

Come follow Christ



in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese
of Lichfield



Title post in the
Parish of
All Saints, Wellington
with
St Catherine, Eyton's



suburban & hamlet

evangelical charismatic

Welcome to Lichfield Diocese

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

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)

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



+Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield

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.

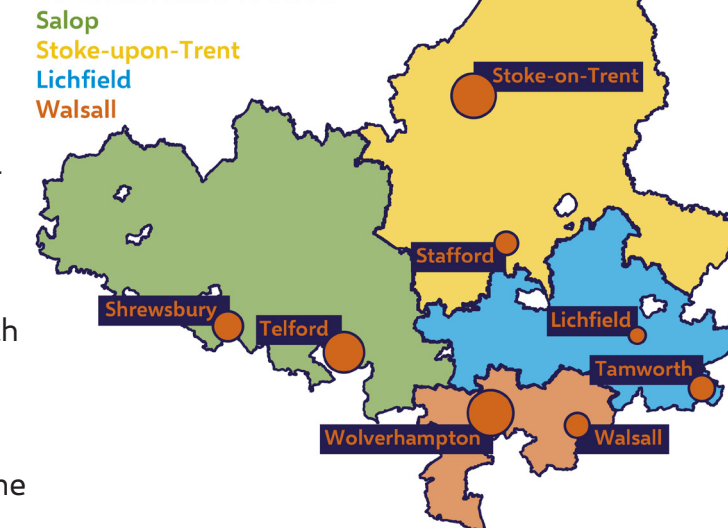
To further these aims, and to develop creative patterns of ministry, we ask all training parishes to offer ‘sixth-day’ opportunities for curates – which might be a chaplaincy attachment (school, hospital, prison or hospice), involvement with local gardening ventures, night-shelter involvement – to mention 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 Four Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese



Everything but the sea



David Rayner (Wikipedia) / Stoke-on-Trent Bottle Kiln / CC BY-SA 2.0 BY-SA 4.0

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 4.0

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

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



can provide it. And then there’s 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 near Stoke with the adjacent country park and Heritage Centre 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



Wellington All Saints with Eyton St Catherine's



All Saints is located close to the centre of Wellington which, although once an independent Market Town, is incorporated within the borough of Telford and Wrekin.

It still retains much of its own identity and character. It has a lively indoor and outdoor market four days per week, which was awarded its charter in 1244. Wellington has recently attracted regional funding to upgrade the streetscape and the borough council has built the civic centre development which includes the refurbished leisure centre (with swimming pool) and Town Council offices together with a new library and Register Office.

The total population of Wellington is approximately 25,000, with 15,000 living in the parish. There is a broad mix of population, some families going back generations, an established Asian community and others drawn to work in the new town of Telford, giving the place a good lively feel with a sense of rootedness. Within Wellington, housing is varied, extending from Victorian terraces, substantial houses in leafy suburbs, 50's and 70's ex-council estates and many more recent developments of all types.



St Catherine's Church is situated in the small hamlet of Eyton, in a rural setting only 2 miles from the centre of Wellington. The population of the hamlet is about 30 made up mainly of farming people. The farming is a mix of arable and livestock.

There are six state schools within Wellington – two secondary, four primary. Wrekin College Public School is also situated in the parish and shares a site with the Old Hall Preparatory School. None of these are church schools but All Saints enjoys a good relationship with them. In addition, Telford's principal sixth-form College is nearby, as is a modern General Hospital. There are several sheltered accommodation schemes together with a number of nursing homes to which we regularly take communion. We have links with a hospice located next to the local hospital on the outskirts of Wellington.

Bordered by the M54 and with its own railway station right next to All Saints, the town is well served for commuters to Wolverhampton and Birmingham, and is a gateway for escapes west to Shrewsbury, remoter parts of Shropshire and both mid and north Wales

Buildings / community

There has been a church building on the site of All Saints for at least 1,000 years. The current building is about 200 years old, and the interior has been remodelled a number of times. The last major reordering was about 30 years ago, when the worship dais, with integral baptistry, was installed. The audio system was refreshed 5 years ago, and the screens / visual system are currently being renewed.

A well-appointed Parish Centre on site hosts our Parish Office, as well as a number of mid-week community groups and church activities, including two church run toddler groups and monthly meals for the elderly. St Catherine's is a small, traditional, church building. Although lacking flexibility, it serves its purpose as a village church well. There is also a village hall which is used for church celebrations such as harvest supper.

Services in the churches:

	All Saints	St Catherines
1st	10:30am – Church Family Communion	10:00 am BCP Morning Prayer
	4:00pm - Explore	
2nd	10:30am – Morning Worship	10:00 am BCP Morning Prayer
	6:30pm - Rest	
3rd	10:30am – Holy Communion	10:00 am BCP Morning Prayer
	6:30pm - Ignite	
4th	10:30am – All In	10:00 am BCP Eucharist (unless 5th Sunday)
	6:30pm - Dive	
5th	10:30am – Church Family Communion	10:00 am BCP Eucharist



Wellington All Saints with Eyton St Catherine's

Your Training Incumbent

Revd Tim Carter

35 Crescent Road, Wellington, TF1 3DW

- **Trained:** St John's Nottingham
- **Ordained:** September 2008, Lichfield
- **Curacy:** Hanley Team Ministry, Stoke on Trent
- **Vicar since** 2016

Having spent seven years working in the motor industry as a Sales and Marketing executive, Tim was ordained at the age of 32. A curacy in the heart of Stoke-On-Trent was followed by 5 years working as a Pioneer Minister, planting a church in one of the suburbs of Telford, before a move to All Saints and St Catherine's.

