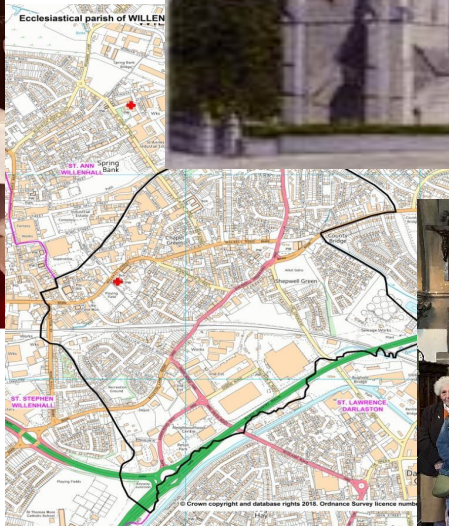


Willenhall Parish of St Giles



Parish Profile for Priest in Charge

*St Giles
Walsall Street,
Willenhall
WV13 2ER*

St Giles' Parish Profile

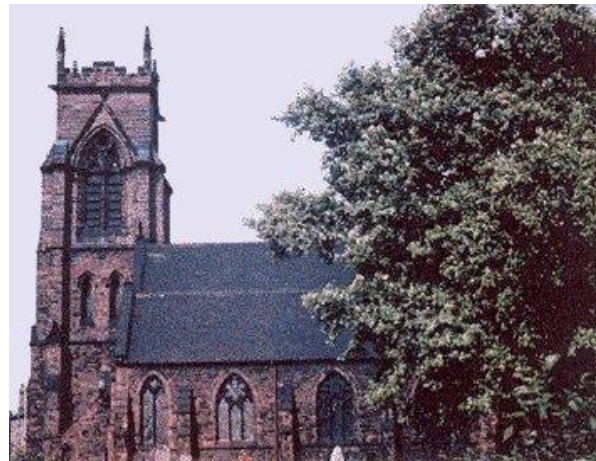
The Challenge

To lead a strong committed congregation, comprising of multiple embedded worship and community groups helping them to grow and develop while supporting a project manager who will ensure the creation of St Giles Church Centre that will be used by the wider community and result in further growth of our congregation so that we continue to build God's kingdom in Willenhall.

Thank you for considering this possible call for your ministry – please be sure of our prayers as you consider whether it is the right next step for you.

Contents

Page	Content
2	The Challenge
2	The Role
3	Person Description
4	The Church & The Community
7	The Story So Far
15	Mission Plan



The Role

We would like our new (male or female) priest to:

Discipleship:

- Keep church at the heart of the community, promoting further diversity and encouraging more inclusivity;
- Encourage congregation members to explore their faith and spirituality through bible study, Lent groups, confirmation courses, home groups etc.
- Help us to build stronger shared patterns of sustainable mission and ministry, within and between local churches;
- Help others to share in the work of leading worship, teaching and preaching, and to resource them as they grow in ministry;

St Giles' Parish Profile

Vocation:

- Share their own faith, leading by example, being passionate in their role;
- Pray for us and to lead us in prayer;
- Lead us in worship, especially in the strong sacramental tradition which is the foundation of our shared life in Christ;

Evangelism:

- Lead us in offering pastoral care and support to the congregations and beyond, particularly through developing our mission through the pastoral offices;
- Support and help develop leaders of the multiple groups within St Giles' and further develop existing links with the neighbouring school;
- Support and lead a project manager who will be responsible for creating St Giles' Church Centre for improved utilisation of the building by both church groups and the general community.
- Maintaining and increasing links with St Giles Primary School

Person Specification

To demonstrate that they:

- Are ordained as a priest in the Church of England or another church of the Anglican Communion, and have completed initial post-ordination ministerial training;
- Are rooted in God's love, nurtured through prayer and personal discipleship;
- To demonstrate experience of parish ministry, and are competent across the range of skills required for this role;
- Are committed to the mission of the church in a tradition where sacraments are important, creatively developing worship and discipleship within that pattern;
- Have experience in developing new forms of accessible/contemporary worship
- Are able to encourage and develop the ministry of others, lay and ordained, and to work collaboratively;

St Giles' Parish Profile

- Are approachable.

