

Come follow Christ



DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD

in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese  
of Lichfield

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Title post in the  
Parish of  
Streetly



Suburban - evangelical

# 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

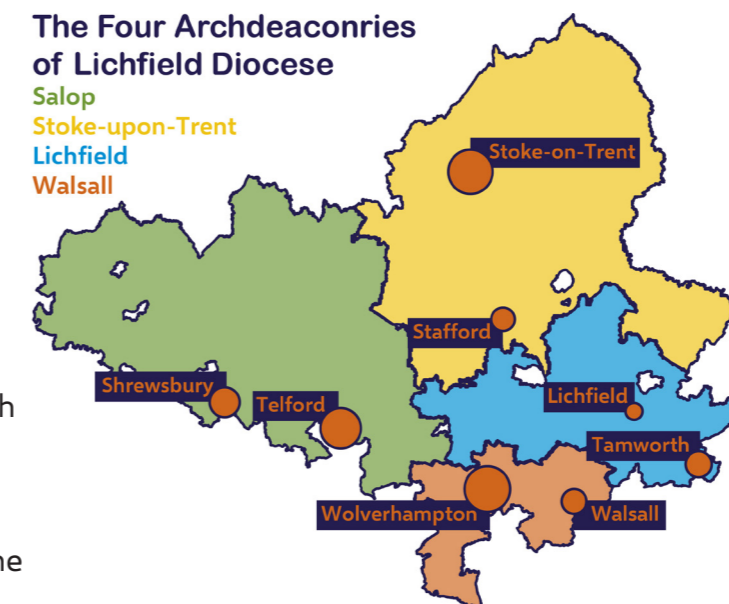
Our vision for the diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in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



# Everything but the sea



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



Streetly Parish is suburbia with a twist!

Lying on the edge of Lichfield Diocese next door to Birmingham Diocese, Streetly sits between Sutton Coldfield and Walsall. The parish is in Walsall Borough and within Walsall Deanery. The parish has a population of 15,000 with four primary and one senior school, four shopping centres, four garden centres with coffee shops, two doctors' surgeries, a community centre, six pubs, two Scout huts, one elderly care home, two Methodist, one Catholic and one Evangelical Free church! No other faith groups worship in Streetly.



The parish boundary lies alongside the great Sutton Park with opportunities for recreation, refreshment, and exercise. This gives Streetly the reputation for being a leafy suburb.

Streetly is a rapidly changing parish in terms of housing, schools, ethnicity, diversity age and church attendance. Although Streetly is the second highest ageing population in Walsall Borough – from the diaspora of Birmingham who relocated in the 1950's, young families are increasingly moving into the area. Despite there being five distinct housing estates, there is little social housing and employment is high with most people commuting to work.



Streetly is very much a parish church, focusing

on ministering to the community with a high number of occasional offices and a focus on pastoral care. The church is looked to by the community to lead civic events e.g., Remembrance Day services, memorials and festivals throughout the year.

## Buildings / Community

The parish Church of All Saints was built as a mission church in 1909 with funds from the mother Church St Margaret's Great Barr and became an independent parish seven years later. The original church is now our Lady Chapel. In 1954 the church tripled in size to accommodate the growing community. In the early 1980s the church hall with kitchen was added and later meeting rooms and church office space.

All Saints has good outside space with two lawns and a private garden. The front lawn is home to Streetly's listed War Memorial and a Garden of Remembrance for internment of ashes.

The buildings are used all week by various community, church and occasional hall hire groups.

## Services in the churches

### Pre-covid pandemic services:

The broad range of worship services and styles reflect a desire to connect with all groups in Streetly community. We stretch between full Eucharistic robed services with occasional incense to informal, unrobed laity and music band led worship – with everything in-between!

Weekly notice sheets are distributed to over 150 people online.

Parish Family Eucharist at 10.00am with adult and young voices choirs, and Route 66 young people's ministry twice a month led by laity.

Baptisms took place once a month at 12.30pm



Evening services at 6.00pm were varied: Taizé, Healing Service, Choral Evensong and Saints Alive – a service aimed at youth and younger adults in employment –focusing on vocation.

Youth Café for 11–15-year-olds once a month with up to forty young people attending, led by laity.

Mid-week Eucharist and Place of Welcome attracts 25-35 people.

Monthly Messy Church led by laity

Occasional services e.g., Pet Service, School Leavers Services, Parade services, Scout, and Guiding services

### During lockdown restrictions:

Daily Morning Prayer at 8.00am and Evening Prayer at 6.00pm led online by clergy and laity. Many of the regular, congregation, parish and our mission partners join us for prayer.

We also provided notices and full orders of services with prayers and sermon for people either to download, collect from the lych gate or have delivered.

During the pandemic we started to record our main services via Facebook live: this has also continued.



# The Parish of Streetly



During lockdown we held several services outside including Easter, Messy Church, Ascension Day, Walking Christmas Tree Festival Services and Crib services.

As we move forward, we are picking up some previous services and altering others. We are taking time out as a PCC in June to pray, pause and reflect where God is calling us to minister as we move forward.

## Our current services:

Daily Morning and Evening prayer online at 8.00am and 6.00pm

Sunday Parish Family Eucharist at 10.00am on the second, third and fourth Sunday, and Parish



Praise (service of the Word led by authorised laity) on the first Sunday of the month.

Baptisms take place twice a month, on the third Sunday of the month at the Parish Family Eucharist and at 3.00pm on the second Sunday of the month.

