

Benefices of Edgmond, Kynnersley, Preston Upon the Wealdmoors and Tibberton, Bolas Magna, Waters Upton

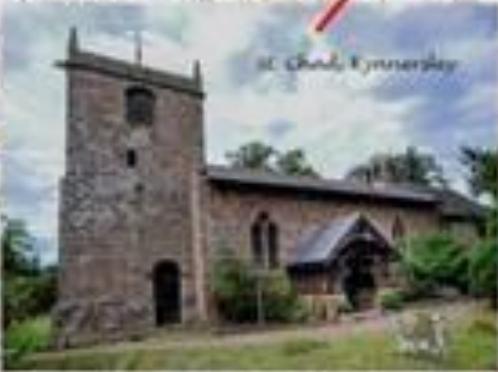
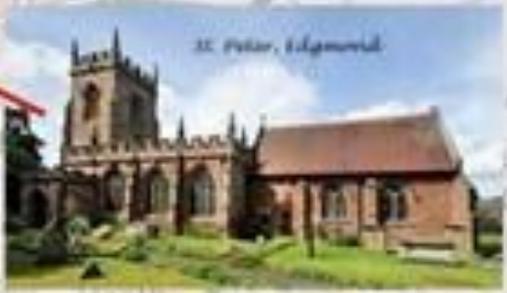
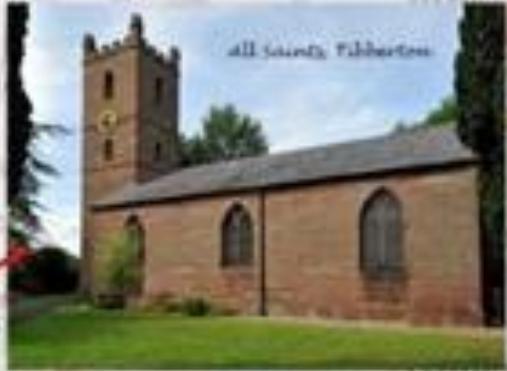


Profile for the post of Resident Minister (House for Duty)

Can rural ministry be radical?

If you're the person to get the Kingdom going viral we want to hear from you!

An opportunity to minister as part of a team across six parishes in rural Shropshire.



Foreword from Bishop Sarah

The Diocese of Lichfield is a diverse, rich and exciting place to live and work. It lies at the heart of England, not just geographically but culturally and socially. There are areas of spectacular natural beauty that sit beside the legacy of centuries of industry and commerce, areas of urban deprivation and rural poverty beside places of aspiration, growth and hope.

What unites us as a Diocese is the invitation to “Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad”. St Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield, challenges us to humble, faithful and courageous mission in this part of the Midlands and in this generation. We are committed to the mutual flourishing of faithful Anglicans of all traditions, and to welcoming and honouring people of all backgrounds. We are inspired by our Diocesan Vision:

“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 people of hope.”

We have identified three priorities as we seek to realise this vision more fully: to developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism. These priorities help us focus our work in all the varied forms of Christian life in the Diocese, in our parishes, Fresh Expressions, Schools, Chaplaincies and the Cathedral.

The priest appointed to the post of Resident Minister in the benefices of Edgmond with Kynnersley and Preston Wealdmoors; and Tibberton with Bolas Magna and Waters Upton would be accepting an invitation to join us in this pilgrimage of faith. We will do all we can to support you to grow as a disciple, deepen your vocation and be a confident bearer of the good news of Jesus Christ so that you are equipped and ready to do the same for those with whom you are called to share in ministry. Is God calling you to join us?

†Sarah Shrewsbury

Archdeacon's Statement

Terroir is a Gallic word which refers to the combination of factors that make one wine slightly different from another, even when the vines grew very closely together. Sunshine and the amount of rainfall, north or south facing, the height of the land and the drainage; the type and acidity of the soil; the types and subtypes of grape and their progeny; local know-how and human skill; the amount of time for the wine to mature – all combine to make the wines different. As a result, one Burgundy can taste quite different from another, even though from the same village.

This analogy takes us to the heart of rural ministry. On one level church is church, just as wine is wine. Yet to the observant leader every rural church will have been formed differently. Each congregation will have developed through all manner of stories, its style and age of building, the history of the surrounding community, clerical influences with their varying theological accents, and the lavish dedication of many individuals. In short, each church will be distinctive and deserve to be enjoyed in its particularity. What is more that particularity will be known and loved by the local community. To discover how the church ticks will provide a vital clue as to how that village ticks.

