

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave

Bishop's House, 22 The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LG

T: 01543 306001. E:

bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org



THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

Dear brother / sister,

Thank you for your interest in an archdeacon's ministry in the Diocese of Lichfield. As a result of recent staff changes in our diocese, we are currently looking to fill two archidiaconal posts:

1. **Archdeacon of Salop** – the Archdeaconry of Salop is coterminous with the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area, and the Archdeacon of Salop will work closely on a day-to-day basis with the Area Bishop of Shrewsbury, as well as with the Associate Archdeacon of Salop (an additional part-time responsibility carried by a senior priest in the area).
2. **Archdeacon of Walsall** – the Archdeaconry of Walsall is (together with the Archdeaconry of Lichfield) one of the two archdeaconries covering the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, and the Archdeacon of Walsall will work closely with the Area Bishop of Wolverhampton, as well as with the Archdeacon of Lichfield.

While the two archdeaconries each have distinct opportunities and challenges of their own, the task of archidiaconal ministry in both is similar, and we are therefore inviting applications to both roles to be considered in the same process. With those candidates who are invited to interview, we will be looking together to discern which individual's gifts, experience and interests may be best suited to which archdeaconry. If at this stage you have particular thoughts relating to one or other of the archdeaconries, please feel free to let me know in a note accompanying your application.

Assuring you of my prayers as you explore these possibilities,

Yours in Christ,

+Michael Ipgrave:



The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE

Bishop's House, 22 The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LG

Tel: 01543 306 031, Email: bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org

Web: www.lichfield.anglican.org



 **DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**

Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad



**Archdeacons for
Salop and Walsall**

Archdeacons of Salop and Walsall

Candidate Information Pack

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Foreword from the Bishop of Lichfield | 3 |
| A Direction of Travel | 4 |
| An overview of the diocese | 9 |
| The Diocese of Lichfield | 12 |
| Walsall Archdeaconry | 14 |
| Salop Archdeaconry | 18 |
| Role profile for Archdeacons | 23 |
| Appendix | 29 |



Foreword from the Bishop of Lichfield



Rt Revd Dr **Michael Ipgrave**
Bishop of Lichfield

In the Diocese of Lichfield we extend an invitation to “Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad”. Our diocesan vision states that:

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 at work already in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities and partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

Our archdeacons are a vital part of the life of Lichfield diocese. Their ministry is vital to the ongoing wellbeing and growth and administration of our parishes, chaplaincies, and fresh expression.

Assuring you of my prayers as you explore these possibilities,

+Michael Ipgrave

A Direction of Travel

As we seek to live our vision for this Diocese, we have discerned that culture change needs to be at the heart of all we do. We all are called to be advocates for change, and to help people meet the challenge of being outward-facing, confident believers in a sceptical world.

This process of change must be handled in a sensitive and relational manner, particularly for those for whom reimagining ministry maybe perceived as threatening. In all of this we are inspired by the example of St Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield, who worked across boundaries and reached out in relationship to all whom he met. Relationships, rather than structures, need to be paramount.

We welcome expressions of interest from all those who feel called to serve as an Archdeacon and who meet the criteria outlined in this candidate pack. However, we are aware that people who are of UK Minority Ethnic/ Global Majority Heritage, women and disabled people are currently underrepresented amongst the Church of England's senior clergy and so we particularly welcome and encourage expressions of interest from individuals from these groups.

We have developed a focus on five local contexts for mission – parishes, fresh expressions, schools, chaplaincies, and our cathedral. In each of these we concentrate on our three priorities of developing discipleship, encouraging vocations and inspiring evangelism.



We are a large organisation, and we work hard to ensure strong teamwork and consistency with the aim of pro-actively supporting our stakeholders in grass roots parish life.

We are fortunate to have a strong central sector team who partner with the Archdeacons to ensure support in a wide variety of statutory business. These include financial and property

matters and church buildings and pastoral re-organisation issues. We also have highly responsive safeguarding and communications teams, always available to react to the day-to-day issues you may encounter.

