

Come follow Christ



in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese of Lichfield



Title post in the
Benefice of
Branston and
Burton All Saints with
Christ Church



Two evangelical churches
at the source of pickle,
marmite and numerous
breweries

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

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

As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a Church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a Church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.

(Diocesan Vision Statement)

A caring diocese

Lichfield Diocese is one of the largest in the country, covering an area of 1744 square miles and serving a population of more than 2 million.

The diocese consists of three episcopal areas with three Area Bishops (of Wolverhampton, Stafford and Shrewsbury) ministering alongside the Diocesan Bishop, each overseeing a different geographic area. This indicates the diocese’s commitment to its different contexts, and to the pastoral care of our clergy.

Homes and schools

We aim to provide high quality housing for our clergy with a continuous programme of improvements to houses and responsive, specialist contractors for emergencies.

As well as the 208 Church of England schools in the Diocese, there are many good schools and colleges that will welcome clergy’ children, and a

number of higher education centres can be found in Stoke, Keele, Stafford, Shrewsbury, Telford, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Vocation and mission of all

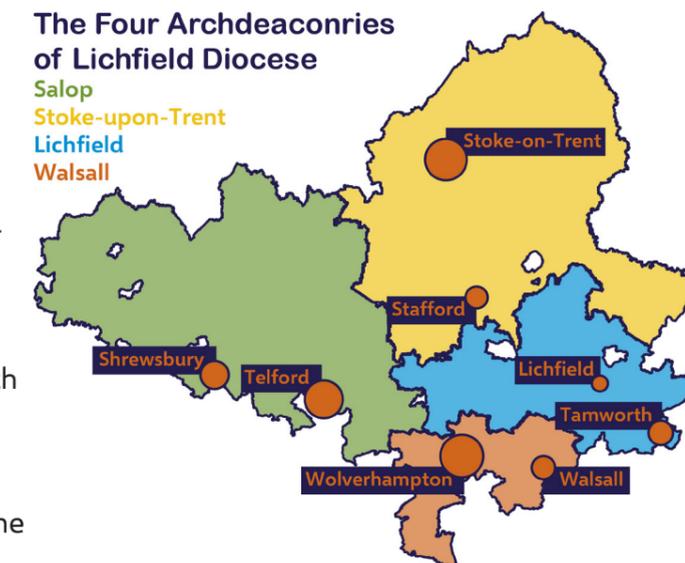
Our vision for the diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in their own contexts.

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



“Our time as a family in my curacy in rural Shropshire has been one of the best of our lives. I’ve learned that the priestly role is vital in the community. I’m particularly enjoying working with seniors, and enabling the giftings of others which resulted in a successful Messy Church starting in one of the villages. I give thanks to God for this special time, and for everyone who’s been there for me and supported me throughout.”

Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley



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



The Benefice of Branston and Burton All Saints

The parish is located in Burton on Trent and Branston in Staffordshire. It is set in an urban context and is culturally diverse with a Muslim & Eastern European on one side of the Parish to white British on the other.

The parish ranges from very affluent, to areas of poverty. We're a relatively new parish, joined together only in February 2017. We have two worship centres: Branston, St Saviour's and Burton All Saints with Christchurch.

The two parts of the parish are joined by the road which starts as Burton Road, Branston by the A38, and then becomes Branston Road, Burton as it approaches the town centre, The population of the parish is approximately 15440 (2011 census figures). Burton has for many years been identified with Brewing and is still a major employer. There is several primary schools, 2 secondary schools and a F.E. College nearby.

Burton All Saints with Christchurch

The All-Saints' end of Trentside parish is urban, with a great deal of affordable terraced housing, as well as including part of the town centre with its commerce. Traditionally, these houses were occupied by brewery workers but lately you are more likely to see communities from Bangladeshi/Pakistani community and more recently by the eastern European community.

Socially, there is a certain amount of material deprivation: many of the terraced houses are rented and overcrowded: the former All Saints' parish was classed as A1 with 34% deprivation. The parish includes two large shopping centres, two small retail parks and a number of small shops and businesses.

Branston St Saviour's

The St Saviour's end of the parish has a great deal of modern housing, built from the 80s onwards, around an older area still referred to by older residents as 'the village'. Branston incorporates a small out of town retail park, as well as a Co-op, takeaways, pubs, corner shops and golf course.

A large depot, now occupied by B and Q distribution centre, has had many functions over the years and is where Branston Pickle was first made. It, like the golf course, is now surrounded by houses dating from the 90s.

There is an expanse of water, formerly a gravel pit and now a water park popular with dog walkers and Parents and their children and cyclists.

In Branston there is a certain amount of material prosperity. However, we are well aware that many of the superficially prosperous areas



with Christ Church

conceal the 21st century plague of loneliness, family break-up and materialism despite the two cars on the drive.

