

Come follow Christ



in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese  
of Lichfield

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Title post in the  
parishes of  
Little Drayton,  
Woore and  
Norton in Hales



Four churches on the edge  
of a market town

central tradition

# 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

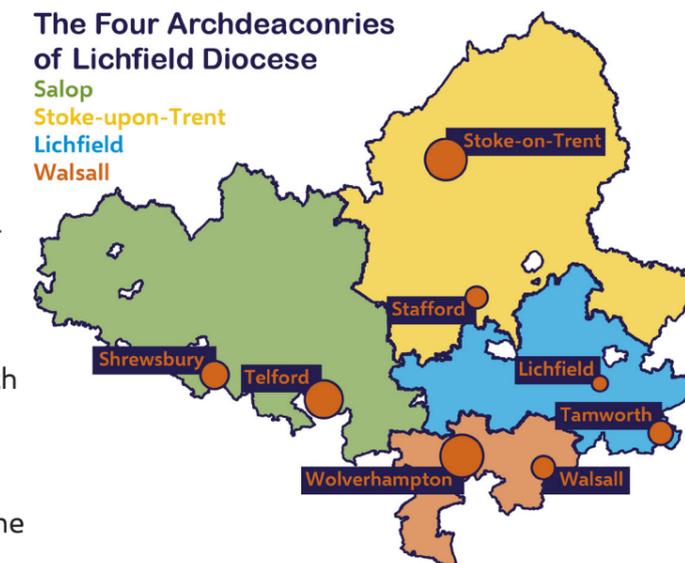
Our vision for the diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in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

Little Drayton forms the east side of Market Drayton, which is a busy and community-orientated market town in the north east corner of Shropshire. The town was given a market charter in 1245 from King Henry III, and it lies on the Shropshire Union Canal. There is still a twice-weekly market held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The town has an approximate population of around 12,000 and is predominately a dormer town, residents being employed in larger towns and cities within commuting distance such as Stoke-on-Trent and Shrewsbury.



There are two main employers in Market Drayton; Müller Dairy, whose main UK base is located here, and Pork Farms previously known as Palethorpes. Not far from Market Drayton is Tern Hill Barracks where the Royal Irish Regiment is based.

The town has the following nursery and schools:

- Mount Lane Nursery – OFSTED ‘Good’
- Market Drayton Infants School – OFSTED ‘Good’
- Longlands Primary School – OFSTED ‘Good’
- Buntingsdale Primary – OFSTED ‘Good’
- Market Drayton Junior School – OFSTED ‘Good’
- The Grove School and 6th Form college – OFSTED ‘Requires Improvements’

The town has a purpose-built primary care centre, which offers a number of healthcare services as well as a doctor’s surgery. Market Drayton has three active community centres, the main one being the Festival Drayton Centre, which offers a cinema, performance space and coffee shop. Many church members volunteer at the Festival Drayton Centre and the church has been actively involved in the centre’s events.

There are numerous active clubs and associations in the town. There is also good access to surrounding larger towns and cities such as Stoke on Trent, Shrewsbury, Telford and



## Norton in Hales



Birmingham.

Further information relating to the area can be located on the following websites:

- [festivaldraytoncentre.com](http://festivaldraytoncentre.com)
- [discovermarketdrayton.co.uk](http://discovermarketdrayton.co.uk)
- [marketdrayton.gov.uk](http://marketdrayton.gov.uk)
- [northshropshire.co.uk](http://northshropshire.co.uk)
- [shropshiretourism.co.uk](http://shropshiretourism.co.uk)
- [enjoystaffordshire.com](http://enjoystaffordshire.com)
- [visitcheshire.com](http://visitcheshire.com)

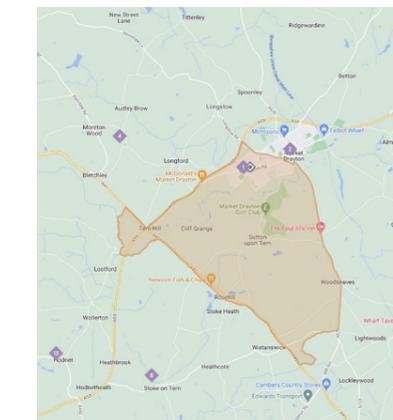
### Services in the church:

Our worship is predominantly Eucharistic and broadly central in character. Three Sundays per month we use Common Worship order one following the lectionary using a modern sung setting. We have a growing singing group and an organist. On the Third Sunday we hold a non-Eucharistic all-age service which is far freer in style and liturgy.

We hold a BCP evening prayer service on the first Sunday of the month and BCP Communion on Tuesday morning.

We are currently trialling a healing service on the third Sunday of the month.

Worship is collaborative at heart being planned by a small worship team.



