



The Church of England

around Staffordshire, northern
Shropshire and the Black Country



Curacy in the Diocese of Lichfield



**Title post
in the parish of
All Saints with
S Michael,
Shrewsbury**



**urban | traditional
Anglo-Catholic**

A small community with a wide appeal
at the heart of the county town

Welcome to Lichfield Diocese



**Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad**

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

Wherever in the Diocese you may be placed, you will benefit from being part of a wider family, mixing with people serving in a wide variety of contexts – from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and

Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions – evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic, as we journey together – as a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a ‘spacious and gracious diocese’.

**‘...a spacious and
gracious diocese.’**

It is my determination and that of my fellow-bishops that your calling to a title post will be a time of encouragement, ongoing formation, challenge and (while rarely unbridled) joy. Our colleagues among the Diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.

+Rt Revd Dr

Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a Church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a Church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope. (Diocesan Vision Statement)

A caring diocese

Lichfield Diocese is one of the largest in the country, covering an area of 1744 square miles and serving a population of more than 2 million.

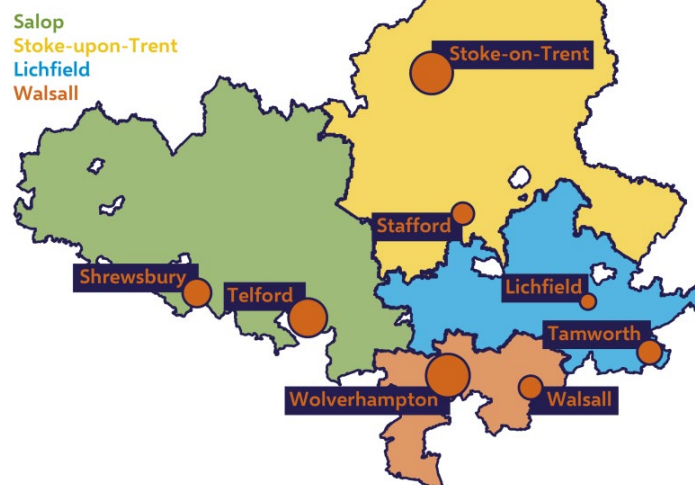
The Diocese consists of three episcopal areas with three Area Bishops (of Wolverhampton, Stafford and Shrewsbury) ministering alongside the Diocesan Bishop, each overseeing a different geographic area. This indicates the Diocese's commitment to its different contexts, and to the pastoral care of our clergy.

Homes and schools

We aim to provide high quality housing for our clergy with a continuous programme of improvements to houses and responsive, specialist contractors for emergencies.

As well as the 208 Church of England schools in the Diocese, there are many good schools and colleges that will welcome clergy'

The Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese



children, and a number of higher education centres can be found in Stoke, Keele, Stafford, Shrewsbury, Telford, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Vocation and mission of all

Our vision for the Diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to

worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in their own contexts.

To further these aims, and to develop creative patterns of ministry, we ask all training parishes to offer 'sixth-day' opportunities for curates – which might be a chaplaincy attachment (school, hospital, prison or

hospice), involvement with local gardening ventures, night-shelter involvement – to mention just a few possibilities.



"Our time as a family in my curacy in rural Shropshire has been one of the best of our lives. I've learned that the priestly role is vital in the community. I'm particularly enjoying working with seniors, and enabling the giftings of others which resulted in a successful Messy Church starting in one of the villages. I give thanks to God for this special time, and for everyone who's been there for me and supported me throughout."

Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley

Everything but the sea



David Rayner (Wikipedia) / Stoke-on-Trent Bottle Kiln / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Staffordshire prides itself on being 'the Creative County': Shropshire is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and the Black Country is renowned for its industry and all have significant opportunities for spouses who wish to develop careers in any sphere.

For those days off when you need space away from the parish, the area has everything you could wish for – except the sea: wild landscapes, cultured museums and stately homes. Sports of many kinds (including Premiership football) and at least two theme parks

Shrewsbury Flax Mill – the prototype skyscraper / Tk420 (Wikipedia) / [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)



Opening of the Lighthouse Project at Kingsland CE Academy, Bucknall



Road and rail links



For those with family and friends in other parts of the country, the Diocese has great transport links: the M6/M6Toll bisects the centre of the Diocese north-south, and the M5 originates at our southern tip. Heading west, the A5/M54 give easy access to north and mid Wales, while the A50, A5 and M6Toll give swift access to the M1, M42 and A38 for the East Midlands and the south-east.

Rail links are also good with all major towns having direct services to London and Birmingham and four major airports surround our borders – Birmingham, East Midlands, Manchester and Liverpool.