Services in the churches:

Our worship is in the evangelical and gently charismatic tradition: Worship is lively, with the participation on Sundays of a band at each church. It is very similar in each church. It often aims to leave room for open prayer and



	All Saints	St Saviour's
1st	8:30am Said Holy Communion 10:30am All Age Worship	10:00am Morning Worship
2nd	8:30am Said Holy Communion 10:30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Healing and Wellbeing Service	10:00am Morning Worship
3rd	8:30am Said Holy Communion 10:30am All Age Worship	10:00am All Age Service
4th	8:30am Said Holy Communion 10:30am All Age Worship	10:00am Holy Communion 6:00pm Service of Prayer and Praise
5th	8:30am Said Holy Communion 10:30am Joint service with St Saviour's (Alternate Worship Centre).	10:00am Joint service with St Saviour's (Alternate Worship Centre).

Every Wednesday 10:00am Holy Communion



The Benefice of Branston and Burton All Saints

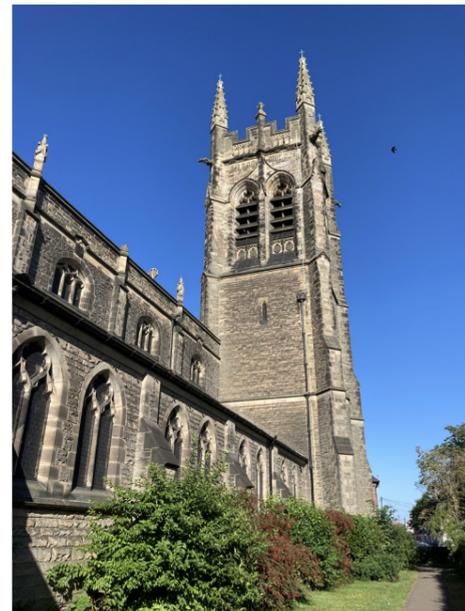
the ministrations of the Holy Spirit, within the framework of the Church of England Common Worship liturgy. Ministry is unrobed, except for Holy Communion at Wednesday at 10 and Sunday at 8.30am.

Both churches have large monitors for the Liturgy and songs to assist worship. All Saints has a large Hall at the rear of the church. This is where our carers and toddlers meet (Open House), and our Craft group to meet every week in term time and more recently our warm space gathering. St Saviour's has a smaller hall but we do meet there on a Tuesday afternoon as a friendship group and Rainbows meet there on a Monday evening. We meet for morning prayer Monday - Saturday alternatively at the churches.

We have a close connection with our Community Primary School where the vicar is a governor, and he goes in twice a month to lead assemblies. We also welcome the school over to the church at special occasions such as Easter and Christmas and to talk about why we do things such as Baptisms.

We started to stream our services at All Saints during the covid pandemic and we found that a few of our housebound congregation members really valued it so we have continued to do this.

Buildings / Community



All Saints is a large Edwardian church, built in the Arts and Crafts Gothic style, in 1905, and was designed by architects Naylor and Sale of Derby. The parish was constituted in 1898 out of part of

Christchurch (incorporated into All Saints 1982) and Branston parishes. The benefactor for the building of All Saints Church was Sir William Bass.

Today the church is used for many things such as Open House, Craft Group, Bible Study, Morning Prayer, Warm Space, Girls Bible study, Narcotics Anonymous, and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

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St Saviour's in Branston Village is a small Victorian church built in 1864, and designed by Architect Vincent Cook. Services were held in Branston from 1844 in a school church, converted from a stable and cowshed and licensed at the request of the newly-appointed incumbent of Christ Church, in Burton.

Having only a small extension to the church as a hall, there is little room to let the community use it. However, Rainbows, Alpha Courses, The Bible Course and Various Lent Courses have made use of the building.



Your Training Incumbent

Revd Capt. Dave Collier C.A.

The Vicarage, Church Road, Branston, DE14 3ER
01283 541884 | vicar@trentsideparish.church

- **Trained:** Queens Foundation
- **Ordained:** 2014, Liverpool
- **Curacy:** St James and St Peters Churches Birkdale, Southport
- **Vicar since** 2018



The Benefice of Branston and Burton All Saints

I initially went into the armed forces as a junior leader, quickly found out this wasn't what I wanted from life so left and joined a builder's merchant as a salesman. And an evangelist with The Church Army.

A sports fan (from the armchair) particularly football and a keen walker, my background in Church Army gives me a passion to meet people where they are and seeking with them where God is leading them.

My passion is to see everyone find what God is calling them and empowering them to be the best they can be.

I am aware of the pressures that come with trying to balance a learning schedule, along with the church life and not forgetting family life and would seek to find the best path for the curate.