We are also looking to appoint a priest who can show that they:

- Have the gifts to reach out in mission to the diverse groups that make up the communities of Willenhall; Contacts through baptisms, weddings and funerals etc; young people, within and outside church congregations; Young families; Older people, in church and the wider community; Schools; Care homes;
- Have experience or knowledge on how to build up teams for pastoral care;
- Have experience or knowledge of leading churches in change and in growth (numerical and spiritual);
- Have experience of work in community outreach and development.
- Are good communicators and listeners with a sense of humour, who can relate easily to each and all. Someone to support and help develop new initiatives, as we strive to find new ways to fulfil the religious needs of the young people of the community.

What we can offer you

We are a committed welcoming group of people full of love and diverse cultures and willingness to support our priest. Also we would offer:

- Prayer support
- Collaborate and positive attitude
- Flexibility for holidays and ensuring wellbeing support
- Employed admin support
- Reimbursement of expenses
- Willingness to grow God's Kingdom in Willenhall

St Giles' Parish Profile



The Church and the community

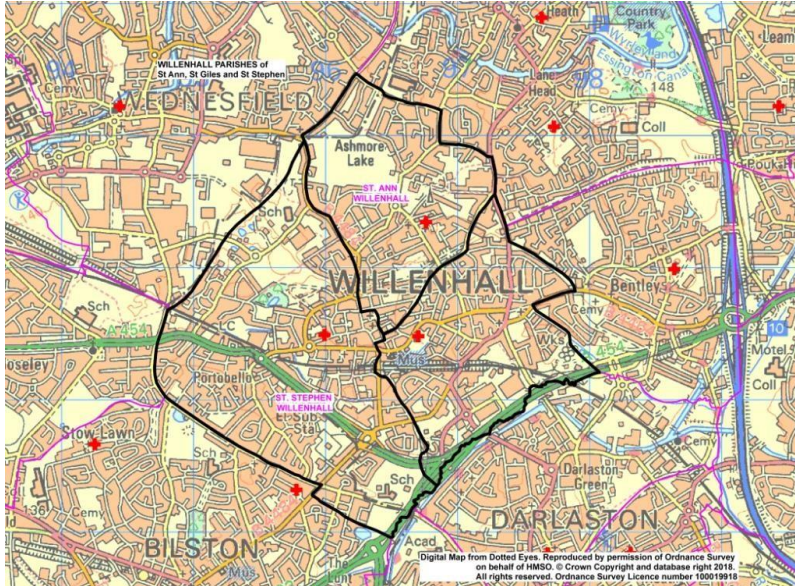
The Area

Willenhall is a town mid-way between Walsall and Wolverhampton in the historic, industrial Black Country. Our parish is located near to the town centre, which is full of character having a number of Victorian and Georgian buildings and the former Bell Pub dating from the 1650's, sitting alongside more modern style shops. Also situated on the edge of the town is The Lock Museum, recalling the industrial heritage of the town and which is a part of the Black Country Living Museum.



St Giles' Parish Profile

An active Town Centre Partnership works with the local council to maintain and develop the shopping area and facilities. Amenities include doctors, dentists, a library, and post office, a number of supermarkets, a Banqueting Suite, takeaways, pubs and Restaurants. The shops are a mix of small local businesses and national chain stores.



The town is in the process of a £20million regeneration with a new train station under construction and also derelict brownfield sites being turned into social housing. There are a number of junior and secondary schools in the town including St Giles Primary, Barcroft Primary, Fibbersly Park Primary, St Thomas More Catholic and Pool Hayes (the latter two being secondary), and others within easy travelling distance. The locality has excellent transport

links – Road, Rail, Airports, Motorways, Metro Link, Canals.