	Little Drayton	Norton	Woore / Aston
1st	10.00 Sung Eucharist 6.30 Evening prayer	11.15 Praise and Worship	9.30 Godspace Weds 10.30 BCP Communion
2nd	10.00 Sung Eucharist	11.15 Morning Prayer	9.30 Morning Prayer
3rd	10.00 All-Age Service 6.30 Healing Service	11.15 Family Service	9.30 Holy Communion
4th	10.00 Sung Eucharist	11.15 BCP Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer
Tuesdays	10.00 BCP Communion		

# The parishes of Little Drayton, Woore and

## Buildings / Community

Since 1847 there has been a church at Little Drayton. Over recent years the building has been renovated and renewed inside and out.

We have redeveloped the rear of our church into a community area, which can be used by all. Current activities include a monthly film club. We have upcoming outreach events including a coffee morning and an open gardens event round town. We also hold quizzes, along with occasional concerts. We are currently planning some exciting events for our 175th anniversary, including a bridal exhibition and flower festival. We are involved as a church with Foodbank, Churches Together, other CAP groups, MENCAP, CoCo, and other groups within the town; and we are Dementia Friendly.



Our churchyard has been transformed to create a peaceful space and one that wildlife thrives in. We have won several awards for its appearance and for its nature friendliness.

We strive to be a spiritual place of prayer and also a place which serves our town. We are a traditional church with a modern edge. We have renewed the building in which we worship, but more importantly, we have also renewed ourselves as a congregation. We are seen as a family church and members of our parish appreciate pastoral ministry given for baptisms, weddings and funerals. This is part of our pastoral care and outreach.

# Norton in Hales

## Your Training Incumbent

### Revd Jane Morris

1 Christchurch Copse, Christ Church Lane, Market Drayton, TF9 1DY

- **Trained:** William Booth College, Oak Hill Theological College, Cambridge Theological Federation
- **Ordained:** 2016, Lichfield Diocese
- **Curacy:** St Michael's and St Wulfad's Stone with St Saviour's Aston
- **Vicar since** 2018

Jane has had 29 years' experience of ministry within Salvation Army Officership, working within Corps (akin to parish ministry) and also in community social outreach work (such as Night Shelters, Food Banks, Luncheon Clubs, etc). She has been involved with mentoring and leading Salvation Army Cadets (trainees) previously, and really enjoyed her



own curacy in Stone. Although only having been in Little Drayton since 2018, she is sure that this is where God has placed her, and is enjoying ministry here. She looks forward to continuing the good mission already established, and working with the various teams of capable and enthusiastic laity here. At the time of writing, Revd Jane is also the priest in charge of two rural parishes: Woore and Norton in Hales. Under the 'Shaping for Mission' project, the three parishes may well come together permanently, under the one priest.

Jane enjoys people: all sorts! And is passionate about expressing God's love and grace for them, at all times and in all situations. Christ Church is proudly 'owned' by our local congregation, whether they are regular attenders of services or not, and many will pop in to pray, to reflect, or to visit our wonderful, peaceful churchyard.

It would be great if our curate could also capture and reflect the enthusiasm of both church and community in worship, pastoral care and mission. We are growing and listening out for what God has in store for us next!



# The parishes of Little Drayton, Woore and

## The ministry

Christ Church has come a long way in the last twelve years. We take pride in the fact that our church is now open most days. The community is truly a part of the church and this is reflected in the increase in average attendances to 53 for the main Sunday service and to 15 for our Tuesday BCP (Book of Common Prayer) service; although we recognize the need to encourage younger families into the congregation and hence we have introduced the All-Age Service. We are currently welcoming people back to the services safely and still have some covid restrictions in place.

We have two licensed and active lay Readers and one Reader-in-training. In addition to our Readers, we also have a team of three servers who assist with services and altar preparation, as

well as being actively involved in many services. We have a church administrator who is on the payroll and works 16 hours a week for us. She is based in the vestry and at home, and her hours of attendance vary across Monday to Friday.

We would hope that our curate would be fully immersed in both the worshipping and discipleship aspect to ministry, working alongside our congregation, and also with the strong calling to be an hospitable church, looking outwards in community support and care, and in mission. We are a traditional, caring and welcoming church.

### The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2022	Little Drayton	Norton	Woore /Aston
Electoral Roll	74	54	54
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	31	24	14 /0
Average Sunday Attendance Children	1	1	0/0
Baptisms	22	5	3
Marriages	3	4	1
Funerals -church	33	3	7
-crem	5	0	1
-commital	4	2	4



"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

# Norton in Hales

## 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](http://lichfield.anglican.org/curacy)



# Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

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## For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

**The Revd Preb Romita Shrisunder,**  
Bishops' Director of Ordinands  
[M] 07949 033091  
[E] romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org

## Find us on:

ACChurchNearYou:

**Little Drayton:**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/4370/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/4370/)

**Woore:**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/4657/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/4657/)

**Norton In Hales:**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/4659/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/4659/)

Website:  
[littledraytonchurch.com/](http://littledraytonchurch.com/)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/ChristChurchLittleDrayton/](https://facebook.com/ChristChurchLittleDrayton/)

**The parishes of  
Christ Church,  
Little Drayton;  
St Leonards, Woore  
and St Chad, Norton-in-  
Hales.**

**We are drawn closer to Christ so  
that we are sent out for Him into the  
community.**