Dovedale (location of one of the Diocese's two residential retreat centres) / Shaun Dunmall (wikipedia) / CC BY-SA 2.0

Leisure and pleasure

Lichfield Diocese has everything but the sea. For walkers and climbers, there's an extensive network of canals, Cannock Chase, The Roaches, and the Shropshire—Welsh borders (for example). If you're into more organised fun, Alton Towers and Drayton Manor Theme Park can provide it. And then there's

Wightwick Manor nr Wolverhampton / Tony Hisgett (Wikipedia) / CC BY-SA 4.0



many museums including Walsall's New Art Gallery and the RAF museum at Cosford; not to mention excellent sporting options for both watching and participating – from premiership football to the Tamworth Snowdome. Along with Wedgwood, theatres and cinemas, restaurants and superb tea shops just begging to be discovered...



Apedale Valley Light Railway nr Stoke is one of many transport and leisure museums in the Diocese / Simon Jones

If shopping is your thing, there is a range of options, from the chic boutiques at Barton Marina, and Shrewsbury to large malls in or near the urban centres. We're fortunate in being the home of many fine ales and beers brewed in Burton on Trent (the museum is well worth a visit), and Staffordshire oatcakes are a unique local delicacy to be discovered.



Wulfrun Centre in Wolverhampton is one of many shopping destinations in the region © Roger Kidd -/ geograph.org.uk/p/1171894/ CC BY 2.0

Alton Towers near Uttoxeter Jeremy Thompson/Flickr / CC BY 2.0



The Benefice of All Saints with S Michael,

The Parish is located in the Castlefields area of Shrewsbury, the County Town of Shropshire.

It is an urban area on the north of Shrewsbury, close to the railway station, with a population of 5,773.

Among the most deprived in the country, the community includes social housing (mainly in

Ditherington) and a significant proportion of single parent households. The ethnic diversity of the parish is low.

All Saints was built in 1879 to provide a church for local workers in the mills, railway and industry. Surrounded by terrace housing, it was intended to be within walking distance of people's homes.

The Martin Wilson Primary School serves the local community; next door to this school is the Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic School.

Behind the church is the local McColl's convenience store and Post Office, as well as the office for the North Shrewsbury Friendly

Neighbours and the local Digital Den.

Castlefields Community Centre provides a venue for community events, and is used for some church socials.

The river Severn runs through the parish, and there is a popular riverside walk.

A few minutes walk from All Saints are the Bus and railway stations, the County Library, Shrewsbury Castle and the main shopping area.



Lady Chapel



Services in the church:

Traditional Anglo-Catholic worship (Modern Rite): vestments, incense, singing and music (small choir, in development) supported by pipe organ.

During Lent: Study group, Stations of the Cross, Lent lunch / supper.

Full Holy Week liturgies.

Weekdays: daily Mass and Daily Offices; Saturday: talk to a priest / confessions. Monthly Requiem Mass and Mass for the sick.

Monthly Rosary Group. Walsingham Cell Group and annual parish pilgrimage.

Nativity Play performed by the Martin Wilson Community School at Christmas.

Narthex with kitchen facilities & toilet. Used for refreshments, social events, meetings, teaching / Lent groups, and by the Castlefields Action Team (community project).

Sundays

1 st	10.30 am Parish Mass 6.00 pm Evensong & Benediction
2 nd	10.30 am Parish Mass
3 rd	10.30 am Parish Mass
4 th	10.30 am Parish Mass
5 th	10.30 am Parish Mass
<i>As required</i>	12.30pm Holy Baptism

The Benefice of All Saints with S Michael,



Your Training Incumbent

Revd Simon Sayer, CMP

All Saints Vicarage, 5 Lingen Close, Shrewsbury SY1 2UN

- Trained: St Stephen's House
- Ordained: Deacon: 2010, Priest: 2011
(Diocese of Manchester, by the Provincial Episcopal Visitor)
- Curacy: S Margaret, Hollinwood & S Chad, Limeside
- Vicar: 2020

The Context

The parish is mainly residential, with some commerce including the Royal Mail Sorting Office,

The Ministry

The parish of All Saints provides a challenging pastoral setting for the formation of a curate. The parish includes the Ditherington estate, which offers an experience of estate ministry.

Fr Simon's appointment to a full-time post follows several years of a part-time appointment means there is scope for expanding mission and pastoral care and creating new links with the local community and other parishes in the deanery.

All Saints offers a strong musical and social life. Its congregation comes from the local area and also further afield, because it is the only parish in the tradition in Shropshire & Herefordshire. This offers a curate a valuable opportunity to live out the Guiding Principles and learn how to create, develop and sustain relationships with other traditions.



We're really grateful for all the support we got from the Diocese, starting with the DDO, who went out of her way to help in finding a good match, and to work out practical matters.