We are 15 miles from Cannock Chase Forest, and 15 Miles from Birmingham City Centre for Shopping, Restaurants & Theatres, four Miles to Walsall & Wolverhampton for Cinemas, Restaurants Shopping & Theatres. We are about seven miles from Dudley Zoo and The Black Country Living Museum. It's only 30 miles to the Severn Gorge museums and also to the Snowdome in Tamworth.



There are two Hospitals with A & E departments within four miles, and four Universities within 15 miles of St Giles Church. The town's Memorial Park is central to many community activities including the annual Carnival, Lockstock music festival, a transport show and summer bandstand concerts. Willenhall has taken part and won awards in the "in bloom" events over the past few years and has a very active "Friends of the Park".

St Giles' Parish Profile

The Parish and working with our local church partners

As in many communities, the recent years have seen decline in the numerical strength of the churches, and in the depth of our outreach to the people of Willenhall. We pray that our priest will be able to work creatively not only to care for and lead the church congregation but also to lead us in outreach and service to the community. We will also want our priest to work closely together with the Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen's in our neighbouring parish enabling us to build links and relationships with the two churches, especially as our parish area is about to double in size when our sister church closes (within the next two years).

The long-term shape of our shared life and ministry is open for exploration. We are looking over time to possible Team Ministry but at this stage we are seeking to simply work on our outreach capacity and look to develop an area within our church building to create St Giles Church Centre.

The wider church community

We are part of the Wulfrun Deanery, which includes 12 churches across 8 parishes covering the North-Eastern half of Wolverhampton.

We are active members of churches together in Willenhall which helps to strengthen our community. We join together for a number of activities during the year including Good Friday walk of witness, (Women's) World Day of Prayer, carol singing, activities at the town carnival, Remembrance Day, an agape meal during the week of prayer for Christian unity and occasional joint worship.

Some church members are involved in the running of the Churches Together town centre project providing an advice service and food-bank for the community.

Some local churches are involved in presenting some of the town's summer bandstand concerts.



STYLES & TRADITIONS OF WORSHIP

St Giles' Parish Profile



We are a church where we hold the sacraments as important but are also developing less formal styles of worship. We currently have a weekly 11:00am Sung Sunday Eucharist celebrated at the Nave Altar. Sunday's Kool runs concurrently with the service joining worship for the Eucharistic Prayer.

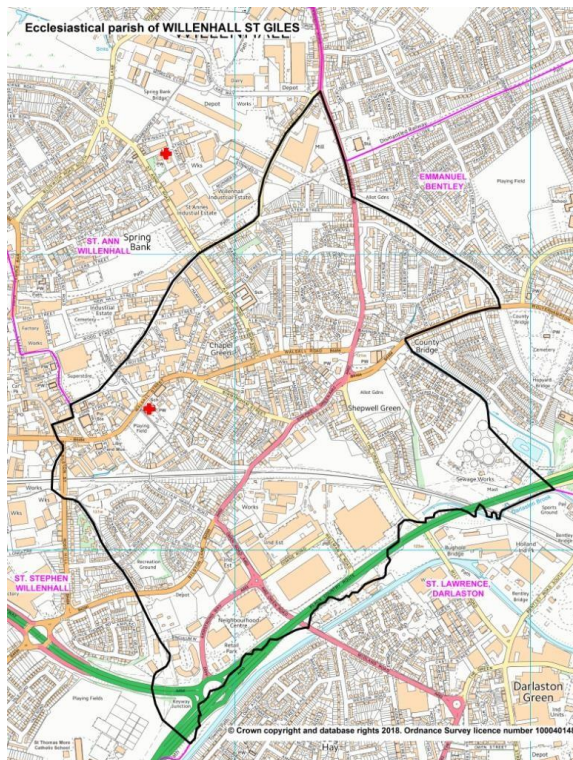
On the fourth Saturday of every month, we have an interactive all-age worship which offers a more modern approach to worship.

We have a reflective service on a Monday at 10:00am followed by Bereavement Group at 10:30am. On a Tuesday, morning prayers are said at 10:00am. On Thursdays there is a said Eucharist at 10:00am. Midweek services are celebrated in the Lady Chapel.



