

Come follow Christ



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese
of Lichfield



Title post in the
Parish of
St Anne's Chasetown



Former mining suburb
evangelical / central

Welcome to Lichfield Diocese

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

Wherever in the Diocese you may be placed, you will benefit from being part of a wider family, mixing with people serving in a wide variety of contexts – from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire

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

(Diocesan Vision Statement)

Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions – evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic, as we journey together – as a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a ‘spacious and gracious diocese’.

‘...a spacious and gracious diocese

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



+Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield

A caring diocese

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

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

Homes and schools

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

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

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

Vocation and mission of all

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

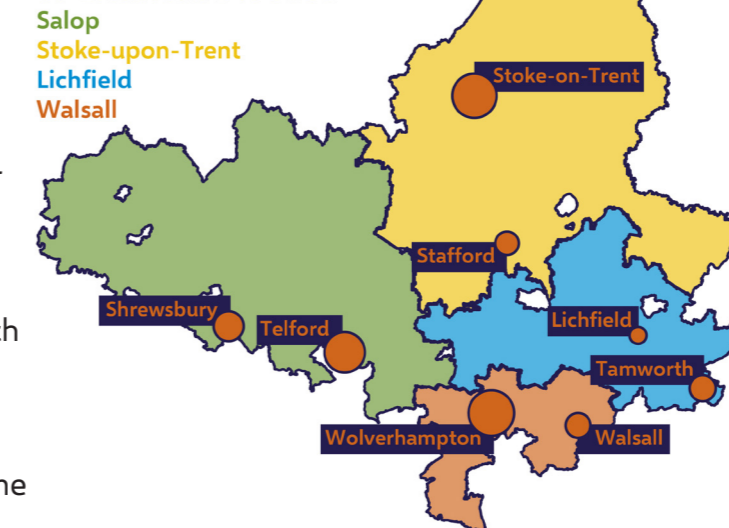
To further these aims, and to develop creative patterns of ministry, we ask all training parishes to offer ‘sixth-day’ opportunities for curates – which might be a chaplaincy attachment (school, hospital, prison or hospice), involvement with local gardening ventures, night-shelter involvement – to mention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



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

Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley

The Four Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese



Everything but the sea



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

Staffordshire prides itself on being ‘the Creative County’: Shropshire is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and the Black Country is renowned for its industry and all have significant opportunities for spouses who wish to develop careers in any sphere.

For those days off when you need space away from the parish, the area has everything you could wish for – except the sea: wild landscapes, cultured museums and stately homes. Sports of many kinds (including Premiership football) and at least two theme parks

Shrewsbury Flax Mill – the prototype skyscraper / Tk420 (Wikipedia) / CC BY-SA 4.0



Opening of the Lighthouse Project at Kingsland CE Academy, Bucknall



Road and rail links



For those with family and friends in other parts of the country, the Diocese has great transport links: the M6/M6Toll bisects the centre of the Diocese north-south, and the M5 originates at our southern tip. Heading west, the A5/M54 give easy access to north and mid Wales, while the A50, A5 and M6Toll give swift access to the M1, M42 and A38 for the East Midlands and the south-east.

Rail links are also good with all major towns having direct services to London and Birmingham and four major airports surround our borders – Birmingham, East Midlands, Manchester and Liverpool.



Dovedale (location of one of the Diocese’s two residential retreat centres) / Shaun Dunmall (wikipedia) / CC BY-SA 2.0 4.0

Leisure and pleasure

Lichfield Diocese has everything but the sea. For walkers and climbers, there’s an extensive network of canals, Cannock Chase, The Roaches, and the Shropshire—Welsh borders (for example). If you’re into more organised fun, Alton Towers and Drayton Manor Theme Park

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



can provide it. And then there’s many museums including Walsall’s New Art Gallery and the RAF museum at Cosford; not to mention excellent sporting options for both watching and participating – from Premiership football to the Tamworth Snowdome. Along with Wedgwood, theatres and cinemas, restaurants and superb tea shops just begging to be discovered...



