

Come follow Christ



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese
of Lichfield



Title post at
Telford
Minster



A Bishops Mission Order
Church Plant to the new
expanding town of Telford
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

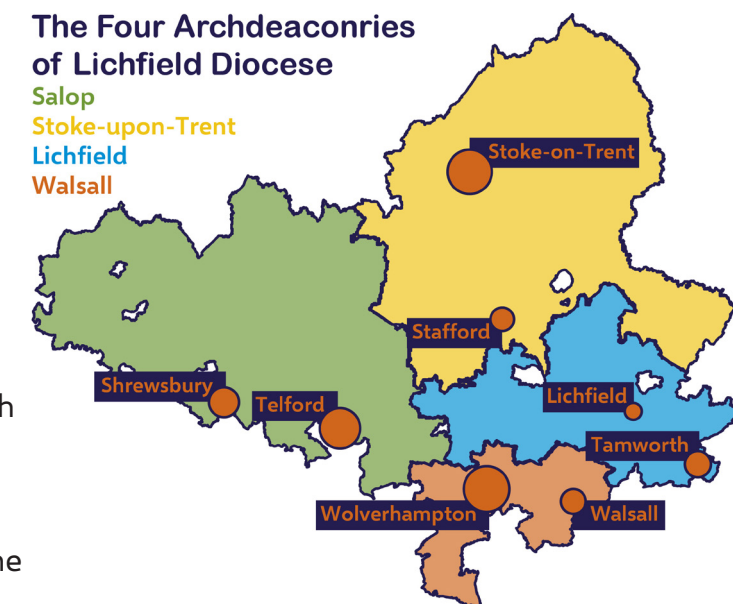
Our vision for the diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in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



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



Telford Minster- Making Jesus Known



Telford Minster is a church set up under a Bishop's Mission Order. It is based in the centre of Telford, with a purpose to revive Christian life in a complex and emerging new town in the northwest Midlands. It also provides a diocesan resource for the wider Salop episcopal area, as well as being missional oxygen for existing churches. Telford lies within the Diocese of Lichfield, with the southernmost edge (Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and Madeley) being in the Hereford Diocese.



The population of Telford continues to grow at above national rates – driven by the expansion of the local economy and record levels of housing growth. The 2011 Census recorded a borough population of approximately 167,000. The demand for new homes is being sustained by significant population growth. ONS figures show that by mid-2017 the population had risen to 178,000. Projected growth between 2016 and 2020 is 5.7% (i.e. an additional population of 9857). Following the adoption of the Local Plan, the borough's population is forecast to grow to around 200,000 by 2031.

Telford churches are located in former towns and villages, which have been swamped by urban sprawl and therefore, largely minister to small parochial populations and families from



Telford is the largest town in Shropshire and one of the fastest growing in the United Kingdom. It is also place of contrasts, a distinctive blend of urban and rural areas, with green open spaces alongside contemporary housing developments and close by are traditional market towns. On the face of it, Telford looks like a prosperous place with some fantastic new developments in the town centre but there are clear differences across the area. Some neighbourhoods and communities are among the most deprived areas nationally, whereas equally some communities are amongst the more affluent in England, although most of these lie outside of the Telford urban area.

ex-mining and heavy industry communities with personal history in the area. There is a considerable mission field with the on-going development of new estates, as they will continue to grow over the next twenty years.

Additionally, the town has eight secondary schools, two technology colleges and a campus for Wolverhampton University - all part of this missional field.



There is a huge opportunity for mission and evangelism and church planting at Telford Minster, as well as a chance to try new things in a developing and changing land.

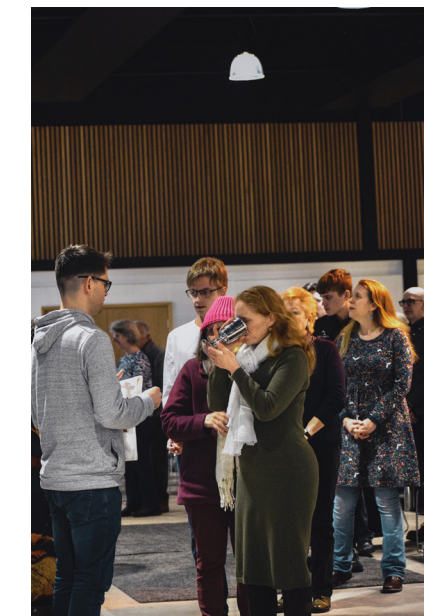
At Telford Minster we are seeking to make Jesus Known!

Gatherings at the Minster:

Telford Minster is an evangelical and charismatic church and aligns itself with the New Wine movement. As a community we are passionate about the scriptures, revealing all that is necessary for salvation and lifelong discipleship. We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the local church and equips disciples to live out their faith in Christ by giving charismatic gifts. These gifts are to strengthen the local church, for mission and evangelism, as well as highlighting sin and calling people to faith.

