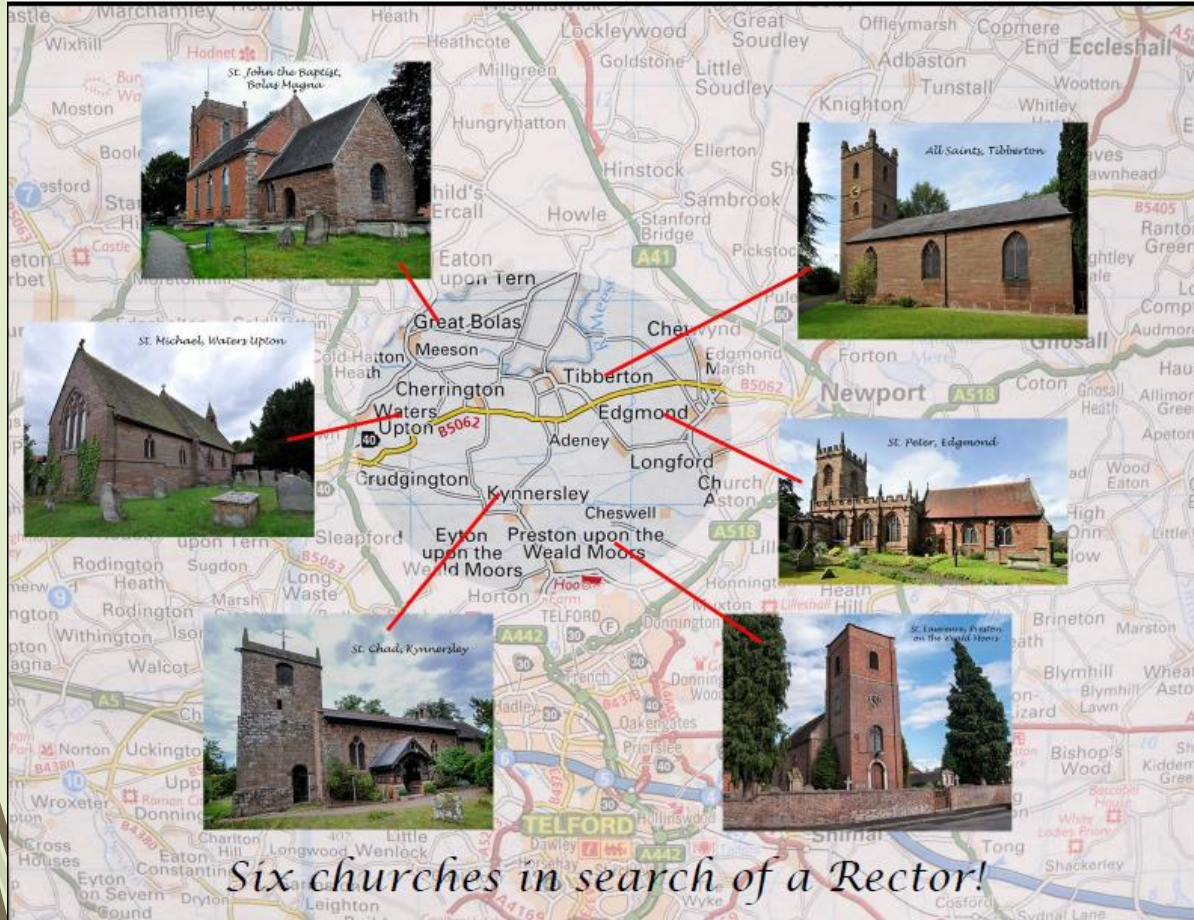


The benefice of Edgmond with Kynnersley and Preston Wealdmoors and,

Start Here

The benefice of Tibberton with Bolas Magna and Waters Upton



We're looking for someone to lead us:

- In worship, prayer and preaching
- In blessing our villages with God's love
- In growing our congregations
- In supporting our work with schools
- and more!



Knock and the door will be opened to you

Contents

• From the Bishop of Lichfield	3
• Welcome from the Bishop of Shrewsbury and the Archdeacon of Salop	5
• Where are we?	6
• Why - 8 reasons why you should consider us	7
• The post and what we have to offer	8
• Services - Current Worship Pattern	9
• Statistics	10
• Challenge	11
• Skills	12
• The Role	13
• Parish of St Peter - Edgmond	14
• Parish of St Chad - Kynnersley	16
• Parish of St Lawrence - Preston	18
• Parish of All Saints - Tibberton	19
• FLOURISH	21
• Parish of St John the Baptist - Bolas Magna	22
• Parish of St Michael - Waters Upton	24
• Role Description	25
• Person Specification	26
• Contact Us	27

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Foreword



From the Bishop of Lichfield

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.

St Chad, Lichfield's first Bishop, journeyed around Mercia with heavenly hope and the good news of Christ's resurrection. He believed that there was 'a new opening for the gospel' in Mercia. Many people became followers of Jesus.

Accounts of the apostles' journeys, as they travelled in the power of the Spirit, with little other than the stories of Christ's life, crucifixion and resurrection, were Chad's only companions. His plan to walk Mercia was as daring in its simplicity and boldness as God trusting the gospel first to the shepherds and then to just twelve apostles.