A rural ministry involves a willingness to listen, to be patient, to allow the 'flavour' of a church and community to emerge gradually and without blocking that process by producing short-term goals or objectives. Very much like a wine taster who lets the wine sit on her tongue and release its hidden ingredients. At the same time, a priest will recognise that the church is meant to be a catalyst and not a catacomb; it should be alive to the issues which matter in rural settings – the welfare of farmers, the detection of rural poverty, the emerging patterns of governance for village schools, the responsible management of climate change, the desirability of new housing – to name just a few. The church needs to be a place of hospitality and hope and the teaching and example of the local priest, together with his or her spirituality, will largely determine how well it fulfils that vocation.

Are you being called to share in this kind of ministry? If so, we hope you will read this Profile carefully and then submit your application to find out if God is calling you to serve alongside the Rector and her ministry team in this interesting and varied Shropshire Benefice.

Paul W. Thomas

Archdeacon of Salop.

Edgmond and Shifnal Deanery

We're really pleased that you are interested in becoming Resident Minister in Edgmond, Kynnersley, Preston-on-the-Wealdmoors, Tibberton, Bolas Magna and Waters Upton. If you were to minister here, you would not only be moving to a beautiful part of the country but also be joining a great team of colleagues.

Incorporating 24 parishes, Harper Adams University and RAF Cosford, the deanery covers deeply rural areas of Shropshire, the market towns of Newport and Shifnal, the "large village" of Albrighton and some suburbs of Telford. Despite this variety of contexts, communities and church traditions, the sense of collegiality in the deanery chapter has been a strength. We support one another, pray and eat together at our Chapter meetings every 6 weeks. We also meet online to "catch up with each other" in between these.

In 2020, Lichfield Diocese inaugurated the "Shaping For Mission" process and teams within each deanery have prayerfully discerned where God is calling us in the next stage of our life together. In this deanery, in line with our diocesan priorities, we have a vision to encourage all people of the deanery to focus on growing in faith (discipleship) and sharing faith (evangelism) as core aspects of Christian life and growth; particularly among children and young people. We aim to adopt more collaborative patterns of mission and worship across the deanery and through this to explore ways of reducing the administrative burden on clergy and parishes. We hope to do all this while being sensitive to context and where appropriate opportunities arise.

All of this means both ministers and parishes are being encouraged to work more closely with each other and to build trust through stronger relationships. If you were to join us here, you would be welcomed as a valued and supported member of our team.

Matthew Lefroy, Rural Dean

Who are we?

The six parishes fall within the Deanery of Edgmond and Shifnal in the Diocese of Lichfield. We are rural parishes to the west of Newport and north of Telford and most of the village and hamlet communities can be easily accessed off the B5062 road and is accessible within about 20 minutes. It is approximately 8 miles distance from one side of the grouping to the other.

There are three Church of England Primary Schools across the two benefices and Harper Adams University in the Parish of Edgmond where a part time Chaplain has been in post since September 2019. There is also one residential home in Kynnersley.

What we have to offer

- The opportunity to share in this exciting time when the benefices seek the vision to live out the love of God in these villages and to grow as disciples to share the Gospel.
- To be part of a team of licensed ministers, Rector, Curate and recently licensed Reader who long to see our churches grow at the same time as having a desire to care for and nurture our existing congregations. There are also a number of Lay Worship Leaders and a Priest with PTO who make a significant contribution to the worship across our six parishes
- To share in the life of the Churches in prayer, worship and teaching.
- Mutually supportive collegiality with the Rector to prayerfully lead the ministry and mission of the parishes together.
- The opportunity to have focused ministry within the Parish of Tibberton whilst being part of a group of parishes.
- Four-bedroom house in a quiet location near the church in the village of Tibberton. The house is in excellent condition. Usual parish expenses will be met.
- A friendly and efficient Parish Administrator who manages some of the admin tasks on behalf of the clergy

What are we looking for?

- A priest of the Church of England or of a church which is in full communion with it, and eligible to hold the Bishop's license (the post will be subject to Common Tenure)
- Someone who is grounded in prayer
- An enabler who can show the way but encourage others to participate and flourish
- A pioneer finding a new way to do ministry
- Someone who is creative, reflective and shows initiative
- Past evidence of a missional background
- An understanding of the 'being and doing' in ministry
- A kingdom spreader
- Someone who can understand the importance of the past but take things forward

Main responsibilities and role description

The Resident Minister will be House for Duty working 3 days a week which will include Sundays. They will be entitled to the appropriate annual leave according to Common Tenure.

The Resident Minister will focus their ministry on the Parish of Tibberton to develop mission in a rural context . As part of the Deanery Shaping for Mission Plan, the intention is for a model to be developed that can then be used for other parishes.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a parish and village with many possibilities.