Tim's understanding of the role of training comes from his experience as a line manager in industry, his own great experience in curacy, and his coaching training. He believes in creating opportunities for developing and practising skills and gifts, in reflecting on what is gone well and what could have gone better, and in encouraging the trainee to take responsibility for their own development and learning. He has worked with three training curates, all of whom currently work in Lichfield diocese.

Gardening and rowing get Tim off the sofa, where he would otherwise spend too much time watching boxsets.



Context

For centuries Wellington was the largest town in the area, the market being a central focal point. Then, 50 years ago, they started to build Telford and Wellington's sense of identity was shaken. Following the decline of the town centre as retail parks were built in the area, recent years have seen some regeneration. This has led to an increase in hope and positivity about the future of Wellington as a thriving community. This is seen in the 'Love Wellington' town council led initiative, the Wellington festival, and the opening of the Orbit community cinema. All Saints has a strong involvement in each of these. Wellington also has a strong history of revival, and is



The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2021	All Saints	St Catherines
Electoral Roll	315	47
Worshipping community	361	23
Marriages	3	1
Baptisms	40	2
Funerals	12	0



served by strong churches, across a range of denominations, who work well together for the Kingdom.



Wellington All Saints with Eyton St Catherine's

The ministry



At All Saints we believe that we are called to be closer to Christ and sent to be closer to others. We see ourselves as a light shining on a hill; a place of worship, service, and friendship with Jesus; and as a strawberry plant, sending out runners and being fruitful. As we pursue these we value Loving God, Loving each other, Loving our neighbours, Celebrating, and Exploring.

St Catherine's is an oasis, offering a useful complement to All Saints in its worship style, providing greater intimacy in a small rural church setting.

Ministry in the parish is wide ranging and varied, as the range of congregations detailed earlier suggests. Each of these provide different opportunities for developing preaching and service leadership skills.

The parish has a relatively large paid staff team, including a Parish Mission Enabler, a Youth and Children's Worker, a Families Outreach Worker, and two Parish Administrative staff. This provides plenty of opportunities for cooperative working and training in HR and management. We also have a retired clergy person and two Readers who are active in the parish.



The parish has a number of small groups and usually runs one or two Alpha courses a year, which curates often get involved in. The parish has a variety of mission projects and links with other organisations that provide a range of opportunities. These include schools work: assemblies / chaplaincy / governor at primary / secondary / FE levels.

We have close links with local foodbanks. We are Christians Against Poverty partner church. We work with other churches in the area under the aegis of "Telford Area Mission" to develop mission initiatives across the area. We have good links with local care homes, with the possibility of mission initiatives focussed on the elderly in care. We are the Civic church for Wellington, having town chaplaincy responsibilities and opportunities.



A training curate would be expected to take on the role of an ordained minister within the parish: leading services, preaching, exercising pastoral care, discipling others, and taking a lead in mission. These responsibilities would be taken up over time, as appropriate. There would be the opportunity to both build on areas of strength and to consolidate skills in areas needing development. There are no particular areas of responsibility for the curate in training defined at present. However, as they settled in there would be opportunities for them to take on responsibilities such as focal minister for a particular congregation, or leadership within a particular ministry or area of church life, depending on their gifts and training requirements.

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 three to 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 BDO will be able to provide you with more information.



"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

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.

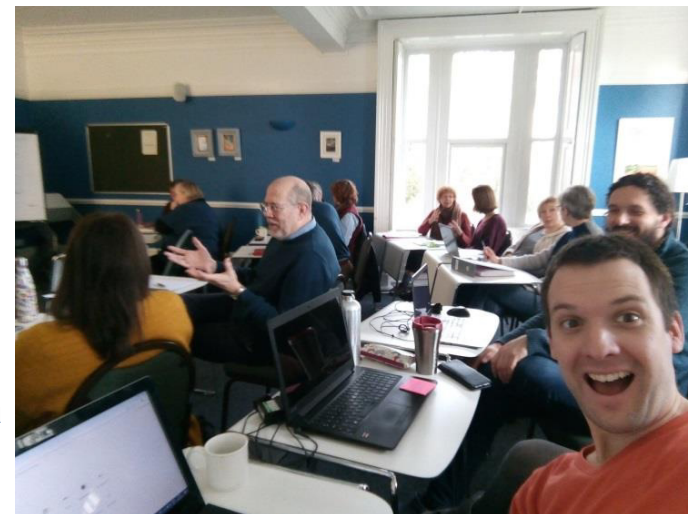
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial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

"We have had amazing support from the diocese over the 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



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 BDO (details on back cover) or visit lichfield.anglican.org/curacy



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

The Revd Romita Shrisunder,

Bishops' Director of Ordinands

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Find us on:

ChurchNearYou:

All Saints:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4598/

St Catherine's

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4599/

Website:

allsaints-wellington.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/allsaintswellington

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/c/AllSaintsWellington

The Benefice.

All Saints with St Catherine's is a warm and welcoming parish, with a wealth of opportunities for you to learn and develop in your ministry as we walk together, following Jesus.