Having set the diocesan 'direction of travel' around these priorities for the last 7 years we have now developed a Diocesan Strategic Framework which gives shape and form to our hopes for the future and proposes a way forward for this Diocese for the next six years to 2030.

The Strategic Framework is the outcome of a deanery-based process called Shaping for Mission, which began after the pandemic, in which we identified our next steps in new circumstances.





We have recently recruited a new Strategy Programme Director to help us root and grow our strategy framework into a lived reality. We are always seeking to encourage creative missional ideas and are willing to experiment and take risks to grow the kingdom.

The new Strategic Framework sets four key Shaping principles discerned from the Shaping for Mission process and engagement with the Church of England's national vision.

These Shaping Principles state that we need to and will

- ***Be purposeful about evangelism leading to numerical growth and depth of discipleship, inspiring all to confidently share their faith story***
- ***Engage creatively with local communities.***
- ***Become more diverse at every level and in every way***
- ***and in particular to Grow younger***





| | Salop | Walsall |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Deaneries | 7 | 6 |
| Team Ministries | 3 | 11 |
| Benefices | 56 | 56 |
| Parishes | 127 | 67 |
| Church schools | 51 | 42 |
| Stipendiary Clergy (FTE) | 49 | 62 |
| PTO Clergy | 91 | 44 |
| Licensed Lay Ministers | 54 | 74 |

In the light of these principles, we have discerned 9 goals which are bold and ambitious, which we hope to achieve together in the next six years. We want to see: -

1. **a growth in the overall worshipping community of 34,000 new disciples.**
2. **200 New Worshipping Communities which are established and sustainable.**
3. **a strengthened culture of vocation amongst all God's people, and at least 30 new licensed lay ministers and 30 ordinations a year.**
4. **an active plan in every parish for engaging with their local population beyond the church walls.**
5. **a strong connection between every primary and secondary school and their parish church.**
6. **the age profile of each worshipping community reflecting the age profile of the community which it serves.**
7. **no fewer than 30 young people per year aged between 18 and 30 who are called to leadership being supported through a high-quality development programme offered by the Diocese.**
8. **every worshipping community reflecting the diversity of the community they serve.**
9. **all people being able to see themselves reflected in the leadership and governance of the Diocese.**



Development of the Strategic framework has been led by the Bishop's staff team and has been agreed by Diocesan Synod. Together we have tried to faithfully and prayerfully discern what God is saying to us in this generation. The Framework is about the mission of the church which is to share good news, and be good news, in our parishes, chaplaincies, schools and fresh expressions in obedience to Jesus' great commission that we should "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". The Strategic framework is an exciting and demanding undertaking, and the Archdeacons have a pivotal role to play in supporting and facilitating its successful implementation.

An overview of the diocese

Our Roots

In the Diocese of Lichfield we are conscious of being a pilgrim people, inspired by the example of our first bishop, St Chad of Mercia. His was a

ministry of evangelism and mission. We strive to follow in his footsteps - imaginative, faithful, and innovative. We aspire to deepen our discipleship and spirituality by modelling them on Chad's imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ, drinking deeply from the wells of Scripture and the refreshing springs of Christian tradition.

Lichfield Cathedral is a treasured landmark in the heart of England. This magnificent building has a rich history, and it continues to inspire and encourage all who visit it as tourists, pilgrims or worshipers. With the recent appointment of a new Dean of Lichfield, the Cathedral is looking to develop new ways of supporting the mission of the churches across the diocese.





Our Geography

Stretching from the Welsh border to the Peak District and from north Staffordshire to the Black Country, the Diocese of Lichfield is one of the largest in the Church of England, serving over two million people in nearly two thousand square miles. It is at the heart of England, not just geographically but culturally and socially.

Areas of spectacular natural beauty sit beside the legacy of centuries of industry and commerce, areas of growth, aspiration and hope beside urban deprivation, rural poverty and despair.