Chad set out believing that he would bear fruit, and that the kingdom of God would grow. Bede describes Chad as 'humble, devout, zealous and apostolic'.

Today, in our much more complex world, I recognise a similar opening for the Gospel in these parts and I invite you to join with me in seizing this opportunity to follow Christ in the humble, devout, zealous and apostolic footsteps of St Chad.

Over the centuries, we have become immersed in Chad's legacy - as we are immersed in Christ at baptism. Chad's church of ordinary Mercian people became a growing community of Christian faith through the example of Chad's pilgrim life and ministry pointing to Jesus. This must have encouraged him in his arduous and sacrificial journey for the sake of the gospel. To truly follow Christ in Chad's footsteps today, we must be committed to this life and ministry. **This is zealous.**

Foreword

From the Bishop of Lichfield

Chad's legacy of a vibrant community of faith leads us today to charge our clergy with nurturing, outside weekly worship, confident knowledge of the faith handed down to us. Such faith is characterised by a readiness in each member of our worshipping communities to speak about what Jesus Christ means in their lives and how they are being shaped by him. Doing this, we will recognise and rejoice in the gifts of all those, lay and ordained, who contribute to the life and ministry of our churches. **This is apostolic.**

Our clergy should take responsibility for their own flourishing and effectiveness, supported by the wellbeing and learning programmes in development and through prioritising participation in peer support and review. Chad would have been spurred on seeing God's unfolding plan in Mercia, just as the flourishing of the gifts of all God's people can contribute to our clergy's human flourishing and effectiveness as ministers. **This is humble.**

Together, as the Body of Christ in this place, reflecting Chad's legacy in giving priority to purposeful evangelism, creative engagement with local communities, and to becoming more diverse and growing younger, our trajectory is given full expression in our diocesan strategy, 'Seeking the Kingdom'. It is a manifesto for what I invite us by God's grace to achieve as a diocese.

If we are truly to follow in Chad's footsteps together, we will go forward with his devotion to prayer. So doing, we will go believing that God will be faithful and will build his kingdom. **This is devout.**

Our journey together begins with our vision prayer:

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 you, O God already at work in your 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.

+Michael

Welcome from the Bishop of Shrewsbury and the Archdeacon of Salop

Foreword



We're delighted that you're looking at this post, as Rector of Edgmond with Preston Wealdmoors and Kynnersley, and Tibberton with Bolas Magna and Waters Upton. We pray that God will give you a clear sense of whether he might be calling you to serve in this role. Should you join us here, we look forward to working with you in God's service!

In Lichfield diocese, much of our shared life, leadership and mutual support is lived out through episcopal areas, so we would expect to get to know you and to encourage you in your ministry and mission here. We have much to do in God's service, and a wonderful area in which to serve him together.

The Shrewsbury Episcopal Area (which covers the same area as the Archdeaconry of Salop) covers a large area and many communities across North Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Reaching from the Cheshire border in the north to the edges of the Shropshire Hills (and the Diocese of Hereford) in the south, and from the outskirts of Wolverhampton in the east to across the Welsh border in the west, it includes churches of all sizes, traditions and history. Mostly rural, we also serve the ancient town of Shrewsbury, fast-growing Telford, and a number of substantial market towns, *Seeking the Kingdom* of the one God whose love is constant in all places.

This post will give the new Rector opportunities to lead mission and ministry in and through six varied and positive parish churches, as part of a Diocese and Area committed to our rural parishes and communities. Among the priorities discerned by the parishes here (as part of their reflection on our diocesan vision of *Seeking the Kingdom*) are numerical growth in congregations, community engagement, school ministry and broadening the age profile of the congregation. If these match your priorities in ministry, we would love to work with and support you in bringing them to reality.

We hope that this profile gives you enough insight into the Benefices and the role of Rector to discern with God whether or not to apply. If you'd like to know more before deciding, please contact Archdeacon Nick on 07506 748 702 or at archdeacon.salop@lichfield.anglican.org.