More About Our Church and The Story So Far

THE PARISH



St. Giles Church is situated approximately half a mile east of the centre of Willenhall town on the B4464, easily accessible from Junction 10 of the M6.

The parish is an urban priority area with approximately 5,760 inhabitants, comprising of a cross section of age groups with a multicultural background and a social mix of families.

The town of Willenhall is an area of constant redevelopment.

The church shares the site with St. Giles Primary School which has built three new classrooms (due to the increase of numbers); refurbished the Ease Hall into a Dining Hall (which the Church still has use of for Parish events); and resurfaced the shared car park area.

There is a social mix of housing together with extensive commercial and industrial areas to the north east of the Church.

St Giles' Parish Profile

The Church is situated on the main road connecting Wolverhampton to Walsall, and being an imposing large grade II listed building makes it an attractive venue for weddings and popular for baptisms. In addition, it is also used regularly for funerals and sometimes hired for other community events.

St. Giles Willenhall was a chapel of ease on the fringe of the Parish of St. Peter Wolverhampton, and became an independent Parish in 1846.

The present church building with its prominent Bell Tower housing ten bells was completed in Gothic Revival style using local sandstone, in 1867, although there has been a St. Giles Church on this site since at least 1313.

We have two small worship areas, St Matthias Chapel and The Lady Chapel.

At the rear of the Church there is a small kitchen area where hot drinks can be prepared. There is also a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities.

We have a comprehensive sound system incorporating a loop system. We also have two 86 inch 4K G-touch Smart Televisions, allowing us to engage with other styles of worship. Examples are St Giles' School's weekly assemblies, weddings, funerals and Saturday services.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Our current leadership team is made up of the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Churchwardens: | Brian Knowles / Claudia Johnson |
| • Deputy Churchwardens: | Stephen Goodwin / Paul Ingles |
| • Reader: | Claudia Johnson |
| • Treasurer: | Phil Sumner |
| • PCC Secretary: | Lisa Vetere |
| • Sacristan: | Tricia Clarke |
| • Sunday's Kool Co-ordinator: | Grace Johnson |
| • Safeguarding Officer: | Tal Singh |
| • Health & Safety Co-ordinator: | Brian Knowles |
| • Organist and Choir: | Richard Harper |
| • Verger for weddings and funerals: | Lisa Vetere |
| • Bereavement Group Lead: | Chrissy Burley |
| • Flower Team Lead: | Maureen Rollason |
| • Drama Group Leader: | Linzie Holt |
| • Bell Captain: | Richard Harper |

St Giles' Parish Profile

THE FELLOWSHIP

- We have approximately 50 regular congregation members attending our 11am Sunday service. This is followed by tea/coffee after the service to encourage informal fellowship.
- Our weekday services include;
 - Monday : Worship followed by Bereavement Group
 - Tuesday : Prayer Group followed by Open Church
 - Thursday: Weekday Service followed by Open Church and Cleaning
 - Saturday Mornings: Each week has a different focus. Parish Office; Gardening; Art; Wellbeing;
 - Saturday afternoon once a month we have our newly established family worship
- The congregation has a mix of age ranges and ethnicities.
- Our Sunday's Kool is growing successfully since covid with about 10 members from the ages of 4-11 years. The Drama Group has around 20 members, which are a mixture of children and adults.

THE CHURCH BUILDING(S)

- We currently use a Nave Altar
- We have 2 small worship areas:



St Matthias Chapel



Lady Chapel



- The building is Grade II listed and is 150 years old while being maintained successfully.
- At the rear of the Church we have a small kitchen area and Disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. Our intention is to create a St Giles Church Centre.
- There is an open area at the back of Church for a creche and fellowship
- We have a working sound system incorporating a loop system.