We are committed to proclaiming the Gospel in the public arena and transforming our communities with a prophetic voice and a distinctively Christian identity. In our large and complex Diocese, we are proud of our unity in diversity. We are collegial in our working-out of mission at the levels of diocese, episcopal area, deanery, and parish and in partnership with the national Church. We have developed robust processes of governance that have enabled us to make difficult decisions on issues such as clergy deployment. Our finances are centered on the needs of mission. We have shown a capacity for honest self-evaluation that has made our governance dynamic and responsive to change.



The Diocese of Lichfield



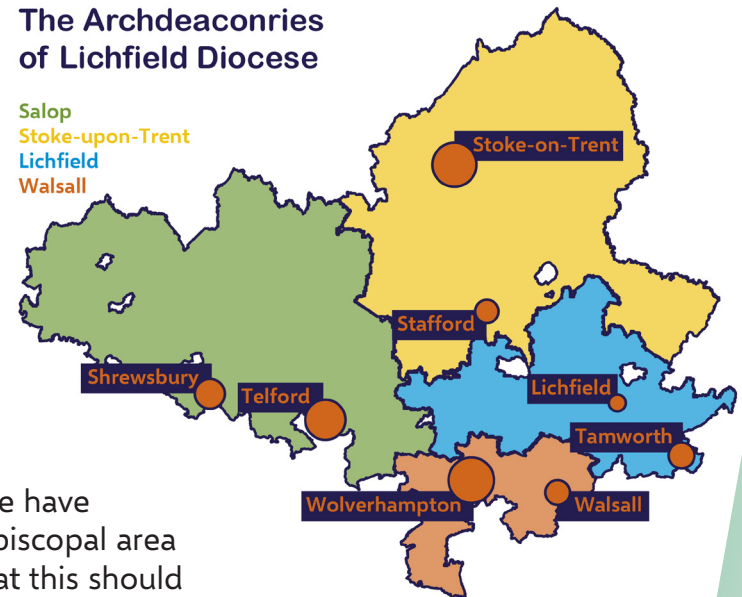
Lichfield

The Diocese of Lichfield is one of the larger and more diverse dioceses in the Church of England, and its diocesan bishop is tasked with substantial responsibilities in the wider Church. Since its establishment in 1979, we have been well served by an episcopal area scheme and we believe that this should continue in force.

The archdeaconries matched the episcopal areas for many years until 1997 when the Archdeaconry of Walsall was formed out from Lichfield, recognising the significant density of population and parishes in the region.

The Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese

Salop
Stoke-upon-Trent
Lichfield
Walsall





above, l-r:

+Stafford
Rt Revd Matthew Parker
+Lichfield
Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave
+Wolverhampton(-elect)
Rt Revd Dr Tim Wambunya
+Shrewsbury
Rt Revd Sarah Bullock

below:

+Oswestry
Rt Revd Paul Thomas

+Ebbsfleet
Rt Revd Dr Rob Munro



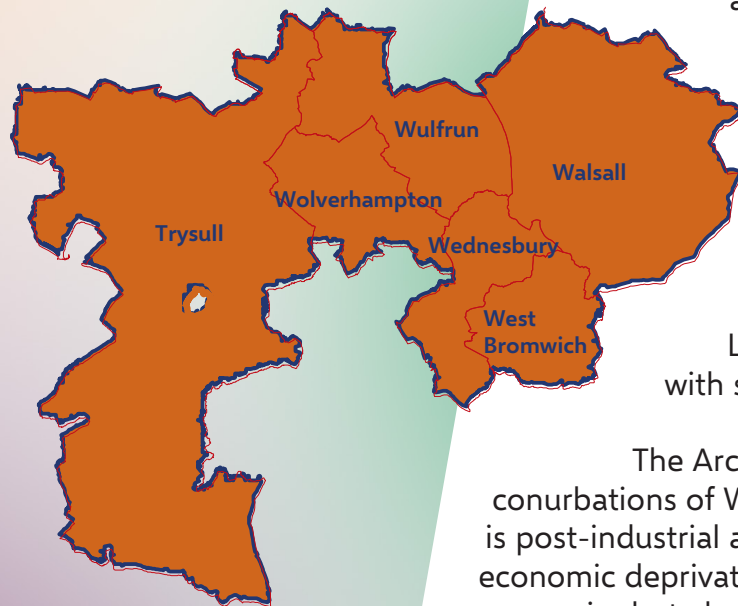
Our three episcopal areas are cared for by the Bishops of Wolverhampton, Stafford and Shrewsbury, working collegially with the Bishop of Lichfield.