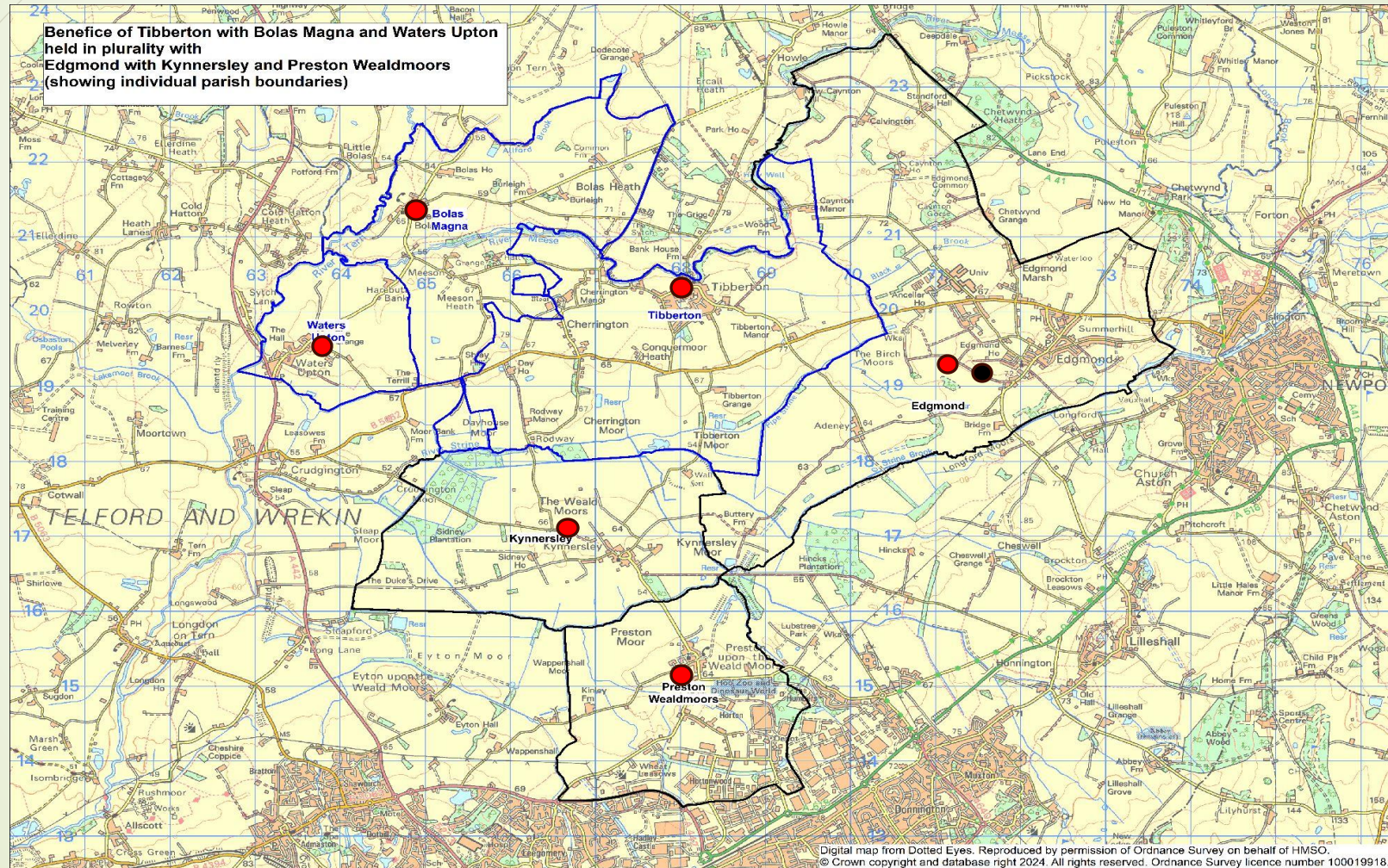
Thank you.

+Sarah and Archdeacon Nick

Where are we?

We are 2 Benefices covering six parish churches: **Benefice of Edgmond**, with Kynnersley and Preston Wealdmoors; **Benefice of Tibberton**, with Bolas Magna and Waters Upton.

We are rural parishes to the west of Newport and north of Telford and most of the village and hamlet communities can be easily accessed off the B5062. It is approximately 8 miles distance from one side of the grouping to the other. There are three Church of England Primary Schools across the two benefices and Harper Adams University in the Parish of Edgmond. Although there are no formal links with this body, the University maintains a chaplaincy service with the current chaplain being part funded through Diocesan support.



Church



Rectory

Scale



8 reasons why you should consider us

Why?

- ✓ We offer a big welcome with a dedicated team of volunteers, both clerical and lay
- ✓ Opportunity to live in a beautiful rural area, but with easy access to the market towns of Newport and Shrewsbury, and good access to the larger towns of Telford and Wolverhampton
- ✓ All 6 Churches are within 7 miles of the Rectory
- ✓ 6 PCCs all with Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary who are open to considering Benefice-wide PCC meetings to reduce meeting overload
- ✓ 6 Churches that are in reasonable repair
- ✓ For anyone with a young family, access to great C of E primary education and in the catchment area for secondary education at 2 state grammar schools in Newport, and also one comprehensive school, Burton Borough
- ✓ Opportunity to work with the C of E FLOURISH project to develop worshipping communities in schools
- ✓ Variety of social events across the 6 parishes to develop links with the Communities

read on for more details of this opportunity

What we have to offer

The Post

The Rectory is a modern detached house standing in a large private garden laid mainly to lawn with some mature trees, located off the High Street in the Edgmond conservation area. The accommodation comprises living room and dining room, kitchen with breakfast area, utility room, large study, cloakroom, 4 double bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room.



- ❖ We currently have one self-supporting Minister, one licensed Reader, one priest with PTO (Bolas Magna only), and a number of Lay Worship leaders from the parishes who take services on a regular basis. Support is also provided for prayer and pastoral care.
- ❖ We have an administrator employed by the two benefices for 10 hours per week, who works from the church office in St Peter's between 10am and 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The remaining 4 hours are normally worked from home. Among many other things, she deals with all enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals, organises the rota for Sunday services each quarter, and keeps us in touch with everything that is going in our churches.
- ❖ We offer financial support for an annual retreat. We expect you to take all your days off and your annual leave entitlement in accordance with diocesan guidelines. Parish expenses will be reimbursed in full, in line with national guidelines.

Current Worship pattern

Services

We use the form of the Order for Holy Communion, (derived from the Book of Common Prayer) taken from Common Worship, Order One and Two. In addition, there are other styles of worship, namely Service of the Word, All-Age Worship, and Morning Prayer. The non-Eucharistic services are usually led by Lay Worship leaders.