Apedale Valley Light Railway near Stoke with the adjacent country park and Heritage Centre is one of many transport and leisure museums in the Diocese / Simon Jones

If shopping is your thing, there is a range of options, from the chic boutiques at Barton Marina, and Shrewsbury to large malls in or near the urban centres. We’re fortunate in being the home of many fine ales and beers brewed in Burton on Trent (the museum is well worth a visit), and Staffordshire oatcakes are a unique local delicacy to be discovered.



Wulfrun Centre in Wolverhampton is one of many shopping destinations in the region © Roger Kidd -/ geograph.org.uk/p/1171894/ CC BY 2.0

Alton Towers near Uttoxeter / Jeremy Thompson/Flickr / CC BY 2.0



The Parish of Chasetown

Chasetown lies within the town of Burntwood, about five miles south of Lichfield. Originally a coal mining community, the area still cherishes its mining heritage whilst facing some of the joys and challenges in common with former industrial areas. Chasetown is blessed by the nearby Chasewater Country Park, which is used by many local people for leisure and recreation. It gives Chasetown a surprisingly rural feel, with deer and birdlife around Chasewater drawing



people from a wide area. St Anne's is within easy walking distance of Chasewater and we seek to make good use of our location in every way we can.

About 8,500 people live Chasetown with Burntwood residents totalling around 27,000. Chasetown's population is mainly white British, although this is changing slowly. Many people work in nearby towns whilst some commute further afield, with the nearby M6 Toll making travel easier. There is a mixture of social and owner-occupied housing and a number of good primary and secondary schools in the area, all of which enjoy very good relationships with St Anne's. There are good local medical facilities and a well-equipped leisure centre and swimming pool.

A strong sense of community identity in Chasetown and Burntwood enabled a



remarkable response to the challenge of the Covid 19 pandemic. St Anne's partnered with others in the area to help establish a Covid mutual aid group 'Burntwood Be A Friend'. This collaboration has continued and St Anne's is the administrative base for this special project which is a developing part of the church's community ministry.

St Anne's is keen to serve and be a blessing to its local community – offering a warm welcome to all on Sundays and in the wide range of community activities which take place during weekdays. As we welcome, we seek to sensitively share God's love in deed and word.

The majority of church members are retired and keen to welcome and reach the next generation, with a range of different types of worship service currently on offer.

St Anne's is part of the Burntwood Chase Team of churches, which includes

- **St John the Baptist Hammerwich, St John's Community Church Chase Terrace and Christ Church Burntwood.**

There are good relationships between all the churches in the team.



Services in the churches:

Sunday worship in our morning services is liturgical but informal, with robes not usually being worn. Typically, there will be two Holy Communions each month in the morning, with other Sundays having All Age Worship and a Community Worship Service, in which space is given to hear about some aspect of the life of the local community or the wider world. A data projector is commonly used for morning services, and refreshments after the service are a welcome part of our ongoing church family life.

Evening worship has a more traditional feel, with worship leaders often robing to take the services, which alternate between Holy Communion and Evening Prayer. Our bi-monthly evening Memorial Services are well received by families for whom we have taken funerals. Christenings normally take place on one Sunday each month in a separate afternoon service.

Music usually involves a mixture of piano and a pipe organ with a team of singers helping to lead sung worship. There is a real respect for the Bible and talks and sermons are warmly appreciated.



A midweek traditional Holy Communion takes place each Thursday morning with a well-established and popular Messy Church being offered once a month after school. We are exploring the possibility for further midweek services for those who find weekend worship a difficulty. All of our regular worship services are now livestreamed via our Facebook page (with the exception of Messy Church)

The other churches in the team have a wider range of worship styles, some more informal some more traditional and ministers at each church are expected to be able to lead worship well in all these contexts.