We also have the provision of episcopal ministry by the Bishops of Oswestry and Ebbsfleet to those parishes which have made the relevant declaration,

and they share in our commitment to pastoral care and to supporting and encouraging the church's mission. The Bishop of Oswestry is a suffragan bishop in the diocese, and the Bishop of Ebbsfleet serves as an assistant bishop, meaning that their episcopal ministry here is not limited to parishes which have specifically petitioned for their extended episcopal oversight. We are firmly committed to seeking the mutual flourishing of all our people and traditions



Walsall Archdeaconry



The deaneries of Walsall

Most... northerly parish: Bushbury (Wulfrun deanery)
southerly parish: Kinver (Trysull deanery)
easterly parish: Aldridge (Walsall deanery)
westerly parish: Pattingham & Patshull (Trysull deanery)

The Wolverhampton Episcopal Area covers about 433 square miles and four local authority areas. It takes in most of the Black Country with its post-industrial landscape, ethnic diversity and a number of Urban Priority Area parishes interspersed with wealthier and greener patches. It also includes most of South Staffordshire with its mixture of countryside, charming villages, larger towns, and the city of Lichfield itself.

The area incorporates the archdeaconries of Walsall and Lichfield. The former consists of six deaneries and the latter of four. The Archdeaconry of Lichfield covers a large swathe of South Staffordshire including the city of Lichfield itself. There is a mixture of traditional rural and ex mining communities with significant centres of population including Tamworth, Cannock and Rugeley.

The Archdeaconry of Walsall incorporates most of the Black Country including the conurbations of Wolverhampton, Walsall and much of West Bromwich. A lot of the landscape is post-industrial and five of the six deaneries are urban, with very significant areas of socio-economic deprivation. There is considerable diversity in terms of geography and socio-economics but also in its increasingly multi faith and multi-cultural complexion. There are large communities of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and a strong multi-faith network in Wolverhampton and Walsall.



The City of Wolverhampton grew as a market town specializing in the wool trade. In the industrial revolution, it became a major centre for coal mining, steel production, lock-making, and the manufacture of cars and motorcycles. The economy of the city is still based on engineering, including a large aerospace industry, as well as the service sector. The city has a flourishing university with over 20,000 undergraduates and 4,000 postgraduates and a full time chaplain.

Even before Covid-19, Wolverhampton City was ranked 24th out of 317 using the indices of deprivation measure. The city also experienced high levels of child poverty, 31.6% in 2019 compared to the national average of 19.1%. Early indications are that Covid-19 will have worsened deprivation for people living in the city. It is in the top five areas in the country for the highest unemployment rate amongst 18-24 years and in the top ten in the country for unemployment overall (age 16-64). The churches are part of the story of finding a new future for the city through, for example, participation in the multi-agency Hardship Commission. Churches across the city support community facilities, food banks, debt advice, and work with asylum seekers and hard-pressed families, and they speak to the city of the Gospel hope.



The towns of Walsall and West Bromwich are witnessing, along with other parts of the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, the building of new houses. These new communities pose challenges for local services and communities, but also highlight significant opportunities for the church's mission.