There is a service in most of the six churches every Sunday morning, apart from when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when all six parishes gather for a joint service at one of the churches. Each church has managed at least one Holy Communion service each month during the vacancy, at which visiting clergy officiate and Lay Worship leaders assist. Previously, there were two Holy Communion services each month in most churches, with Morning Prayers or Service of the Word on the other Sundays. The Rector, Curate and PTO lead a Holy Communion services across three of the parishes, (although the PTO covers Bolas Magna only) and the licensed Reader and Lay Worship Leaders cover the others. We also have weekly Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Currently, the self-supporting minister, and licensed Reader, together with a part-time administrator, plan a rota quarterly. In addition, there are a number of Lay Worship leaders across the two benefices who contribute to the process, aiming for services to be delivered to all six parishes. An example of a monthly rota for the month of July 2025 is shown below.

Our Curate visits Deansfield Care Home in Kynnersley with a member of the congregation to assist in holding a Service of the Word every other month. Our churches are certified as dementia friendly churches.

Rota July 2025						
Date	Edgmond	Kynnersley	Preston	Tibberton	Bolas Magna	Waters Upton
6 th July	10.30am	10.30am	No Service	10.30am	10.30am	9.15am
Trinity 3	Holy Communion	Holy Communion		Service of the Word	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
13 th July	10.30am	No Service	10.15 am	9.00am	10.30am	9.15am
Trinity 4	Holy Communion		Family Service	Holy Communion	Service of the Word	Morning Prayer
20 th July	10.30am	No Service	9.00am	10.30am	10.30am	9.15am
Trinity 5	Holy Communion		Holy Communion	All Age Worship	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
27 th July	10.30am	No Service	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am	9.15am
Trinity 6	Service of the Word		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion

Statistics

Parish	Electoral Roll	Weddings	Funerals	Baptisms	ASA (over 16)	ASA (under 16)	Easter Day	Christmas Day
Edgmond	88	3	5	4	30	2	63	27
Preston	19	0	2	1	10	0	16	12
Kynnersley	24	0	2	2	9	0	12	0
Tibberton	26	1	4	2	14	0	18	25
Waters Upton	29	1	2	3	9	0	25	25
Bolas Magna	40	0	1	0	8	0	16	24
Overall	226	5	16	12	80	2	150	113

Special services throughout the year include Clypping at Edgmond (see page 15), Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Carol Service and Christingle. All of these are well attended, especially Christingle.



Remembrance



Clypping at Edgmond



Christingle

Challenge

Maturing Congregation

- The age profile of our congregation is significantly older than that of the wider community, in a location where there are many young families and schools.
- We would like a Rector to help us reflect the demographics of the community in our churches by engaging more widely with all the residents of the Parish.

Drawing people in

- Many people orbit the outer circles of our Church, volunteering and joining social events. We want to encourage them to gravitate closer.

Growing Faith

- We seek to encourage all those in our community who wish to grow in their faith by offering a variety of services, courses and groups to fit their particular needs.
- The PCC & Church Leadership are open to considering new styles of worship that a new Rector may seek to introduce.

Children and Youth Ministry

- With around 500 children in 3 primary schools and more at local secondary schools, there is the opportunity for development and growth.

Population Growth

- The village of Tibberton is growing in terms of new housing developments. This is an opportunity to encourage new people into the life of the Church and Community. In addition, 24 new houses have been built in the village of Edgmond.

Develop the Lay Ministry Team

- The lay ministry team has the potential to develop its members through projects and specialisation into areas which need revitalisation or further support. This includes ministry to children by working with the three C of E primary schools, ministry to the sick and those needing home communion and ministry to the elderly, who may be in their own home or a residential nursing home.

Working Together

- We need to work more closely together across the six parishes to share experiences which avoid the need to re-invent the wheel.

Skills

We are looking for a full-time incumbent, covering the six parishes - someone with a depth of spirituality based on the Bible and prayer, coupled with a dash of realism and a good sense of humour; someone who can lead us in worship and will commend to us the Christian lifestyle, so we grow as Christians. Normally we follow the Church of England lectionary.

Drawing people in - It is important to the diverse congregations of the churches that everyone is welcomed into the church community, making them feel at home, valued and accepted whatever their background, giving the opportunity to share fully in worship, prayers, bible reading and the social activities of the church, so they look forward to coming every Sunday.

Pastoral Ability - Wide pastoral skills are required by the Rector to provide for the needs of the congregation and parish. The range of churchmanship in the congregations is very broad. He/she needs to value different traditions while getting people to work together across the group of parishes. He/she needs to be seen in the community, be approachable, understand different individuals' various needs and through their work creating trust, be known by parishioners and welcomed by them, ultimately attracting more people to enjoy our churches and what they stand for.

Ability/vocation with children - to continue and strengthen the church/school links, as a two-way process, and encourage/promote more opportunities for the involvement of children in church life.

Empathy - The Rector needs to be able to empathise with all manner and conditions of people.

Leadership Skills - As a covenanted parish in shared leadership between the clergy and lay ministers, the Rector needs to be well organised in managing people and needs to delegate effectively.

