

Come follow Christ



in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese
of Lichfield



Title post in the
Parish of
Newcastle under Lyme,
St Giles with
St Thomas, Butterton



Town and village

Central churchmanship

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.

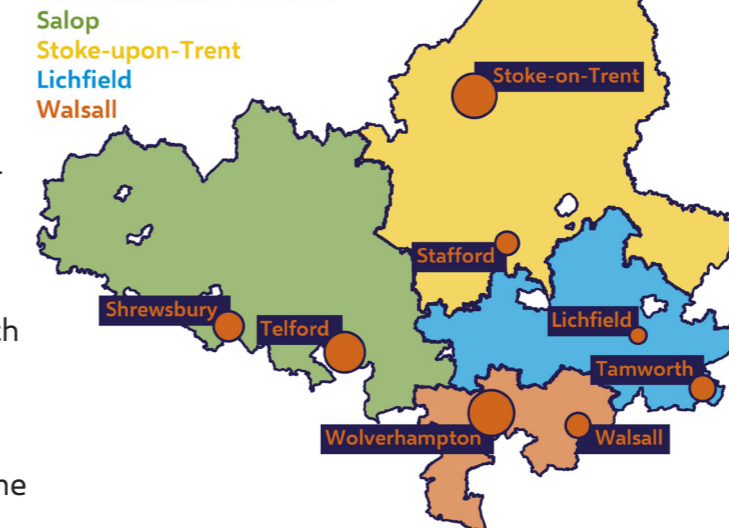
To further these aims, and to develop creative patterns of ministry, we ask all training parishes to offer ‘sixth-day’ opportunities for curates – which might be a chaplaincy attachment (school, hospital, prison or hospice), involvement with local gardening ventures, night-shelter involvement – to mention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

The Parish of Newcastle under Lyme with Butterton comprises of two separate areas, with a total population of c7000. The first area (about two square miles) includes St Giles' Church and covers most of the town centre of Newcastle under Lyme with an area of mixed housing to the west of the town, to the north and south of the Keele Road (A525). This housing includes both affluent suburbia and some of the most deprived areas of the community. Employment embraces both professional and manual work, with much of it now related to the service sector. There are adequate bus services from the suburbs into town and on to Hanley, the city centre of Stoke on Trent.

St Giles is on the high street, which has many shops, cafes and restaurants, an excellent local cinema (with reclining seats), a museum and more.

In this area there are two primary schools, one of them St Giles and St George's Church of England Academy (with which the church has very close ties), a secondary school, Newcastle under Lyme College, and Blackfriars Academy (a school for children with special needs). There are a significant number of students living in the parish, studying at Keele and the University of Staffordshire.

In this area of the parish there are a number of

care homes, at three of which there are monthly services of Holy Communion. The Royal Stoke Hospital boundaries the parish along the A34.

The second area of the parish (also about two square miles) is focused on the village of Butterton, lying south-west of Newcastle off the A53. This rural community, served by St Thomas Church, has a population of c250, most of them retired or working in different aspects of the rural economy.

Overall, the parish has a significant level of social cohesion, with three or more generations of a family all often living close to each other. St Giles is also the civic church of Newcastle, opening up an interesting range of opportunities for mission and service within the wider community. In Butterton, St Thomas is now the only public building, and as such serves as a centre for social events as well as worship.



St Thomas, Butterton

Services in the churches:

St Giles and St Thomas have a wide variety of styles of worship.

Sundays

The standard 10.30am service at St Giles is a robed, sung communion service with choir and organ accompaniment in a standard central church style.

Once a month there is an All Age Worship, which is more informal (without robes), with a band, screen and videos. There is also an 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion fortnightly.

St Thomas has a central church style Holy Communion each week at 9am, with organ accompaniment.

	St Giles	St Thomas
1st	10.30am Sung Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion/ BCP Matins
2nd	8am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am All Age Worship	9am Holy Communion
3rd	10.30am Sung Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion
4th	10.30am Sung Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion
5th	10.30am Sung Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion

Weekly and Monthly

On Wednesday there is a lunchtime midweek Holy Communion at St Giles. Once a month, St Giles and St George's Academy come to worship at St Giles in a service called 'GLOW'. There are also monthly services held at three residential homes/sheltered accommodation complexes.

Special Services

At St Giles, there is a quarterly Messy Church which is very well-attended. As the Civic Church it is involved with several civic services alongside the Council, including leading the Town Remembrance Service, the Battle of Britain Memorial Service, and the annual institution of the Mayor. Several members of the Ministry Team have been asked to be the Mayor's Chaplain on various occasions.