Church life in the archdeaconry is rich and varied. There are a wide range of traditions including those who look to the oversight of the Bishops of Oswestry and Ebbw Vale and all points in between. Despite these differences there is a good spirit of working together in chapters and deaneries and the diversity is largely regarded as a strength and not a problem. With the recent response by parishes following the decision of General Synod in 2023 with regards to Living in Love and Faith a significant number of clergy and parishes have expressed concern from different perspectives. The bishops are committed to the diocese being a place where differing perspectives can be held with mutual respect.

There are some growing congregations, but many churches are struggling with falling numbers and ageing membership. Many churches are still rebuilding, in terms of confidence, energy and numbers, to levels that existed before the Covid-19 pandemic. The task of rebuilding parish finances, recruiting new volunteers and re-engaging with young people within parishes is now the biggest priority for parishes in the Walsall Archdeaconry and the Diocese as a whole. Many churches in the Archdeaconry are aspiring to develop the work of debt counselling and creative use of the church building as warm and safe spaces. Mission Action Planning is well established in most churches in the Area and there are a growing number of Fresh Expressions of church. Our 42 church schools in the Area represent a significant investment in education and an important mission opportunity.



The Archdeaconry of Walsall is not short of gritty challenges but there is warmth, humanity and humour in abundance and inspiring, faithful communities abound. Clergy who are called here almost always find it to be a good place to live and minister and there is still, generally, an understanding of and respect for the presence and witness of the Church of England within the wider population. Many of our churches are very active in helping to transform their local communities for the better. Many clergy have significant ministries in the public square. Occasional offices continue to be a frequent and valued place of encounter between church and community.



*Bishop of Wolverhampton
Rt Revd Dr Tim Wambunya*

*Archdeacon of Lichfield
The Ven Dr Sue Weller*



Salop Archdeaconry



The deaneries of Salop

Most...
northerly parish: Whitchurch (Wem & Whitchurch deanery)
southerly parish: Stockton (Edgmond & Shifnal deanery)
easterly parish: Albrighton (Edgmond & Shifnal deanery.)
westerly parish: Rhyd-y-Croesau (Oswestry deanery)

The Archdeaconry of Salop covers 617 sq miles, predominantly in the northern half of Shropshire. The county town is Shrewsbury (population of 77,000) and largest settlement is the new town Telford (185,000). There are a number of market towns including Oswestry, Whitchurch, Wem and Market Drayton. The remainder of the area is predominantly rural with small settlements spread through extensive farmland. The west part of the archdeaconry lies along the Welsh border and has a distinctively 'borderlands' feel. The M54 provides good links eastwards from Telford into the West Midlands and national road network, and the A5 provides ready access to mid- and north Wales.

Land-based industries, health (including care), retail and tourism represent important sectors for the area, and there is also a strong food and drink industry. Micro businesses dominate, but a number of large and successful international businesses have their home in the area, particularly in Telford.

The local authority for much of the area is Shropshire Council but part of the area is in the unitary authority of Telford and Wrekin. The archdeaconry is less diverse than other parts of the country in terms of ethnicity (in Shropshire, 96.7% of the population identified as white; with 88.2% doing so in Telford and Wrekin). In Telford and Wrekin it is estimated that 26% of the population are living in the 20% most deprived nationally, with 16% in the 10% most deprived. Shropshire is a relatively affluent county, but there are pockets of deprivation in market towns and rural areas.



Shrewsbury is located on the river Severn. It retains a strong identity as a medieval market town while at the same time being a contemporary and thriving centre of culture, the arts and community life. Recent years have seen significant areas of new housing development. Church life in Shrewsbury – Anglican and ecumenical – is full and diverse, with a number of shared projects including Street Pastors, debt advice, food hubs, a youth project, and homeless provision.

Telford celebrated 50 years as a New Town in 2018, having been created around existing communities on the East Shropshire Coalfield including the medieval market town of Wellington.