Sunday Worship

1st	10.15 All Age Worship 6.00 Holy Communion
2nd	10.15 Holy Communion 12.30 & 1.30 Christenings 6.00 Evening Prayer
3rd	10.15 Community Worship 6.00 Holy Communion or Memorial Service (bi-monthly)
4th	10.15 Holy Communion 6.00 Evening Prayer
5th	10.15 Holy Communion 6.00 Evening Prayer

Midweek Worship

Tuesday	7.30 House groups/study groups
Thursday	9.45 Holy Communion (traditional)
Thursday	3.30 Messy Church (usually 1st Thursday each month)



Buildings / Community

St Anne's Church is a Grade II* listed building which has a distinctive and welcoming feel, being cherished by many local people. It was built in 1865 at the instigation of a local mine owner to serve the spiritual needs of the local mining community. It was one of the first churches in the world to be lit with electric light, thanks to a cable which was run from one of the local mines.

The building is wonderful and is currently used every day of the week for a range of community and worship activities, but it is in need of renovation and redevelopment.

St Anne's is in the middle of detailed planning for a major reordering of the building to make it fit for missional and community use in the decades ahead, with a desire to make the building environmentally sustainable for the future. The whole project will cost in the region of £1m – and there is work to do in sourcing the funding required.

During the pandemic a marquee was erected on the church lawn to serve as a food help point and a community garden has been planted in recent months.





Your Training Incumbent

Revd Richard Westwood

158a High Street, Chasetown, Burntwood WS7 3XG

- **Trained:** St John's College, Nottingham
- **Ordained:** 2004 Lichfield
- **Curacy:** St Mark's Great Wyrley
- **Vicar since** 2015

Richard was a secondary school Chemistry teacher for 16 years before being ordained and he is committed to work amongst children and young people. With his wife Rose, he leads a local charity 'Link for Life Project' which seeks to link up young people with communities in need in southern Africa. During the pandemic Richard helped St Anne's to start the mutual aid group Burntwood Be A Friend (BBAF) which has become an important part of the ministry St Anne's offers, building on good local relationships.

Richard believes it is important to be nimble and alive to what God is already doing in the community. Being open

to what God may be calling forth is exciting and challenging given that this may stretch the existing boundaries of the church.

A curacy at St Anne's with Richard as TI would seek to offer a curate a supportive environment in which to discover and further develop their ministry gifts, with a strong emphasis on community missional engagement and partnership.



Context



Chasetown has a strong community identity, built upon its proud mining heritage from the 19th and 20th centuries. There are good local amenities and it is a good place to live and work, with Chasewater Country Park being on the doorstep. However, like many former industrial areas it faces challenges which follow on from the closure of one-time major employers. It is the least affluent of the four parishes in the Burntwood Chase Team and within the community there are some pockets of deprivation. Some people face real hardships in their daily life, in areas like relationships and isolation, wellbeing and mental health or simply making ends meet. St Anne's is well placed to minister in this context and has developed excellent community links and partnerships over recent years.

The ministry

St Anne's is a welcoming and kind church. It is also a busy community-based church hub with activities taking place in the church building each day of the week. A curacy served here will benefit from a supportive and caring church family and will involve welcoming and listening to people who use the church and making good connections. This will give good experience and skill development to anyone who in the future hopes to lead churches in community partnership and mission.

The Sunday worship ministry of the church is the heartbeat of its weekday activity and a wide range of people take part in the Sunday worship - with a strong emphasis on every member



ministry so that people are encouraged to offer and grow their gifts.

St Anne's seeks to make disciples for Jesus whilst partnering with the local community in social concern and action. Like many churches, most of St Anne's morning and evening congregation members are retired and a key challenge for the church is to reach the next generation with the good news of Jesus.

At the end of 2021 the PCC reaffirmed and updated its Mission Action Plan and its Mission Statement which is ...

'St Anne's Church is called by God to be ...

An inclusive church, filled with love and trust in Jesus, which listens to and serves the different people who live and work in Chasetown,



"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

offering hope, help and God's unconditional welcome to all'.

The PCC and wider church are fully supportive of these aims and are keen to see them acted out in the life of the church. The congregation give generously to the Lord and St Anne's has been able to cover its major costs in recent years.

We have very good links with two local primary schools and a neighbouring special school as well as the nearby secondary academy. The pandemic significantly hindered this work, but we are now able to recommence our partnerships with them.

Our monthly Messy Church is full of life and has been running for several years and with a wide range of children and families attending. We are exploring how to give these families a 'next step' to take them on in their faith journey.