St Giles is considering in the future having a weekly All Age service, in addition to its traditional service.

The Parish of St Giles, Newcastle-under-Lyme with

Your Training Incumbent



Revd Joshua Penduck

The Rectory, Seabridge Road,
Newcastle under Lyme ST5 2HS

- **Trained:** Cranmer Hall, Durham
- **Ordained:** 2014, Lichfield
- **Curacy:** St Chad's, Lichfield
- **Vicar since** 2019

Prior to ordination, Josh was a composer of classical music (and was also part-time Accounts Manager for Brighthouse in Perry Barr, Birmingham).

He comes from the Open Evangelical tradition of Anglicanism, and is Chair of Fulcrum, the organisation which represents open evangelicals in the Church of England. Because of this, he is the Fulcrum representative on the Church of England Evangelical Council.

Josh is married to Shell, who is Priest-in-Charge of Burslem, Stoke on Trent.

He has a love of theology, philosophy, cultural studies, cinema, music, literature, and travel. Josh is deeply interested in the ways the gospel can be inculturated into 21st Century British



culture, in particular how the church should respond to the post-war pop revolution, as well as the ways that Evangelical theology approaches matters such as secularism, climate change, and sexuality.

The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2019	St Giles	St Thomas
Electoral Roll	133	23
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	81	16
Average Sunday Attendance Children	7	2
Baptisms	12	2
Marriages	4	2
Funerals	29	2

St Thomas, Butterton

Buildings / Community

St Giles is the Mother Church for Newcastle under Lyme, and remains a place of civic and cultural importance for the town. As a chapel, it dates back to the early 12th Century, with the tower (built in the 15th Century) as the oldest structure in Newcastle. A new body to the church was completed in 1876, designed by George Gilbert Scott. In 1983, the parish hall was closed and the rear of the nave was turned into a dual-purpose area. Community groups, including uniformed organisations, a mums-and-tots group, a community choir, an elderly 'keep fit' group, and abuse-support groups all use the new church hall. A Heritage Lottery funded project in the churchyard was completed in 2017, allowing for green projects and parking.



St Thomas in Butterton began as a Chapel on the Swinnerton family estate in 1845. Because of this, it is at a distance from Butterton and from the village road. It became part of the parish of Newcastle under Lyme in the early 20th Century, and remained when the parish was divided in the 60s (hence the geographical separation).



The Parish of St Giles, Newcastle-under-Lyme with

Context

Newcastle is a large, post-industrial market town next to Stoke on Trent. It has a proud tradition of independence, hence why it is known as 'the loyal and ancient borough'. It has a population of 130,000. As with many post-industrial towns, Newcastle has been struggling to find a new identity in recent years. Though traditionally it was seen as the wealthiest area of the potteries alongside Trentham, it has economically suffered since the 2008 crash. This can be seen on the High Street, with many shops struggling or even closing (something which has been heightened since covid). This has led to a rise in homelessness around the town. Juxtaposed are some of the wealthiest areas of the Potteries (like the Westlands) with some of the poorest (Cross Heath).

Butterton is a community made up of wealthy retirees and local farmers. Despite being only ten minutes' drive from the town centre, it feels like it is deep in the countryside. The church is the only public building in the hamlet; the nearest community centre is out of parish in Meir.

The ministry

St Giles and St Thomas are two very different churches with a wide range of ministries which a curate can explore. It has a large ministry team, including two SSMs, an honorary associate priest, a part-time children and families worker and a part-time parish administrator. It is currently beginning the process of advertising for a new director of music. There are also two excellent wardens who help with the administrative running of the churches, and a vibrant PCC with several sub-committees.

St Giles is in the open evangelical/central church tradition. It has a diverse congregation of various traditions, ranging from conservative charismatics to progressive liberals and



St Thomas, Butterton



everything in between. Though this diversity can be very enjoyable, it can also mean the congregation struggles to find a unifying theological vision. The congregation is warm and welcoming, and very enthusiastic with putting on social events and taking part in All Age Worship. The age demographic is gradually rising. This has been exacerbated by Covid, which meant that our growing children and families work has been brought back to square one from where it was in 2014. Nevertheless, there has also been a growing number of students in the church in recent months, alongside a growing number of immigrant families. There are 142 people on the electoral roll, and attendance is usually between 50-70 people for traditional 10.30am communion; 60-80 for All Age Worship; 140 for

Messy Church; 8 for BCP Communion; and 10 for midweek communion. There are numerous weddings, funerals and baptisms that happen at the church, though these have become less frequent over the last decade.