The town continues to grow and new estates continue to spring up. The heavy industry of the coalfield has been replaced by light industry or IT companies and these are generally sited on the various modern industrial estates which were planned in the development of the new town. The rich industrial heritage of the area is celebrated at the award-winning Ironbridge Gorge Trust Museums located in the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage site.





The Archdeaconry of Salop is coterminous with the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area and consists of 7 deaneries. Church life is mostly straightforwardly Anglican and traditional but congregations are keen to reach their communities with the good news of Jesus in word and action and are friendly, committed, faithful and hard working. Many congregations have a high age profile, but are warm and welcoming and people of all ages and stages find a welcome and a home. In both Telford and more rural areas, the church is still an important part of the tradition of communities, and occasional offices can be significant opportunities for mission.

There are a considerable number of Fresh Expressions across the Salop Archdeaconry, mostly in the rural areas and they reflect the nature of the churches and communities in their provision: Forest Church, Messy Church, Vintage Messy, youth cafes, REVS (outreach to and engagement with those involved in the 'classic car' community) to name but a few. There are plentiful examples of good connections between church and community and in both Telford and Shrewsbury there are ecumenical teams of Street Pastors. Most of the bigger parish churches also have a significant civic role.





2019 saw the birth of Telford Minster funded through Strategic Development Fund in partnership with the Lichfield Diocese with the remit of growing a new church community in the centre of Telford and supporting existing church communities in Mission and Ministry with extra staffing and resources. Telford Minster has seen rapid growth of mainly children, young people, and young adults. There have been eight new worshipping communities formed as a part of the Telford Minster project which are growing and flourishing. School partnerships are one of the highlights of the project working with 17 primary and 8 secondary schools. The gathered community at Telford Minster are people who are relatively new to faith and very few have a history of church attendance.





Chaplaincy is a hugely important part of the life and ministry of the church in the Salop Archdeaconry and we are blessed to benefit from the ministry of all our chaplains, to hospice and hospitals, prison and schools.

Ecumenical activity is most noticeable in Telford and Shrewsbury and both have programmes of mostly evangelistic activity which are shared across the two towns. In other places, where the opportunity exists, churches of different denominations seek to work in partnership and Shropshire Church Leaders meet twice a year.

The southern parts of Shropshire and of Telford are in the Diocese of Hereford, and there is joint working between the two dioceses in areas of shared concern and county wide events.

Associate Archdeacon:

Bishop of Shrewsbury
Rt Revd Sarah Bullock

Associate Archdeacon of Salop
The Revd Preb Jo Farnworth



The Archdeacon of Salop will work alongside the Associate Archdeacon of Salop, The Revd Prebendary Jo Farnworth, who is also Team Rector of Central Telford Parish. The Associate Archdeacon is part of the Area Senior Staff Team and Bishop's Staff Team. Acting as the Archdeacon's Commissary, the role includes playing a part in the oversight, discipline and pastoral care of the archdeaconry.

Role profile for Archdeacons



Key tasks

- a) to help shape, promote and model the Diocesan Direction of Travel, Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, with its three priorities of discipleship, vocation and evangelism.
- b) to champion and share in leadership of the implementation of the Diocesan Strategic Framework and, with imagination, sensitivity and boldness, to see through tough decisions in a time of change.
- c) to be diligent in fulfilling the archdeacon's statutory responsibilities so as to better equip God's people for ministry and mission.
 - d) to take particular care to promote excellent safeguarding practice in parishes and with clergy.
 - e) to assist the area bishop in providing pastoral care and support for the clergy and lay ministers of the archdeaconry.
 - f) to encourage parishes in generous giving and in the regular payment of Common Fund contributions.
 - g) to support parishes in times of vacancy and enable them to reflect creatively and missionally on their past, present and future vocation.
 - h) to share with the area bishop in the making of appointments.
 - i) to be a first point of referral in addressing, in a timely fashion, situations of conflict, breakdown and difficulty within parishes.
 - j) when applicable, to be Bishop's Visitor to existing and future Bishop's Mission Orders





- k) With the area bishop, to lead the ongoing exploration of SMMIB Diocesan Investment Programme funding.
- l) to have an active liturgical and teaching ministry in the archdeaconry and diocese.
 - m) to undertake other tasks and responsibilities in the episcopal area or diocese as the area or diocesan bishop requests. Depending on the experience and interests of the post-holder, the Bishop of Lichfield may, in consultation with the area bishop, request him or her to take on one or more specific diocesan or area portfolios.