A curacy at Telford Minster would provide a unique opportunity to play a part in seeing the church grow and eventually plant missional congregations across Telford.

Our Sunday gathering meets at 4pm and consists of a warm welcome with refreshments,



Telford Minster- Making Jesus Known



These communities will meet regularly for discipleship and mission, to pray for and build social outreach in their own areas but will also join the Sunday gathering in the town centre Minster for formation, nurture, celebration and worship. Gathered and scattered church are thus on an equal footing.

Telford Minster will reach children and young people through schools and youth work and some of the ten new Christian communities will be youth communities.

a block of contemporary worship, notices, the word, followed by prayer ministry. There is provision for youth and kids alongside the gathering. Additionally, we hold gatherings appropriate for the church year outside of this rhythm. We also help to resource local deaneries through service cover that are variety of liturgical styles, and we link with parachurch organisations such as Re-source, Filling Station, New Wine and CCX. It is expected a curate would take on some of this responsibility as well.

We also have worshipping communities that meet throughout the week that gather in people's homes and online called Minster Villages. The communities gather weekly and it is envisaged that some will go on to plant churches particularly on new-build estates.



The Congregation in numbers:

Figures from 2022	
Electoral Roll	145
Average Sunday Attendance - Adults	60
Average Sunday Attendance - Children	25
Baptisms	10
Marriages	0
Funerals	0



Buildings / Community

Telford Minster is based in a large, upstairs space which is in the centre of town. The space occupies a newly built shell and has been developed into an extraordinary new worship space with a welcome area, office space and kitchen. We can seat 350 people and due to the quality of the build the Minster has become a popular venue for events for the Lichfield diocese and the wider Telford and Shropshire community.



Telford Minster- Making Jesus Known



Matt Beer is the founding leader of Telford Minster and it was started in his living room in 2019. He has been in some form of Christian leadership since 2010 which has involved planting new worshiping communities. Matt was senior curate at St Mary’s Bletchley where he oversaw the evening congregation and the extensive work with the under 40’s. Matt has also had significant experience of working within the New Wine network leading venues, network groups, and regional teams. He is also on General Synod and hopeful to see renewal come to the church nationally.

Your Training Incumbent

Revd Matt Beer

Telford Minster, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford TF3 4HS

- **Trained:** Ridley, Cambridge
- **Ordained:** 2016 - Oxford
- **Curacy:** St Mary’s Bletchley
- **Vicar since** 2019

Matt, a keen gardener, is married to Emily, who is a research scientist in biological sciences in Birmingham. They have a little boy called Jacob and a very friendly spaniel called Zach.

Matt is an extrovert and thrives through spending time with people. He is passionate about helping people discover their gifting and releasing them into it.

The appointed curate will be line managed by Matt and work closely alongside other members of the team. The curate would have an opportunity to discover for themselves where the Holy Spirit is calling them to minister whilst learning key skills to develop into a strategic leader in the diocese and wider C of E.



Context

Since the economic downturn this century, all of Telford’s children’s and youth centres have closed. Many pubs, which were often the only community meeting spaces in or near areas of new housing, have closed and new estates are being built without buildings for the community to gather.

The biggest contributors to the borough’s economy are distribution, transport, accommodation and food, manufacturing and public administration and education and health. Principal work areas are in Telford town centre, Hortonwood (north), Stafford Park (east and central) and Halesfield (south east).

Telford is situated near the Ironbridge Gorge world heritage site, and is popular for commuters with links to Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury via the M54 that runs through it. By rail, commuting times to Wolverhampton and Birmingham are 20 minutes and 50 minutes respectively. A number of major housing developments are evidently near to the M54; Junction 4 (e.g. Priorslee), Junction 6 (e.g. Lawley), Junction 7 (e.g.



Wellington). The significant i54 business park, 15 miles to the east of Telford, is providing an expanding number of highly skilled and professional jobs (Jaguar-Land Rover, Moog, Eurofins laboratories etc.) and is contributing to the development of new housing to the east of the town.



Telford Minster- Making Jesus Known

The ministry

A curacy at Telford Minster is a great opportunity and there is plenty to do! We work with 5 secondary schools and 17 primary. We have Minster Villages (missional communities) that meet across Telford, youth groups, toddler groups, men’s and women’s ministries, Alpha, board game café, worship and song writing community and a lot more!