Christian-giving - We are confirmed as 'good neighbours', the Rector needs to encourage a culture of Christian giving to those in need both locally in the UK and internationally.

Rural Community - It is expected that the Rector will maintain a real interest in and an understanding of rural issues and communities.

Administration - Good communication skills are needed by the Rector for communicating plans and information by e-mail, website and hard copy.

The Role

As well as taking Sunday and weekday Services as part of the rota, plus occasional baptisms, weddings, and funerals, the Rector also has the following responsibilities:

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Governor of three C of E Primary Schools at Edgmond, Tibberton and Preston

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Only St Peter's at Edgmond has a regular Sunday attendance of children - currently, an average of two per week, but children do attend at special events and occasionally for festivals across all churches. The 3 schools all attend church for services at the end of each term and all the year 6 leavers are given a Bible at the summer service. Little Fish has been restarted in Edgmond and is a small but thriving group led by a small group of lay leaders. A number of the children who attend have been baptised in St Peter's church.

In July 2024, the Church of England announced a new network of worshipping communities in schools and colleges as a pilot phase in 40 locations, of which Tibberton school was selected – this is known as the FLOURISH project (see page 21). It aims to establish closer partnerships between schools and churches. The project encourages children, hopefully followed by their families, to engage with the Christian message. The project is for two years, at which time it will be reviewed.

Naomi Robinson is the appointed enabler from the diocese. She is in Tibberton School on a Tuesday and Thursday and has successfully run afterschool clubs each term to engage children with Bible stories, singing and prayer. The last club attracted 23 children, with our Curate attending whenever possible. Naomi has also engaged with All Age services in the church and attended events within the village. There have been ongoing discussions and activities with the local C of E primary schools. Different churches within the group have tried initiatives such as children's workshops, Messy Church, school services and singing with the choir.

FAMILY LIFE

Currently, the churches have an open baptismal policy. There are normally a number of weddings, and it has been the custom to re-marry people who are divorced. In respect of Funerals and Cremations, a visit is made to the bereaved in their homes prior to the service. Home Communion is held in both nursing and residential homes, as well as in the homes of anyone who is unable to get to church, especially for the great festivals. Lay members also take Communion to the sick and housebound and those in the residential home. Wherever possible, visits are arranged to the sick, the housebound, and those in local hospitals.

Edgmond



The Area

With a parish population of over 2200, Edgmond is small enough to be centred on one main village, but large enough to support various amenities and activities. This population includes resident students (c. 750) of Harper Adams University, based within the parish and with their own chaplain. Edgmond is a community that prides itself on neighbourliness with a neighbourhood watch group, street warden scheme and a quarterly community update from the parish council. Edgmond village would overall be considered to be relatively affluent and middle class, with residents dominated by professional, managerial or administrative AB and C1 social grades. Overall, it is a parish of mixed age and a village population that is not generally transient. Edgmond is seen to be a community to 'belong to, put down roots, get involved in or see out your days'. As well as the church, Edgmond has a thriving C of E Primary School and Nursery, shop with Post Office, two pubs, village hall, sports field, bowling club, play areas, vehicle repair garage with MOT testing station and many active community groups.

Edgmond Church

St Peter's Church is a Grade 1 listed building and there has been a place of worship on the site since 1080. We have two churchyards and a church field which can be used for overflow parking, but is otherwise maintained for wildlife conservation.

The church maintains Sunday and weekday services each week and has daily open access during daylight hours. For many across the group of six parishes, Edgmond is seen as the 'mother church' having the largest parish population, electoral roll, church attendance and range of activities.

Our Sunday Service is supported by a robed choir and resident organist. A 9.30am Holy Communion service is held on Thursdays, twice a month, with Morning Prayer and Bible Study held weekly via Zoom. These are open to all six parishes. We also offer a monthly "Little Fish" group for babies and pre-school children. Occasional reflective services and quiet days are held throughout the year. Tradition is important across the church's year with services or events to mark Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Rogation Sunday, Ascension Day, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and the very popular Christingle. We have the honour of holding the world's longest kept ceremony of 'clypping' (encircling) the church, held annually on the Sunday nearest to our Patronal Festival, St Peter's Day, at the end of June. This involves the church congregation and villagers joining hands to form a circle around the church seeking God's blessing for the year ahead.



Edgmond

Strengths and Weaknesses

We have a very good link with St Peter's C of E Primary School and Nursery, whose headteacher is a member of our church choir and encourages her school choir to join our special services. School end of term services are also held in church. The local Scout Group take an active part in the Remembrance Service, prepare Christingles, and assist our Grasshoppers team in churchyard maintenance. We are proud to have achieved a Bronze Eco Church Award, and we have links with Edgmond Wildlife Group.



St Peter's has a fine ring of eight bells and is recognised as an official Training Centre, part of 'Round the Wrekin' Training Hub. The Edgmond branch of the Mothers' Union meets monthly and is the only surviving branch in the Deanery.

St Peter's is not easily accessible or visible from the centre of the village and the lack of a church hall is a disadvantage. We do however have a kitchenette, toilet and moveable pews to enable us to offer concerts, quiet days and harvest lunch. There are no formal links with Harper Adams University, so few students come to Church. Our Income has reduced in recent years and we're facing some major church fabric projects. We hope to reinstate the Friends of St Peter's in order to reach out to the wider community.