The Resident Minister will also lead worship across the 6 parishes.



Confirmation with
Bishop Michael

April 2023



Palm Sunday Lunch
for the six parishes

Christmas
Messy Church





Up until November 2018 the House for Duty Priest had lived in The Rectory at Tibberton and before that a curate and the community of Tibberton valued having a clergy presence in the community. There is also the Church of England School. All Saints had strong links with the Methodist Chapel in the village but the chapel has sadly closed following the pandemic.

All Saints', Tibberton

is a welcoming village church serving both Tibberton and Cherrington and has a noticeable focus on community. The last recorded population was around 940 but new housing continues to be built in the village.

The Church is fully supported by a dedicated team of helpers that ensures the smooth running of all the services and benefits from having a resident Organist. There is a weekly service with lay led worship on the first and third Sunday's and Holy Communion second and fourth.



In 2019 the first 'Tibberton Trot' was held with 132 participants running 10k from the village. After two years the Tibberton Trot returns in September. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.



Tibberton has a village hall, a pub and a community shop run by volunteers.



Community groups include a Bridge Club, Walking Group, Book Club, and Art Group. A toddler group meets in the village hall.

At Tibberton CE Primary school we have six Christian values which we follow throughout the year in worship.

Tibberton CE Primary School

They are:

Forgiveness,

Honesty,

Compassion,

Courage,

Thankfulness and

Friendliness.

Everyone in the school shows all the values daily.



We have a worship area in all classes as well as the hall.

We worship on a daily basis as a whole school or in class.

We have a school prayer and each class has a lunchtime and end of day prayer.

We visit the church regularly for special occasions, Harvest, Christmas and Easter which parents attend.

We as a whole school go to celebrate worship once every half term.

St Peter's, Edgmond,

is the largest of the parishes. The historic church was founded in 1080 situated on the High Street and in the conservation area of the village.

Uniquely, there is an annual Clypping Service in July. This historic tradition involves people from the local community gathering around the church to bless it.

There is also a Choir and Mother's Union, which meet monthly.

The church is a Ringing Centre as part of the Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers. There is a Church of England Primary School in the village and the Rector has close contact with the school.

Harper Adams university is also in Edgmond and there will be a few students attending worship at St. Peter's each year. There are links with the village Scouting group who attend worship at St. Peter's on Remembrance Sunday.



'At St. Peter's Primary School we are very proud to work in close partnership with St. Peter's Church at the heart of our community in Edgmond. Through worship, prayer and song, we join together regularly to support, nourish and celebrate.'

St Peter's has recently gained the bronze Eco Church Award and Edgmond Wildlife Group manage Church Fields as a site to attract wildlife and sustainability.

St. Chad's Kynnersley

is situated in the Weald Moors, north of Telford, an area of wetland which has been drained for agricultural use. It is just over a mile from Preston Weald Moors. Most of the farming land was originally part of the Duke of Sutherland Estate, there is a distinctive 'Duke of Sutherland style' of architecture which dominates the village.

There are a few new developments, in particular of former farm buildings. The village has a village hall, small local shop and a care home.



There is one service a month plus the main festivals. Whilst church attendance is usually only a handful of people there is a fondness held for St. Chad's. There are a number of families in the village but other activities seem to prevent them attending Sunday Worship.

Special events have been an important part of the life of the church. Including afternoon tea on the farm and a Tractor Pull with over 50 tractors participating. The Carol Service and Remembrance Sunday services are very much part of the life of the village when the church is full.

St. Lawrence's Church, Preston-upon-the-Wealdmoors

is a Georgian building consecrated in 1739 in a small rural village on the edge of the Weald Moors. Preston congregation comment 'We truly believe that small is beautiful; that less can be more.' There is always a warm welcome amongst friendly supportive people.



As the village does not have another meeting place, the church seeks to support the village community and be a focal point in the village.

A monthly lunchclub is held in the church and also a regular book club.

The CofE Primary School has strong links with the Church which has recently Federated with Tibberton Primary School. The Rector has close links with the school.

Two members of the congregation lead lay led worship both at St.Lawrence and across the other parishes.

New housing has recently been completed opposite the church where Church members are making good efforts to reach out to the new residents.

St. John's, Bolas Magna

serves the communities of Great Bolas and Meeson, it is the only community facility within the village. There is a small dedicated regular congregation, as well as a strong community following, holding services every Sunday which are mostly BCP or Common Worship (Traditional language).



There is also a strong and active Friends Group which facilitates regular social events, including a fortnightly coffee morning and summer BBQ. They also raise funds which have enabled significant repairs on the church. After a number of years of planning and fundraising a toilet is due to be installed in the autumn and a kitchen area in due course.