My vicar has been very supportive, through planning carefully together and weekly supervisions, where we reflect on different areas of ministry. I have been given new challenges progressively, all done sensitively and fitted to the stage I was at. Our churches have been so welcoming to the whole family, and very supportive of my ministry, even when this involves less regular ideas, like planting a tree during a sermon (only in a pot, I regret to say!).

Revd John Beswick Pallister

The Congregation in numbers:

Figures from 2019	All Saints
Electoral Roll	50
ASA	30 Adult 0 Children
Marriages	2
Funerals	2
Baptism	9

There are a number of retired clergy in the congregation: this could offer a curate the benefit of learning from experienced priests and also give a practical example of specialist pastoral care.

Shrewsbury town offers the possibility of engagement with hospital, hospice and school ministry.

The Parish is affiliated to The Society and Forward in Faith, and under the Episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. It is committed to living out the Guiding Principles, and to mutual flourishing.

Housing and Accommodation

The Diocese of Lichfield either has a curate's house in the benefice or a 'strategic' house for curates in close proximity of the benefice. These are good houses, mainly with four bedrooms. If there is no curate's house in the benefice and where such a strategic property exists within easy reach of the proposed training parish this will be the preferred curate's house. If there is no strategic housing available nearby the diocese is committed to providing appropriate accommodation for all those entering ministry. We generally do not offer rented accommodation except as an emergency short term measure. Our curates can be confident that their home will be of a consistently high standard. If you wish to know further details about the house, the DDO will be able to provide you with more information.

Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

Supporting learning and formation

Curate learning, formation and development is strongly valued and affirmed in Lichfield Diocese. Curates receive ongoing supervision and reflection on ministry in the parish, complemented by our curate-training programme in which you share with your year-group of peers. The aim of the training programme is to enable each person to flourish in their ministry and inhabit more deeply their vocation as deacons and priests. This programme supports learning and formation through a partnership between the Diocese and The Queen's Foundation. And it takes place in the context of parish supervision and reflection on ministry.

The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial and professional gifts and skills, and deepen their desire to learn.



The curacy experience is very much a collective one, often gathering at Lichfield Diocese's centrally-located Shallowford House for study, prayer, retreat and de-stressing with peers: as such, it's a much less scary venue during IME2 than as a base for a BAP!

Pattern of training

The programme focuses on grounded and situated learning and prioritises the Diocese's focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism:

- In Year 1 establishing you in your new ministerial context and practice, and supporting your preparation for ordination as priest.
- In Year 2, deepening your practice and understanding of mission and ministry with the theological tools and skills you need to contextualise this.
- In Year 3 helping you prepare for life-long ministry and to take up a post of responsibility to be entered into with skill and confidence.



IME2 to equip for ministry

At the heart of the programme are residential events which bring together a year-group of curates. They reflect the diversity of the Church, while the different ministry contexts reflect the diversity of the Diocese. This cohort is the primary context for the essential learning and formation to develop your ministries, focusing on ministerial formation, and on the development of relationships which enable mutual flourishing for all.

Opportunities for academic awards

Alongside the IME2 training you may wish to continue studying on an accredited pathway with Common Awards. Curates who already have a Diploma award from IME1 may register for a BA in Theology, Ministry and Mission. Others who already have a degree or higher award or are recognised as potential theological educators have opportunities to further their studies alongside their curate programme.



Many second year curates have the opportunity to grow through visits to our link dioceses in Canada, Africa, or Germany– this group enjoying a day on safari.

Care for curates and families

The wellbeing of clergy and their families is very important to us. In addition to the supervisory aspects to curacy, we have a free, confidential counselling service (*the Listening Ear* scheme) for all clergy, diocesan staff and their families.

More info

– contact the DDO (details on back cover) or visit Lichfield.anglican.org/curacy

"We have had amazing support from the diocese over the past 6 years through both of our curacies and that's not always been straightforward- particularly when 'life' sometimes gets in the way!

"But the support, through thick and thin has been fantastic, particularly discerning Adam's call to pioneering ministry and curacy under 'pioneer' supervision."

Revds Adam & Charlotte Gompertz



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

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Find us on:

ACChurchNearYou:

achurchnearyou.com/church/4489

Website:

allsaintsshrewsbury.org.uk

Facebook:

facebook.com/allsaintswithstmichael

**All Saints with S Michael,
Castlefields, Shrewsbury**

***A school of the Lord's love,
welcoming everyone***

- ⊕ Traditional catholic worship and spirituality ⊕
- ⊕ outreach and ministry to the needs of our local community ⊕
- ⊕ a parish with the gift of a 'moment of opportunity' for mission and growth ⊕

**Is God asking you to discern a call
to join us and help us explore,
unpack and make the
most of this opportunity?**