Additional information from the Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens:**

### **Rector of Therfield Conservator of Therfield Heath and Greens Trustee of the Therfield Regulation Trust Lord of the Manor of Therfield Rectory**

Therfield Heath was the royal hunting ground for James I. The ownership of the Heath then passed into the diocese of St Albans and eventually to the Church Commissioners. When the Heath was enclosed by the act of 1888 the Rector of Therfield was appointed as one of the 8 Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens.

Although the ownership of the 420 acres of the Heath and Greens is now with the local charity, The Therfield Regulation Trust, the Rector of Therfield remains *ex-officio* one of the eight Conservators as set out in the 1888 Act of Parliament <http://www.therfieldheath.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/1888-Act.pdf>. This is a relatively uncommon form of governance of common land, most of which was formerly Church land. The Rector is also a Trustee of the Therfield Regulation Trust.

The Conservators conserve the large Therfield Heath next to Royston, much of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Therfield Heath itself is a beautiful place. Home to the oldest archaeological features in Hertfordshire, home to the largest national collection of the rare Pasque Flower, home to one of the largest UK populations of the Chalk Hill Blue Butterfly and many other rare and interesting flora and fauna. There are also nine smaller greens within the Parish of Therfield.

The formal commitment as Conservator is a monthly meeting. There is a professional part-time clerk and a conservation officer so the routine administration does not fall on the Conservators. The current Conservators consist of two Therfield farmers and five people from Royston who contribute in various ways as are able and willing.

Not only are the Conservators involved in nature conservation which may appeal to someone drawn to rural ministry, but are also landlords for many of the sporting activities in Royston and Therfield. The Conservators interact with Therfield Parish Council and many residents over the management of the Greens in Therfield.

Whoever is appointed as Rector of Therfield will also bear the title of Lord of the Manor of Therfield Rectory. Unfortunately, the Lord of the Manor of Therfield Rectory has no land or the best of our knowledge no rights or privileges. But whoever is appointed as Rector will have the opportunity, should they wish to, engage fully with the management of this historic and special place.

Further information can be found on <http://www.therfieldheath.org.uk/>