Reflection

As is often typical rurally, St Peter's is seen by many to be an integral part of village life and being one aspect of a well-resourced community. In blunt terms this could be because it provides the place to 'hatch, match and despatch', host the school end-of-term service, provide the warm glow of a packed Christingle service on Christmas Eve and the quirky Clypping summer event encircling the church holding hands.

All this though and more are connections that the church makes, and they need to be valued and considered for the missional opportunities that can arise. In essence, many villagers value the church as a focal point of the community and feel that it is 'their' church, but interest in it as a place of worship is far less significant.

Edgmond and St Peter's are busy communities with a lot of visible activity. There is a sense of connection, sharing, of giving and receiving in both directions and the church can be a witnessing presence of faith being lived out in action and in hospitality and welcome. Through its life and work, St Peter's aims to demonstrate God's kingdom and love, and live in the discipleship of Christ. That is generally not through a 'hard sell', but more of an initial 'come and experience' and see what we are about.



We are currently only a few, but we would love to be many more

Kynnersley

The Area

Kynnersley is a small rural village situated on the Weald Moors, an area of wetland which was drained for agricultural use. There is a visible historical element to the village, with most of the area being part of the old Duke of Sutherland Estate. The oldest house is the Grade 2 listed Whym Cottage, dating from the 16th Century. The village is now designated a Conservation Area. The village has a population of 224 and some new recently built properties have brought more children to the village. There is a small village hall, regularly used for village and church social and fundraising events. There is also a residential home, located next to the church and a small part-time shop.

Kynnersley Church

Dates partly from the 13th Century and has an unusual bell tower built in 1674. The present church consists of a nave, chancel, western tower and a south porch added in 1884 when the church was restored internally. The church managed to escape a large fire which destroyed the south and eastern parts of the village in 1791. The registers of the church date from 1691. The Church is in a good state of repair, with significant maintenance work undertaken in recent years. The Alexander Young Organ was fully restored in 2014 with the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In the past year work has been carried out in accordance with our latest Quinquennial Inspection report. Our churchyard is full, but our nearby burial ground is open for burials and is managed again by volunteers. We are currently working with the local Parish Council and Highways department to improve pedestrian accessibility to the burial ground.

We only have one Church service a month. We occasionally have a visiting organist, but often rely on music played via Bluetooth and an amplifier system. Other special services include an occasional Pet Service and Plough Sunday. Last year we had a successful "Hymns and Pimm's" service. The services at Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday are very well supported and the church is usually full for Carols by Candlelight, with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

We have an active PCC and other enthusiastic volunteers, who prepare the church for services and support church events. Our fundraising (and outreach) activities include a regular Harvest Supper. We have also recently held a Vintage Tea Party and a Vintage Vehicle Day.

St Chad's volunteers work hard through fundraising events to raise money for the upkeep of the church. In recent years we have also given significant donations to the Alzheimer's Society, a local Alzheimer's Support Group and Shropshire Rural Support. The church has paid its full Parish Share and has a healthy separate fund, restricted to the maintenance of the church.





Reflection

Our fellowship and involvement in the local community is at the heart of what we do at St Chad's. We are relatively few in number, but we are very active and supportive of each other. We strive to reach out and include as many people as possible in our popular themed services throughout the year. We are grateful for the support of our members in not only maintaining the church, but also regularly cleaning, providing flowers and baking for our events.

We provide pastoral care when needed and visit the residents and staff at the residential home next to the church.

We are a friendly group who support each other and our community. We continue to make our church accessible to all, with our door being always left unlocked for visitors to call in, with information readily available about the church and its history.

We are all strongly committed to serving each other and our community by sharing our roles and responsibilities, so that tasks do not fall to just one person, and we try to work as an effective, albeit small team.



Our primary challenge is to increase the number of parishioners who join us and support us.

The following text used to be written in red and gold over the chancel arch in St Chad's:

"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

We are currently only a few, but we would love to be many more and we strive to make this the case in future.

Preston

Small, but well formed

The Area

The village of Preston upon the Weald Moors lies a few miles north of the Shropshire Town of Telford. Its claim to fame is that it is allegedly the longest village name in England. Weald is a corruption of Wild and refers to the low-lying wild forests to the North, although they were all drained more than 200 years ago! The Parish includes the village of Preston, along with the adjoining village of Horton and several Hamlets; in total around 400 residents. There are no active plans for any significant building.

Preston Church

The church of St. Lawrence stands on the high point of the village and has a small but regular congregation. We hold three services a month in Preston, with the fourth being held jointly with the adjoining Parish in Kynnersley. Special Services include Plough Sunday.

Community

The church boasts a small modern kitchen and disabled toilet facilities. These facilities enable us to run a monthly Lunch Club for the local community, which attracts around 25 people. There is also a monthly Church Book Club.



School

St. Lawrence's C of E School, a short distance from the church, is the local Primary School seen here on Coronation Day. Ties with the school are strong; church members attend special school services such as the school leavers assembly, where we give a bible to all those leaving. Pupils from the school reciprocate by taking part in church services. It is always a delight when they come to our Harvest Festival Service and Village Carol Concert.