The churches in the wider Burntwood Chase Team welcome the involvement and ministry of a curate based at St Anne's which will give opportunity for developing a broad range of ministry skills.

The churches in the team are -

- **St Anne's Chasetown**
- **St John's Community Church Chase Terrace**
- **Christ Church Burntwood**
- **St John the Baptist Hammerwich**

Previously the post of Rector was attached to Christchurch Burntwood but after an extended and ongoing vacancy this church has opted to reduce the post to an 0.5 Assistant Minister (shared jointly with Hammerwich). In the coming months there is planned reorganisation of the team and Richard Westwood is likely to become Team Rector.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms in the churches are shared amongst the team of ministers of the Burntwood Chase Team...

- **Revd Richard Westwood (Currently Team Vicar at St Anne's)**
- **Revd Matt Wallace (Team Vicar at St John's Community Church Chase Terrace)**
- **Revd Steve Morgan (SSM Curate at St Anne's completing his curacy in July 2022)**
- **Revd Ruth Edmonds (Curate at St John's Chase Terrace – completing in 2024 or 2025)**

There are licenced lay ministers at three of the churches with Mr Chris Hawthorne being licenced as a Reader at St Anne's in 2021. St Anne's Ministry Leadership Team meets monthly to plan the worship and teaching for the church.



The church office is based in the church and is staffed three mornings each week by a Parish Administrator, who is often the first port of call for anyone contacting the church.

During the pandemic the church was able to respond well to the challenges it brought. Our worship moved online with 'Gathered and Glued' services on YouTube – where different people recorded contributions from home before they were glued together and released. Our online ministry has continued with Sunday services being live streamed via our Facebook page and a Midweek Message being recorded and shared on YouTube each Wednesday. We have used Zoom for some of our meetings and were able to use this platform to run the Living in Love and Faith course recently, alongside a face to face course.



St Anne's ability to engage well with change is encouraging and gives good grounds for hope that it will be able to rise to the challenges in the years ahead, including the need to redevelop the church building.

The recent experience of a curacy at St Anne's of our soon-to-leave SSM Curate has been a very positive one. He has found the church to be supportive and the ministry challenges to be both enlivening and stretching.

The Congregation in numbers:

St Anne's figures from 2021	
Electoral Roll	97
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	52
Average Sunday Attendance Children	4
Average Messy Church: Children	17
Adults	16
Baptisms	8
Marriages	7
Funerals	24



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.

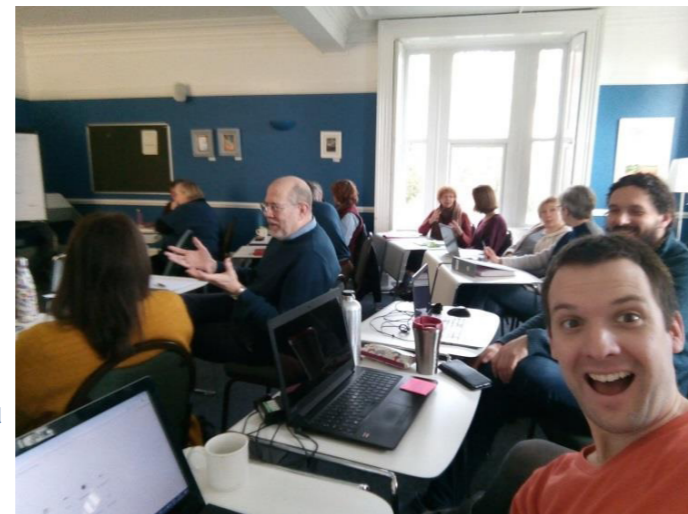
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial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

AChurchNearYou:

achurchnearyou.com/church/4216/

Website:

<https://stanneschasetown.com/>

Facebook:

facebook.com/stanneschurchchasetown

Twitter:

[@stanneschasetwn](https://twitter.com/stanneschasetwn)

YouTube:

youtube.com/channel/UCtFJ8DHv1PI-hqBiF2Z4cxg

St Anne's Chasetown.

a vibrant community
in the heart of
old industrial Staffordshire
linked into a
wider team ministry