The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2022	All Saints	St Saviours
Electoral Roll	60	45
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	39	
Average Sunday Attendance Children	3	
Baptisms	5	2
Marriages	1	12
Funerals	16	4
Funerals at crematorium	6	

Also, I would be keen to hear what the curate wants/needs to learn in our setting.

I have always considered it important to have an interest in the wider family and life for anyone that you have responsibility for, as if they are not happy at home then it can make life difficult for them. I will encourage any curate to take their Holiday entitlement and days off as the Sabbath is an important gift from God.



"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

with Christ Church

Context

The parish is located in Burton on Trent and Branston in Staffordshire. Burton has its history in the Brewing Industry and is a commercial area with residential outskirts. Whereas Branston is a former farming village which has grown over the years, and even more so lately as new housing estates are added on the edges of the parish. It is set in an urban context and is culturally diverse with a Muslim & Eastern European on one side of the Parish to white British on the other. The parish ranges from very affluent, to areas of poverty. There is the old Leicester railway line that separates the two former parishes and great strides have been made to bring the two churches closer together since their amalgamation with some success.



The ministry

The ministry team consists of the vicar, one Reader, three Reader's with PTO, one authorised lay minister, one pastoral minister and we have two retired clergy who assist whenever they can. We are also blessed with a part time administrator.

We offer a variety of styles of worship, including: traditional HC (CW), (Sunday and Midweek). Contemporary services (Sunday) including All Age worship, healing and prayer and praise services. We have daily Morning Prayer which is regularly attended by a group of 3-4 people.

We also offer a variety of sung worship with the organ at All Saints and a worship band at both churches.

Pastoral Care: We visit a local care home, monthly HC or 'songs of praise', Home and hospital visiting. We have a pastoral visiting team who take out home communion to those unable to attend church.

There are 3 primary, 2 secondary Schools/ college. We take collective worship at 1 primary school, plus 2 of the primary schools come to the church at special festivals such as Easter, Harvest & Christmas.



The Benefice of Branston and Burton All Saints

There is also an opportunity to be part of local Further Education college chaplaincy team.

The Carer & Toddler Group has recently come under the support of the church: there is always plenty of opportunities to do 'story time' and much more!

Uniformed organisations: The Rainbow group meets in the church and there are good links with them. There is a Scout group that meets locally which at the moment the only connection with is on Remembrance Day.

A monthly Ladies' Outing is enjoyed by many, including those who are on the margins of church involvement; and an occasional Men's Curry night serves a similar purpose.

Also, we have the Vicarage Garden Parties whilst used as a fundraising opportunity, also gives plenty of engagement with the local community.

Through the process of Shaping for Mission we have built closer links with one of our neighbouring Parishes and we share the Sunrise Easter service with them. I'm sure you would enjoy your curacy with us and we see it as a place where we can learn from each other.

We would identify with the open evangelical/

charismatic wing of the church, but have been known to try a variety of styles of worship: perhaps occasionally with more formality, or more reflective. There would be opportunities for you to try your hand at something new and most of all it is a safe place to try things where you will be loved by the congregation as well as God.



with Christ Church

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.

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.

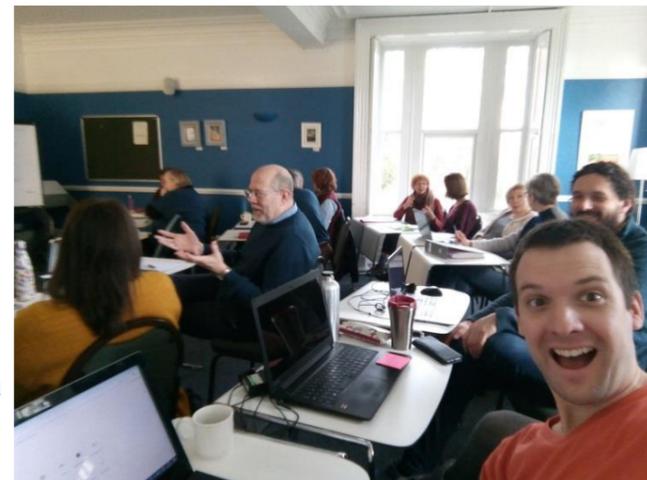
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial 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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[E] romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org

Find us on:

ACHurchNearYou:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4178/> - Branston St Staviours

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4192/> - Burton All Saints

Website:

www.trentsideparish.church

Facebook:

facebook.com/trentside.parish.10

Instagram:

[@TrentsideParish](https://www.instagram.com/TrentsideParish)

Twitter:

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**The Parish of Branston
St Saviour and Burton All
Saints with Christchurch**

**The Love of Jesus Transforming
Lives
Open Evangelical/ Charismatic
worship and spirituality**