Key relationships

- a) to be accountable to the Bishop of Lichfield and work closely with him as a member of his senior staff team which comprises:
 - Diocesan and area/suffragan bishops
 - Archdeacons
 - Diocesan secretary
 - Dean of Lichfield
 - Director of Communications
 - Bishops' advisor for women in ministry
- b) on a day-day basis within the archdeaconry, to work closely with the area bishop and as a member of the episcopal area team which also includes the Archdeacon of Lichfield or Associate Archdeacon of Salop.

- c) to be a valued colleague of the diocesan chief executive, the registrar, DAC, fellow archdeacons, finance and other diocesan staff, and of the Bishops of Ebbsfleet and Oswestry (who both serve as assistant bishops in the diocese).
- d) to work closely with the rural deans, lay chairs, clergy and lay ministers of the archdeaconry in support of the church's life and mission across the archdeaconry.

Support

Support for our archdeacons is provided as follows:

- a) each archdeacon has the services of a personal assistant.
- b) the registrar and chancellor, together with the other archdeacons, provide legal advice and support.
- c) technical and office support are supplied through the Diocesan Board of Finance.
- d) there will be a regular ministry development review with the Bishop of Lichfield.

The Bishop's staff team foster a supportive and collaborative working culture. This, for example, means that we share information about work as far as possible, e.g. forthcoming diary engagements and priorities.

Person Specification

Each of the new archdeacons will be a priest of the Church of England or another member church of the Anglican Communion, in holy orders for at least six years and is someone who:

- a) is prayerful, seeking to grow in personal holiness and discipleship;
- b) has a heart for mission and evangelism;
- c) is a person of vision, with theological acumen, confident in the gospel and able to help others to see where God is at work in the world;
- d) has a track record of working collegially and collaboratively and who actively seeks to make partnerships with others;
- e) is able to work sympathetically across a range of contexts, both urban and rural;
- f) is committed to promoting diversity at every level of church life;
- g) is committed to the pastoral care and welfare of clergy and their families;
- h) is able to relate to and to value all traditions within the Church of England;
- i) values ministry in parishes, Fresh Expressions, chaplaincies and schools;
- j) can listen, question, encourage, enable, admonish and inspire trust and confidence;
- k) has demonstrable administrative and executive ability;
- l) holds a full driving licence.



Stipend, housing and office space

Each archdeacon has a house and office base in their archdeaconry. This includes office space for themselves and ready access across the archdeaconry. Each is supported by a personal assistant who works at this office; for Walsall, based at St Mary's House in Lichfield and for Salop in the archdeacon's office based within the archdeaconry. Area bishops and archdeacons meet regularly and participate together in the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee.

The stipend is set at the national level for an archdeacon. Holidays and expenses are paid according to the diocesan guidelines. The new archdeacons will be expected to comply with the regulations for common tenure and the associated terms of service.



Further information and applications

Informal inquiries should be addressed to
Revd Treena Larkin - Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield
treena.larkin@lichfield.anglican.org | 01543 306002

or

Canon Julie Jones - Chief Executive Officer and Diocesan Secretary
julie.jones@lichfield.anglican.org | 01543 306291

Application forms can be found via lichfield.anglican.org/vacancies and should be returned to Jo Durber, PA to the Diocesan Chief Executive; Officer for Governance and HR:
jo.durber@lichfield.anglican.org or St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

Closing date: 18 November 2024
Interviews: 12 and 13 December 2024

Appendix

Legal Responsibilities of an Archdeacon

The office of archdeacon has its origins in the early history of the Church. An archdeaconry is a legal division of a diocese for administrative purposes within which the archdeacon exercises an ordinary jurisdiction. The essential nature of the role has been described as 'being a good steward so that others are freed to be the worshipping, witnessing and ministering Church'

The legal responsibilities of an archdeacon are summarised below.