Messy Church is delivered either in person outside/in church or as a 'pick up and collect' with activities in a bag to have at home.

Choral Evensong has recommenced, and we plan to restart Saints Alive, Youth Café and other evening services later in 2022.

# Context

Streetly people were Birmingham people who moved into new builds in the 1950s into what was a farming community. A new community developed with the parish church as the hub – many of our older church members are this community. In the 1990s the children of this generation found their way back to Streetly. In the 2000s a more diverse heritage moved into Streetly many of whom have developed strong links with the Parish Church ie hall hire, joint social justice projects, attending toddler church groups. the church has worked with other faith groups to build community e.g., collection for Ukraine refugees at All Saints was taken by a Muslim charity to Poland, Christmas Tree Festival planning group with community and church members working together.



# Your Training Incumbent

## Revd Mandy Walker

All Saints Vicarage, 2 Foley Church Close, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield B74 3JX

- **Trained:** Queens Foundation (Birmingham)
- **Ordained:** 2009
- **Curacy:** St Mary's Stafford
- **Vicar since** 2013

Before ordination I worked for 23 years for the NHS as a Clinical Director for Therapy Services and Speech and Language Therapist specialising in brain injury.

Meeting people where they are, exploring faith and journeying together are key to my ministry. As vicar it is a huge privilege to help nurture faith and encourage people in their walk with Jesus.

At the vicarage, I live with my husband Glynn who is a boatbuilder and two grown up children both now at university. Glynn and I have tamed the once wild vicarage garden, we enjoy walking, birdwatching, travel, classic cars, and cooking! I once rode a motor bike and learnt to fly fish!



# The Parish of Streetly

## The ministry

Streetly offers a rich experience for curates from all backgrounds and experience to nurture their calling to ordained ministry. Being a large parish, you can expect:

A sizeable number of occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, funerals which lead to community engagement and encouraging faith to grow. It is exciting to see God at work through families' engagement with life events.

The diverse worship and styles of worship offers curates an opportunity to both contribute, lead and experiment with leadership styles of worship.

Our schools, community centre and uniformed organisations offer opportunities to minister within the parish in different contexts. Being



part of Walsall deanery gives opportunities to engage with hospital and hospice chaplaincy, pioneer ministry and Fresh Expressions. The Shaping for Mission initiative in Walsall Deanery is focussing on working together and sharing ministry. A curate in Streetly Parish would have opportunities to experience other contexts ie, an alternative socio-economic mix and ethnicity to Streetly, working with asylum seekers and street ministry. There are also opportunities of joint worship at key festivals and confirmations.

At All Saints, our leadership team consists of two Church Wardens, three Lay Ministers and a small part time team of highly valued staff: Pre-School Worker, Parish Administrator, Music Director, Caretaker and Cleaner. A team of



"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



Duty Wardens are responsible for opening and closing church for worship. Church members care for the gardens, the buildings, and those who come to use them.

We are planning to install an audio-visual system in 2023 for which funding has been set aside and we are in the process of revamping our website.

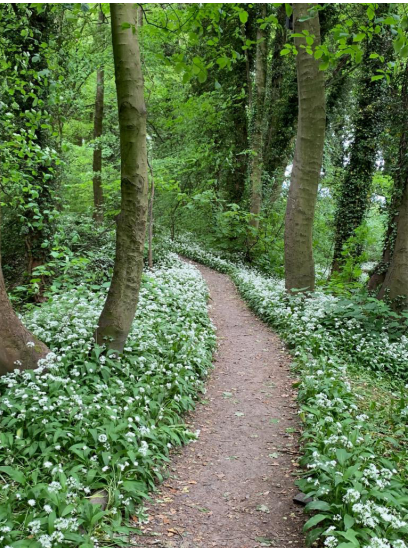
All Saints is an Anglican Church, which is not a building but a body of people, who are seeking to follow Jesus Christ in their daily lives. We seek to learn and pray together to serve the community.

## 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.

### The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2019	
Electoral Roll	187
Worshipping Community:	
U18	54
18-69	73
70+	134
Baptisms	34
Marriages	7
Funerals	39



# 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.

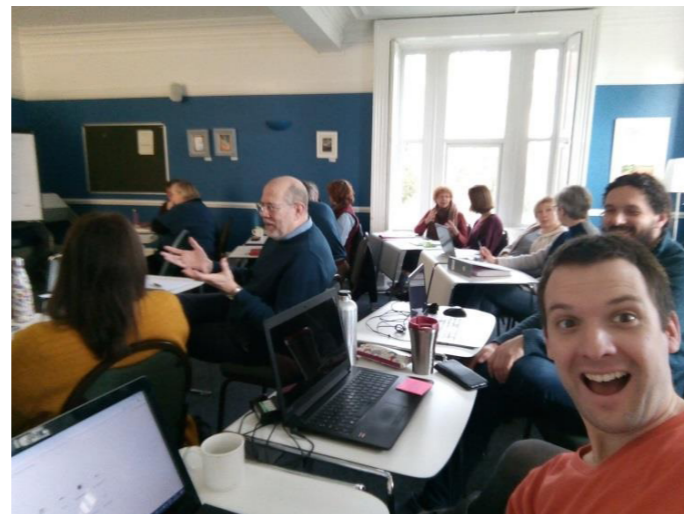
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial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



## 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)

"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



# Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

## 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](mailto:romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org)

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## Streetly

A Parish Church - not a building  
but a body of people  
who seek to follow  
Jesus Christ in their lives;  
learning, praying, worshipping,  
serving the community and the  
wider world.