



The Church of England
around Staffordshire, northern
Shropshire and the Black Country



Curacy in the Diocese of Lichfield



**Title post in
the benefice of
Cannock and
Huntington
and Hatherton**



town and village | central churchmanship

Two town and one small rural church,
well situated in the heart of our com-
munities looking to develop its out-
reach and ministry

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 Igrave
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' 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

The Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese



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.

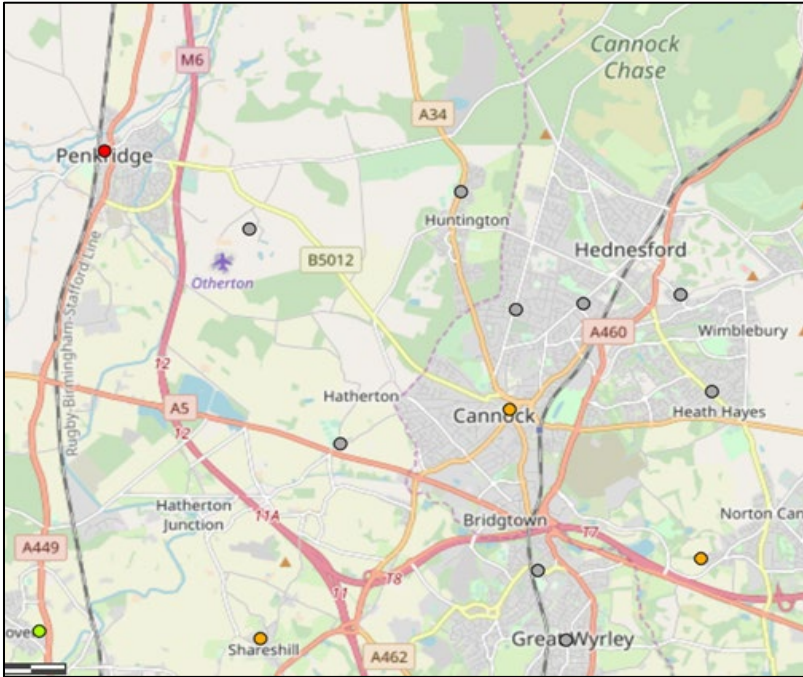


Wulfrun Centre in Wolverhampton is one of many shopping destinations in the region © Roger Kidd -/ geograph.org.uk/p/1171894/ CC BY 2.0

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



The Benefice of Cannock and Huntington, and Hatherton



Our parishes are right on the edge of the beautiful Cannock Chase, within easy reach of the conurbations of Birmingham, Walsall and Stafford by train from Cannock and served by the M6, the M6 Toll and the M54 motorways.

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington used to be at the centre of the local mining industry, but the area is now rapidly

diversifying with many modern industries emerging. It has a population of 21,300 with a mixed demography in terms of age groups and household incomes. It is 95% British with moderate levels of social deprivation within parts of the community.

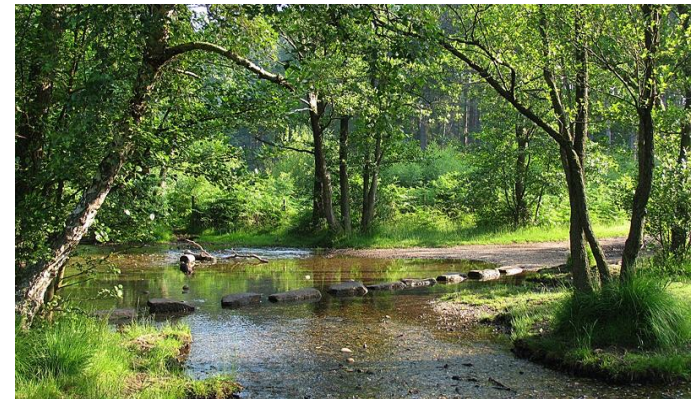
There are education facilities for all ages, including St. Luke's church school, a good Community Hospital, and a large Leisure Centre. A new retail park is being built on the edge of the town.



St. Luke's church is a large imposing building with an adjacent Church Centre. It has a robed choir and is the most formal of the churches.

St. Thomas's church has a new kitchen and toilet facility. It has a less formal approach to worship

The Parish of Hatherton is set among the farming community to the south of Cannock town and close to the A5. It has a population of 1,200 of which 64% are between the ages 16-64. The majority of housing is in private ownership. St. Saviour's Church has an award winning churchyard and a small hall. It is traditional in its worship.



Services in the churches:

There is a midweek CW Communion service on Wednesday 10am in St. Luke's in addition to our Sunday worship. Robes are worn at all services except for some family worship services. We have a choir for the services on the first, third and fifth Sundays and a small music group on the second and third Sundays when we tend to have more modern songs and use the overhead screen. There are facilities for children in the Church at every service. Refreshments are served after the 10am services in the Centre.

St. Luke's is used for school services as well as civic services

At St. Thomas robes are worn except on the 1st Sunday. There is a children's corner in the church and refreshments are served after the service. Messy Church is being re-launched.