St Giles' Parish Profile

THE VICARAGE & SURROUNDING GROUNDS



The vicarage stands immediately adjacent to the church with the following features:

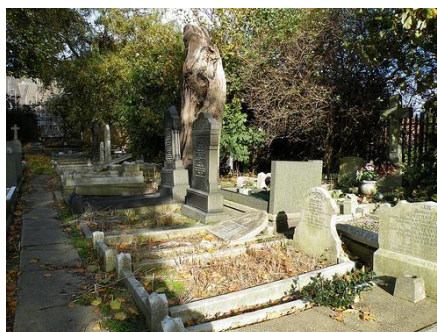
- Lounge, dining room, study, large kitchen with a separate utility room, downstairs WC
- Four Bedrooms and upstairs bathroom
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Door security camera and rear Ring camera

The large garden is separated from the extensive grounds to the rear of the vicarage wherein the school stands.

Next to this is 'Church House' which is a three bedroom detached house, owned by 'Willenhall Chapel of Ease Estate' (Church Charity that exists to promote the work of the Church of England in this parish).

On the same site is St. Giles Church of England (Controlled) Primary School.

THE CHURCHYARD



St Giles' Parish Profile

There is a large churchyard to the south of the church. Two thirds of the churchyard is closed and is maintained by the local council. The remaining third is also handled by the council and a church gardening team regularly attends to the gardening needs of all of this area. There are a number of commonwealth war graves, where we have official recognition through our War graves commission plaque.

CHURCH FINANCES

Our Church currently meets its Common Fund contributions. We are always looking at ways to meet the challenge of rising costs and maintain properties and the churchyard. A summary of last year's accounts can be found in Appendix B. The Willenhall Chapel of Ease Charity also supports the parish financially. We support four charities each year agreed by the PCC. We aim to give 5% of our income to charity. We also collect items for the local food bank.

PARISH ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES

We have many groups and activities within the Parish including:

- Lay congregation involvement in Worship
 - Administration of the chalice
 - Bible readers
 - Reader preaching approximately once a month
 - Intercession leaders
 - Sides persons
 - Choir
- Bereavement Group
- Bell Ringers
- Flower Arrangers
- Sunday's Kool
- Drama Group
- Monthly coffee mornings/open church, and church yard clean up
- Regular concerts including local choirs and tribute acts
- Quiz nights
- Social and fundraising events.

St Giles' Parish Profile

CHILDREN & YOUTH WORK

- We have a Sunday School (known as Sunday's Kool) that meets weekly in the School Hall prior to joining the congregation for the Eucharist. We have experienced significant success over the last 25 years with regular attendance from over 20 children but unfortunately covid put an end to this. Since then a committed small team have worked tirelessly to grow this once again where we now have approximately 10 children and an average of 6 children per week.
- Despite other potential attractions on a Sunday morning, we continue to attract young people to our church. This has been achieved through an informal worship style teaching on a Sunday morning, which includes activities such as craft, singing, drama, prayer books and group discussion and ends with involvement in the service from the Offertory.
- Our age ranges are currently from 4 to 11 years and also include children who occasionally support choir within the worship.
- In addition to this we have had particular success over the last two years with our youth work through our drama group. We currently have about 20 regular members (predominantly children and teenagers) which now also include adults of all ages. This is a wonderful outreach to the community and has resulted in a number of members seeking development of their own faith by joining our congregation or Sunday's Kool.



SCHOOLS WORK

- St. Giles Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is located on the same site as the Church, Vicarage and Church house. It has approximately 400 pupils and strong church links.
- Links with the school are very strong. Weekly visits from the school into Church now take place for assemblies, special services, concerts and presentation evenings. The priest would normally lead regular assemblies in school.
- The school has been inspected by Ofsted in the last few months and was once again rated as a good school which aspires to be outstanding. The school succeeds in its aim of ensuring that all pupils reach their full potential. For more details please see the school website on <http://www.st-giles.walsall.sch.uk/>

St Giles' Parish Profile

SERVICES

Sunday

- Sung Eucharist @ 11am
- Baptisms
- All Age Worship 5pm once a month on a Saturday

Monday

- Worship @ 10:00am
- Bereavement Group

Tuesday

- Prayer Group @ 10:00am
- Open Church

Thursday

- Said Eucharist @ 10:00am
- Open church and cleaning

Friday

- Drama Group 7:30-9:30pm

Other Activities

- Creche area when needed at the rear of the Church during the service
- 'Sunday's Kool' in School Hall (10:45am joining the service during offertory)
- Lent Group
- Monthly Saturday Groups; Parish Office; Gardening; Art; Wellbeing.