A welcoming village Church with a focus on community

Tibberton



The Area

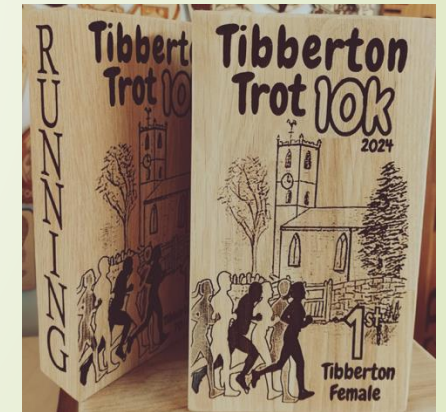
The Parish of Tibberton & Cherrington covers an area of around 2.5 square miles. There are now 425 houses in the Parish, with a population of about 1400. Around half of these houses have been added in the last 7 years, changing the demographic of the village to a slightly younger age profile. Tibberton is a residential / commuter village and nowadays also a work from home village. One farm and two agricultural contracting businesses remain. The village also has a public house -The Sutherland Arms, a busy Village Hall, a thriving community-run Village Shop and a CE Primary School.

Tibberton Church

Our Church has a regular organist, and an enthusiastic team of campanologists ring the five bells on most Sundays. Everything is fully prepared for all services – hymns chosen, readers assigned, and a sides person at the door to greet people as they arrive. Services are enhanced by the participation of lay members of the congregation who read, lead intercessions and administer the chalice. The last Quinquennial Inspection for our Grade II listed building was in 2024, identifying some necessary minor repair work. The Churchyard is adjacent, maintained by a team of volunteers.

Church Finances

In 2024, expenditure marginally exceeded Income, but we retain a healthy level of reserves. A 2025 'Friends of Tibberton Church' Campaign is hoped to further strengthen the relationship between Church and Community. Church finances benefit from the annual Tibberton Trot – a 10K race around the Parish attracting entries from all over the county and beyond, organised in conjunction with Newport Running Club. £1,900 of profit was distributed amongst the Church and several other community groups in the Parish. An image of the Church features on the medals and the prizes for the race



Tibberton

Schools in the Parish

Tibberton CE Primary School has around 140 pupils, many of whom live outside the Parish. A pre-school nursery with strong links to the school adjoins the site.

The following extract is from the school website:

“There have always been strong links between Tibberton All Saints Church and the school, from when the school was first founded by the Church in the early 19th century to the present day. The whole school is a frequent visitor to the Church several times a year for collective worship, where we are joined by members of our community. The links forged long ago continue with the Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocese, the monthly school worship taken by one of the clergy, the various school services held in the Church and also by the school using both the building and the clergy as a resource for R.E. and other subjects. The Christian faith contributes an important part to the ethos of the whole school, as we try together to develop each child's character and potential.”



In July 2024, the primary school was chosen as one of 40 pilot schools for the Church of England's FLOURISH Project. The school appointed a FLOURISH co-ordinator in September 2024 to work 2 days a week in the school and the Church has also been involved to further enhance its strong relationship with the school. Further details on the FLOURISH Project are shown on page 25. Locally, Newport offers two State Grammar Schools and a Community Comprehensive School.

Village Life

The village hall and the village shop are the heart of the village. Both are run by the community and offer opportunities for involvement in village life. In 2017, the shop was recognised with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The following activities / pastimes / clubs are available:



Coffee, Tea & Company	Bridge Club	Walking Group
Music Group & Choir	Book Club	Cycling Group
Women's Institute	Knit, Sew & Craft	Yoga/Keep Fit
Community Art Group	Table Tennis	Mums & Toddlers

Members of the Church congregation are actively involved in many groups and some act as Trustees of the Village Hall. 'Coffee, Tea & Company' is a recent initiative run by the Church congregation on the third Monday of each month, welcoming anyone for a cuppa and a chat.

Since the Flourish project began in October 2024, we have been forming strong links with the school and community bringing the church into focus at the centre of this, with the predominant aim of giving opportunity for Christian faith experiences for children and their families. Young voices are at the centre of this pilot project and time was and is spent listening to the younger generation on what they enjoy and their views on church. Initially a Christmas club was offered after school where we went deeper into the nativity story. Following this a school Christingle and community linked event was held. In January each class was introduced to some reflection times, space maker training was used as a platform for this, and all age groups were given the opportunity to spend time in God's word and have the space to think and be still. February, we launched our lunch time bible study for Y5&6 which saw on average 8 children each week coming to pray and read the bible alongside enjoying worship, this continues to run as part of our weekly rhythm. An afterschool Easter club for the younger members in school began in March and a village Easter story egg hunt was held on Palm Sunday. Various events such as a Mother's Day service and dementia coffee morning have been part of the Flourish programme, seeking to reach out to the community and cover a wide demographic. From the start of June, we began an afterschool worship every Tuesday called Roots which continues to run and sees 27-30 children enjoying bible teaching and worship every week. Our intention is to have an open afternoon in Roots for parents to join us, early in the new year. A summer bible club ran for 3 days over the holidays and again we had on average 25 children in attendance. Finally, our first youth event is to be held in December as we begin in Year 2 of the project, to widen the outreach and in January 2026 Messy Church will launch in the village.

Serving God, Serving our community

Bolas Magna



The Area and Community

Great Bolas is a rural village with a population of circa 200. The Church is the only community facility in the village. We have a regular congregation as well as a thriving Friends Group, holding services every Sunday and hosting a regular coffee-morning event every two weeks. The Church is cherished by all; it is a very special place.