At St. Saviours robes are always worn. Children are made welcome and refreshments are served after most services.

Sundays in St. Luke's

1 st	8.00 am BCP Communion 10.00 am CW Communion
2 nd	8.00 am CW Communion 10.00 am Together in worship
3 rd	8.00 am BCP Communion 10.00 am CW Communion
4 th	8.00 am CW Communion 10.00 am CW Communion
5 th	8.00 am CW Communion 10.00 am Joint Service with St Thomas
	Occasional Evensong

St. Thomas and St. Saviour

1 st	10.30 am All Age / Morning prayer
2 nd	10.30 am CW Communion
3 rd	10.30 am CW Communion
4 th	10.30 am CW Communion
5 th	10.00 am Joint Service with St Luke's
5 th	10.30 am CW Communion St. Saviour



The Benefice of Cannock and Huntington, and Hatherton



In 2015 St Luke's celebrated 900 years of worship and each year children from local primary schools are invited into Church to spend time learning about the history of the Church, investigating the building, studying the stained glass windows and doing artwork to take home.

This a week-long event is called Open Door.



Your Training Incumbent

Revd Vicky Fleming

11 Sherbrook Road, Cannock

- Trained: WEMTC
- Ordained: 2004, Hereford
- Curacy: St. Breoke & Egloshayle
- Vicar 2019

Vicky has worked in various fields but most of her work before ordination was in accountancy. She has been in licenced ministry for over 25 years and has lots of experience to share with you. You will be given hands on experience of all sides of parish life, and be encouraged to try new ideas.



Vicky loves seeing the people of God flourish and use their gifts for the Kingdom. She is very much a team player. She is interested in creative spirituality, and a huge variety of hobbies.

The Context

The coal mining industry that created main employment in the area has now ceased. People are rightly proud of their mining heritage and St. Thomas has a stained glass window commemorating this. There is still a vibrant group for those who used to work in the industry centred in Huntington. Now there are different industries emerging.



The Congregation in numbers:

Figures from 2019	St Luke' s	St. Thomas	St. Saviour
Electoral Roll	175	47	39
ASA	96 Adult 8 Children	18 adults 1 child	25 Adults 1 child
Marriages	12	0	2
Funerals	23	9	7
Baptism	12	6	1
Funerals at Crematorium	27	4	19

The mind-set of the people is in the midst of change as these new industries develop. The town centre has gone through some redevelopment but there are many shops that have closed – a situation worsened by the Covid 19 pandemic. However, with the new retail park and town centre 'Cannock Town Partnership', working to build a better future, we have a good opportunity to play our part and build connections. You could be involved in that.



The Benefice of Cannock and Huntington, and Hatherton

The Ministry

There are some exciting prospects for you to use your gifts. We have an imposing and beautiful church in the centre of town – an opportunity to develop new mission initiatives. We have connections with the hospital, the hospice and care homes – is that a ministry you want to develop?

The church has managed to maintain strong links with the schools in the area, and opportunities for schools work abound and we need to reconnect with the young people and families – is that something you are called to? These things are in need of rejuvenating.

This community is crying out to be loved after several years without a vicar.



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

We have a small licensed ministry team of a SSM Associate Minister, a PTO minister, and two lay readers. We meet regularly together and support one another. We are hoping to appoint a full time stipendiary associate minister in the near future.



We have an Administrator, a Caretaker, and a Verger on our pay roll as well as a very gifted organist, and many volunteers who work hard together for the churches.

The parishes used to be part of a large team that has since reverted to separate entities. As a result, our current plan is to reorganise PCC's, and committees and at the same time reflect on our worship, our activities and with God's help seek a vision for the future. This is something you will be involved in as we pray and work together.



There are many groups, activities and events held in our churches here are just a few pictures to give you an idea and one you thing you can be sure of is - plenty of cake!



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:

The Revd Romita Shrisunder,

Bishops' Director of Ordinands

01543 306220 [O]

07949 033091 [M]

E-mail: romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org

Find us on:

ACHurchNearYou:

achurchnearyou.com/church/4200/

achurchnearyou.com/church/4202/

achurchnearyou.com/church/4310/

Website:

www.stlukescannock.org.uk

Facebook:

facebook.com/St-Lukes-Church-Cannock-530343060322755

facebook.com/Stthomaschurchhuntington

Benefice of Cannock and Huntington, and Hatherton.

A Warden writes: If you are looking for a post in a parish that is changing and serves a society that has taken many knocks over the years, please come and take a look.

*Seeking to bless each other
and our communities through
faith, hope and love*

Is God calling you to share your gifts at the beginning of something new?

I haven't been in the Parish or Diocese for long. I came here knowing little about the area or indeed the Diocese. This is an amazing place to live with easy access to so much – from countryside to culture. We have been made welcome – lots of cake!

The Diocese has so much to offer it's clergy in support and training. Let's serve God together!