MUSIC

- Choir
- Hymns are taken from both the New English Hymnal and Mission Praise.
- Organist supports both Weddings and Funerals
- Hymnal Machine available to support worship if required
- All Age Worship uses modern hymns and music including video clips to support worship

St Giles' Parish Profile

COMMUNICATIONS & POLICIES

- Weekly sheets including readings, notices and information
- Notice board to advertise seasonal festivals/regular worship
- Baptisms: either during the 11am service or predominantly 1pm on Sundays.
- Weddings: divorcees may be married in church following agreement by the priest.
- Blessings are carried out for individual needs
- Bereavement group to support individuals and families
- Wedding and Baptisms arranged at Parish Office (once a month on Open Saturday Mornings)
- Website: Updated by one of the congregation
- Facebook page updated by one of the congregation

ST GILES' MISSION ACTION PLAN (3 Years)

Discipleship

- Increase numbers of young people attending Kool club on Sundays.
- Sermons teaching Christian faith as well as explaining meaning.
- Strengthen links with drama group for greater integration with wider church life.
- Continuing to give 5% to charities.
- Develop discussion/bible study groups
- Support local food bank.
- Encourage people to pray more.
- Ensure lent groups take place – across the Willenhall parishes.
- Visiting/pastoral teams.

Vocation

- Monthly Family services to be established; encouraging wider community to attend.
- In sermons encourage people to develop their gifts and talents.
- Encouraging more volunteers – reading, leading intercessions, servers, bell ringers, choir.
- Confirmation group
- Build on healing ministry- consider developing a prayer group/team.
- Develop pastoral visitors for support to people post bereavement or in times of sickness.
- Encourage training for Readers, OLM, Full time ministry.

Evangelism

- Monthly Family
- Start St Giles Church Centre project for church and community use.
- Family services to welcome in people not used to church.
- Continuing to make Sunday services inviting/welcoming. Review start of service time.
- Regular Saturday morning activities to encourage people into the church (i.e. coffee; art; wellbeing; open church).
- Sermons encouraging evangelism.
- Expand bereavement group especially for those who need the love and care of God.

St Giles' Parish Profile

- Baptisms moved to Sunday after main service so see a live church – encourage others to welcome people to baptism services. Consider how to develop baptism ministry.
- Help-board to be used to make links with community and be able to direct people for appropriate support.
- Improve notice board and publicity.
- Continue to support St Giles Primary School (e.g. school visit team; bibles for children; pay for trip to Lichfield cathedral).
- Set up group to make long term plans for building to enhance long term outreach.

STATEMENT FROM OUR RURAL DEAN FOLLOWED BY A WELCOME FROM OUR BISHOP

RURAL DEAN:

The Parish of St Giles' has done very well in maintaining its Usual Sunday Attendance both through the Covid season and in the first year of vacancy. The present large church building is Victorian and dominates the local skyline of central Willenhall. Its prominence and central location are certainly an aid to outreach into the community with the gospel and also a good platform from which to promote the occasional offices and invite local civic connections. There is a very good working relationship with its near neighbour, St Stephen's, both in terms of the incumbent and the two congregations. There are also strong connections with town centre ministry, which is an ecumenical project. Wulfrun Deanery is growing in collegiality and positivity. The Clergy Chapter enjoys commitment, friendship and fellowship as we share food and worship together. We have a significant sense of unity as we seek to serve the needy area of the Deanery both practically and also by testifying to the gospel of God's grace and forgiveness.

Rev. Ian Poole

(Rural Dean of Wulfrun)

St Giles' Parish Profile

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

A word of welcome to the Diocese of Lichfield

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 our first bishop 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.

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a 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 in mission. As a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a 'spacious and gracious diocese'.

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.



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