Diocesan governance

1. The archdeacon is a member, ex officio, of

- the Diocesan Synod (Church Representation Rules 2011, Rule 30(4));
- the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) (Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991, Schedule 1);
- the Diocesan Parsonages Board (Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972, s.1(4)); and
- the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, Schedule 1).

Parochial governance

2. An archdeacon has a duty to hold visitations in his or her archdeaconry as provided in Canon C 22, paragraph 5.

3. On receiving a valid request to convene an extraordinary meeting of a PCC, the





archdeacon must do so if he or she deems there is sufficient cause. The archdeacon must also chair the meeting or appoint a deputy to do so (Church Representation Rules 2011, Rule 23(1)).

4. At the direction of the bishop, the archdeacon inducts a priest who has been instituted to a benefice into the possession of its temporalities (Canon C22, paragraph 5). Although the archdeacon has no statutory role under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, in practice he or she is usually actively involved in guiding parishes through the appointments procedure.

Buildings and property

5. In his or her own archdeaconry, the archdeacon is a key player in the operation of the faculty jurisdiction under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 and the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2018. He or she is ex officio a member of the DAC and has statutory powers:
 - to grant faculties without reference to the Chancellor in certain types of case listed in the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015 (as amended 2018);
 - to grant a licence for temporary minor re-ordering on an experimental basis and to ensure that the previous position is restored or a faculty obtained for permanent changes; and
 - to order the removal to a place of safety of an item of architectural, artistic, historic or archaeological value which appears to be at risk.

The archdeacon may initiate or intervene in faculty proceedings and may be asked by the



Chancellor to seek local resolution of a particular case. The archdeacon is normally present at any Consistory Court hearing in his or her archdeaconry.

6. Canon C22, paragraph 5, requires the archdeacon to survey, in person or by deputy, all churches and churchyards and give direction for the amendment of all defects in the fabric, ornaments and furniture. He or she also has power under the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955, s.2 to enforce the requirement for a quinquennial inspection of a church by a qualified person.

Pastoral reorganisation

7. The archdeacon is an 'interested party' under s6 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 in relation to pastoral proposals affecting any benefice or parish in his or her archdeaconry. In practice, the archdeacon is usually actively involved in identifying the need for pastoral reorganisation and initiating discussions with other interested parties.

Clergy: pastoral care and discipline

8. Canon C22, paragraph 4 provides that an archdeacon 'shall within his archdeaconry carry out his duties under the bishop and shall assist the bishop in his pastoral care and office, and particularly he shall see that all such as hold any ecclesiastical office within the same perform their duties with diligence and shall bring to the bishop's attention what calls for correction or merits praise.'

9. Canon C7 provides for the archdeacon to assist the bishop in the examination of candidates for ordination.



10. Under Part 1 of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977, a request for an enquiry on the grounds of serious pastoral breakdown must in the first instance be referred by the bishop to the archdeacon, who is required to report to the bishop whether such an enquiry should, in his or her opinion, be instituted.

11. The archdeacon has no statutory role in proceedings under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003, but the Code of Practice (paragraphs 10-12) describes circumstances in which it may be appropriate for the archdeacon to act as the complainant, be on a Safeguarding core group or (paragraph 100) to provide pastoral support.

12. The archdeacon will normally be the person appointed by the bishop to oversee an enquiry into the capability of an office holder under Common Tenure (paragraph 4.1 of the Code of Practice issued under Regulation 31(3) of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009).

13. The archdeacon is also usually responsible for overseeing the formal stages of the grievance procedure established under Regulation 32 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009.