Alongside its services, St Giles has several other ministries including a fortnightly Bible study,



an annual lent group, monthly communions in three local residential homes/sheltered housing accommodations, a popular Friday community coffee morning, bellringing, a newly instituted Wednesday fellowship group for pensioners, a weekly mums-and-tots group, a dedicated gardening and green team, and a group who help with the local foodbank (based at the



The Parish of St Giles, Newcastle-under-Lyme with



Congregationalist Church). There are frequent social events throughout the year, including walks, quiz nights and talent evenings.

As the civic church, St Giles has strong links with the mayor, council and business investment district (BID). This means that St Giles is often involved with civic services, including Remembrance Sunday (which usually has an indoor congregation of 400 and an outdoor one of over 3000), the Battle of Britain Memorial Day, the St George's Day Scouts Parade, and annually instituting the new mayor. Because of this historical link, several members of the ministry team have been asked to be the mayor's chaplain, something which a curate may have the opportunity to take up. It has also been asked to host town events, including the Christmas Tree Festival and children's activities for the turning on of the town Christmas lights, and other concerts for local choirs and orchestras.

St Giles shares a church school with St George's. There are strong links between the churches and the school which have flourished in recent years. Alongside leading regular school worship, classes from the school come to St Giles each month for a fun service called GLOW ('God Loves Our Worship'). The rector automatically has a place on the governing board of the school.



St Thomas is in the central church tradition. It has an enthusiastic but small congregation who are passionate about connecting the church to the local village life. This has meant such activities in recent years as a bake-off, a fun run, and an outside nativity (with live farm animals). Nevertheless, they are generally of an older age demographic. There are 20 people on the electoral roll, with attendance averaging at 10.

There are strong ecumenical links, with several ecumenical services being held over the year.

Alongside the many opportunities for exploring various forms of ministry locally – including the Hospital Chaplaincy Team, chaplaincies for



St Thomas, Butterton



various uniformed and military organisations, Keele University Chaplaincy Team, and the Foodbank – a curate would have the opportunity of exploring various sides of civic and rural ministry, school governorship and ecumenical partnerships. In particular, there are opportunities for a curate to be involved with setting up a weekly All Age Worship and an evangelism program (such as Alpha, Christianity Explored or a home-made form). This may help St Giles and St Thomas rediscover an evangelistic spirit alongside its passion for community involvement.

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.



"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

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.

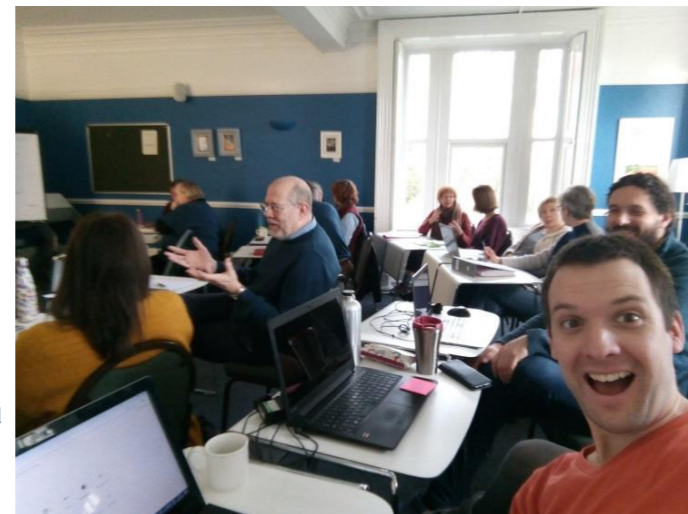
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial 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
[M] 07949 033091
[E] romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org

Find us on:

ChurchNearYou:

St. Giles:
achurchnearyou.com/church/4407/

St Thomas:
achurchnearyou.com/church/4408/more-information/

Website:
stgilesnewcastle.org.uk/

Facebook:
facebook.com/stgilesnewcastle

YouTube:
youtube.com/channel/UC5wm1rOSqpw40OMfvbAW3mg

**Newcastle under Lyme,
St Giles
with
St Thomas, Butterton.**

We are two friendly Anglican churches in the heart of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. We draw our congregations from many walks of life and Christian backgrounds. Our diverse worship reflects this breadth, as we aim to encourage and help each other on our journeys of faith, learn more about Jesus and deepen our experience of him, and reflect his love in our small part of the wider world.