A balanced team carries out the work of Telford Minster in its activities in schools, housing communities, and for gathered worship in the town centre. The team consists of:



- Church Leader – Matt Beer
- Associate Leader – Steph Warrell
- Operations Manager – Jem Sheen
- Curate – Laura Lenander
- Worship and Media Pastor – Harry Warrell
- Youth pastor – Nick Stansfield
- Schools and Children’s Pastor – Pam Spellen
- Prayer Pastor – Tam Sheen
- Ordinand’s – Vicky Dunlop and Jeanine Le Long Mckean

To see who’s who please look at the [Telford Minster website](#).

Another key part of the leadership of Telford Minster is our vision team who will eventually become trustees of Telford Minster.



This team, along with the lay people will be the greatest asset of the church. A key task of the church leader and the Bishop of Shrewsbury will be to ensure their vocations grow and their discipleship is deepened through the offering of their talents, time and gifts to Telford Minster.

Vision, values, and priorities

- Prayer- Underpins all that we do. We pray by the Spirit, through Jesus, to the Father, who makes all things new.
- Rested- When we are rested, we find joy in the tasks, satisfaction in achievement, and hope for the future.
- Children and young people- Are active apprentices in our community, fully called to follow Christ; We listen to and discern the

- wisdom given by children and young people.
- Word and Spirit- We teach the Bible, as the active, living and compelling word of God. We are expectant to see the move of the Holy Spirit when we gather, through Signs and wonders, and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit in a healthy and biblical way.
- Being open and accessible- We are committed to share Jesus with others in an approachable way, committed to the truth, avoiding jargon and to not being ‘strange or alien’ in the way we do things.
- Following the Call of Christ- We are open to the commitment and cost of being apprentices of Jesus in our whole lives.
- Resourcing – We are committed to the whole church in Telford and are called to encourage and enable mission across the town.
- The Church - We are a committed part of the Church of England, as a local expression of a national, and worldwide church.



“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

Telford Minster- Making Jesus Known



Our vision.

Telford Minster is a new church called by Jesus to love Telford. We're on a journey led by the Holy Spirit to see Telford Minster established in the Town Centre, with a network of Villages and new Community Churches across the whole town. These will be places of



relational belonging, generous welcome and transformational encounter with Jesus. We aim to be radical apprentices of Jesus, nourished by the word and the spirit into greater depth and maturity. We are making Jesus known in our words and in everything we do.

Our Priorities

Moving towards our 2026 vision Telford Minster has four areas of priority which will be our particular focus, while always wanting to be responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

1. We will build intentional communities of belonging, support, care and nurture in a network of Villages and Communities around our central Hub.
2. We will provide approachable and relational pathways into knowing Jesus, in every dimension of the church's life.
3. We will help apprentices of all ages to grow in their walk of faith in Jesus and to find their unique calling in God's world and Christ's Church.
4. We will provide opportunities to find healing and greater wholeness as key to what it means to be fully alive in Christ and as a gift to the wounded and the broken in our town.



We would hope a curate at Telford Minster would

- Be a lifelong disciple of Christ, committed to personal prayer, worship, and biblical study.
- Be a visionary leader, who gathers and enables others in their calling.
- Passionate about teaching scripture.
- Open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, personally, and during times of teaching and worship.
- Be loyal.
- Have a servant hearted.
- Be courageous.
- Would serve a number of minster communities, as well as lead and preach, and fulfil the diocesan requirements of a curate in training.

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.

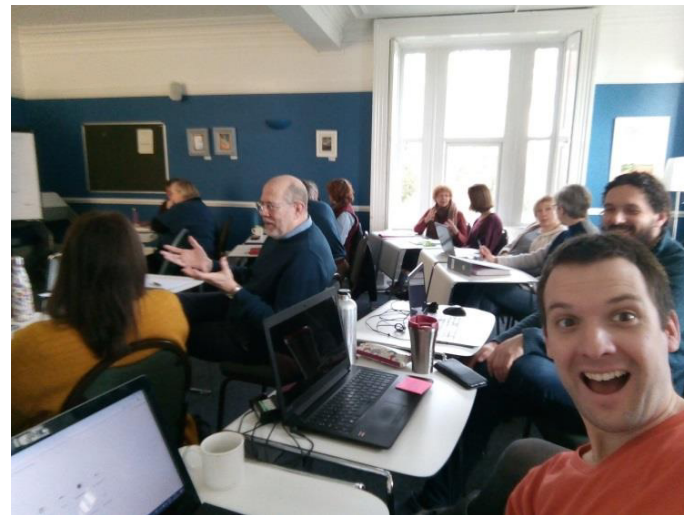
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial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

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Find us on:

ACChurchNearYou:

achurchnearyou.com/church/

Website:

www.telfordminster.org.uk/

Facebook:

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Instagram:

instagram.com/telfordminster/

YouTube:

[youtube.com/channel/
UCOVr5fqEPq9A6CXczfpLzuA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCOVr5fqEPq9A6CXczfpLzuA)



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