There is a priest with Bishop's Permission to officiate who lives in the village and regularly takes services at St. John's.

St. Michael's, Waters Upton

is a small but growing village 5 miles north of Telford, rural in character.

The village dates back to the 11th century where there is evidence of the house visiting monks lived in whilst the church of St. Michael was being built.

There is also a Village Hall and Community Shop.



Weekly worship alternates between BCP and Common Worship (Traditional Language). There is a resident organist who plays at services. Prior to the pandemic a Christmas Fair and Harvest lunch were both well supported by the local community.

There is a new housing development just outside the parish but connecting to Waters Upton. In light of this the PCC have recently agreed to have an informal relationship with the Benefice of Haughmond and Wrekin in order to have more meaningful mission and ministry to the geographical area.



Service Rota

Date	Edgmond	Kynnersley	Preston	Tibberton	Bolas Magna	Waters Upton
1 st Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion Or Service of the Word	9.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Service of the Word Lay Led	10.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	9.00am Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	No service	10.15am Family Service Lay led	9.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday	10.30am Service of the Word Lay Led	No Service	9.00am Holy Communion	10.30am All Age Worship Lay Led	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion
4 th Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	No Service	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion

5th Sunday is a joint service for all six parishes
 Haughmond and Wrekin Team lead worship at Waters Upton on 2nd and 4th Sunday's whilst we are in the trial period
 Some Sundays may vary with Service of the Word.
 In addition, there are services of alternative worship including Come and Worship which is an informal service with worship songs,
 Baptisms currently take place at 1pm as and when required. A review of this will take place in 2023

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals 2022 across the six parishes

Weddings	6
Funerals	18
Baptisms	12

Parish Population

Parish	Population 2021
Edgmond	1900
Kynnersley	300
Preston Wealdmoors	390
Tibberton	940
Bolas Magna	310
Waters Upton	370

Edgmond and Shifnal Vocation

(Shaping for Mission Plan)

"To facilitate whole of life worship in its broadest sense, in the knowledge that pursuing this vocation will lead us to a very different way of organising the ministry, resources and structures of the deanery."

It is clear that we will need to grow in a number of ways in order to get nearer to fulfilling this vocation.

- Children, young people and young adults are not well-represented in our church families.
- Two of the Diocesan priorities (discipleship and evangelism) are not yet seen as priorities by our church families.
- Discover what it means to be church families working together rather than separate parishes working independently

So – the Deanery Vision for the next 7 years

Our vision is for the people of the deanery to focus on growing in faith (discipleship) and sharing faith (evangelism) as core aspects of Christian life and growth. We will do this by reducing some of the burdens of administration and building maintenance and by adopting more collaborative patterns of mission and worship.

The deanery will look at carrying this out in two areas or clusters, one around Albrighton and Shifnal, the other around Newport. In these clusters we will

- work together on provision for children and young people
- move towards more streamlined structures, collaborate on mission and worship activities and reduce the burden of administrative tasks
- encourage and support culture change towards a focus on growing in faith (discipleship) and sharing faith (evangelism)
- move away from the expectation of weekly Sunday worship in every church building.

For Each Cluster

- **Working together for children and youth provision**
- **Focusing on growing in faith (discipleship) and sharing faith (evangelism) as core to Christian life**
- **Reducing administration and the burden of building maintenance through greater collaboration**

In the short term (up to March 2023) this means: (Planning Phase)

- Publicising and issuing invitations to existing events beyond parish boundaries
 - Co-operating over schools work.
 - Running joint holiday clubs
 - Producing a deanery plan that
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- provides area wide opportunities for discipleship and evangelism training to give people confidence in these areas
 - makes specific provision for shared youth/children's ministry
 - suggests parishes/benefices combine for collaboration resulting in fewer PCCs
 - suggests changes of status/closure of church buildings where appropriate
 - reorganises clergy and lay minister resources to support the deanery aims

In the medium term (from March 2023 – October 2026) this means: (Implementation Phase)

Implementing the deanery plan above in stages

In the long term (from November 2026) this means:

- A renewed energy for evangelism and discipleship in all churches across the area
- At least 2 new shared youth/children's projects have started in each cluster
- No more than 8 benefice/parish units in the Newport cluster and no more than 7 benefice/parish units in the Shifnal and Albrighton Cluster
- A new balance of self-supporting/stipendiary lay and ordained ministry

In order to do this we may no longer resource:

- *the provision of weekly worship at churches where attendance is persistently low*
- *buildings which require unsustainable levels of resourcing*
- *church activities which do not contribute to developing discipleship or evangelism*
- *church or community work that is not sustainable in the long term.*