The local community are heavily involved in the management and upkeep of the Churchyard, achieving significant awards in Diocesan competitions. We also have a group focused on the history of the Church and the maintenance of various memorials. The strength of the Church within the community is best exemplified by fundraising to support the £120,000 costs of roof and tower repairs and the installation of a toilet and kitchen.

We have a strong sense that we are called by name, that God has redeemed us through Christ and that we exist to serve him and his Creation. We regularly reflect on the teaching of Isaiah;

"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine"

Bolas Magna Church

The Church is a Grade II* listed building. Significant improvements have been made since the inception of the Friends of St Johns group. Recent roof work has now made the building watertight. Our last Quinquennial Inspection took place on 17 June 2025, still awaiting the report but not anticipating anything of note. We hold regular PCC meetings and are financially sound paying our Parish Share within agreed timelines.

We hold weekly services of worship, mostly in traditional language, inviting community members to join us for special services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Whenever possible these special services are supported by a local band and community choir, otherwise music for regular services is played via Bluetooth and amplifier system.

Village Life

As the only community building in the Village, we aim to make the Church accessible to all. It is opened by volunteers on a daily basis and we provide a venue and support for locally led activities, such as the village BBQ.

The fortnightly coffee morning regularly attracts 20 to 30 people and provides a place to meet for many in the local area.



We are a small fellowship, blessed with many leaders who organise events, fundraise, provide pastoral care for our community and lead worship.

We are all strongly committed to serving each other and our community. Our defining verse is the teaching of Jesus;

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Spirit-filled, Christ-centred, and family

The Church of St Michael's was rebuilt for the second time in 1864 in the Gothic style by G.E. Street (architect) on the site of an original 11th century church.

The churchmanship is central, with Eucharistic vestments worn for Communion, but the services alternate between Book of Common Prayer (1662) and Common Worship. The service each week is at 9-15am, which is usually Holy Communion. The congregation accepts Lay led services.

The PCC consists of 9 members. In recent years the PCC has worked to maintain and where possible increase the congregation. After our service, tea, coffee and biscuits are served with many of the congregation staying. This also allows the regular worshippers to engage with any new members of the congregation to make them feel welcome and at ease with the aim to encourage them to become regular worshippers.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

The church building is regularly inspected by the PCC and a maintenance schedule established. The churchyard surrounding the church is now closed and maintained by the Parish Council. There is an extended churchyard 200 yards down the road in River Lane, which has just been extended and is maintained by the PCC.



The financial position has improved over the last few years allowing us to fully pay the Parish Share and to build up a small reserve fund. The current account aim is for sufficient funds to cover six months of planned expenditure, whilst the reserve accounts are regularly reviewed to ensure interest returns are maximised. Apart from the generous giving by the congregation, the funds are boosted from the great efforts made by the faithful regulars to support and organise all fundraising events.

The church has a good relationship with the neighbouring benefice of Wrockwardine, with Crudgington School and the new housing estate at Crudgington. The school is only half a mile away from St. Michael's (instead of three and half miles from their own parish church), so the school has use of the church whenever required.

This will be reviewed with the Archdeacon of Salop after six months in post

Role Description

General

- To exercise faithfully and diligently the ministry of a parish priest as canonically defined and as appropriate in the benefice, deanery and diocese
- To lead, pastorally and collaboratively, the mission and ministry of the parishes of the benefice, in living out our vision of '[Seeking the Kingdom](#)'
- To exemplify and promote good safeguarding policy and practice, in line with '[Promoting a Safer Church](#)' as [implemented in Lichfield diocese](#).

Post-Specific

The parishes have identified the key responsibilities for their new incumbent in their benefice profile, and so the incumbent will be expected to lead, inspire and resource the churches in:

- **Encouraging faith and discipleship** across the diverse congregations, helping everyone to find their place and role in the church community;
 - Drawing a wider range of ages into our church life;
 - Helping those on the 'edge' of church to come further in;
 - Providing varied opportunities for learning and growth in faith;
 - Exploring new styles of worship for the existing congregations and for outreach;
- **Being a visible and positive presence** in the local communities, leading engagement with local issues and events;
- **Encouraging congregations to work together** for more effective and efficient ministry and mission, while respecting their individuality and diverse traditions;
- **Building, leading and resourcing a shared leadership team** in a parish with an established collaborative ministry tradition; in particular to develop;
 - Ministry to children
 - Pastoral and sacramental care for those unable to come to church
 - Leading our worship with creative gifts
- **Engaging with church schools** to support and to build on the work of our *Flourish* project worker and further our connections with our schools;
 - Serving as a **governor** of our three church schools;
- **Leading our engagement** with new housing developments, planning ahead for mission and care;

Person Specification

We are looking for a person who is:

- In priest's orders in the Church of England or in a church with which the Church of England is in communion, and has completed successfully IME4-7 or the local equivalent; and who has at least three years' experience in the Church of England or other Anglican church in the British Isles;
- Committed to and passionate for rural ministry and mission through and beyond parish churches;
- Comfortable working with congregations of different worshipping traditions;
- Skilled in developing, supporting and resourcing teams to deliver ministry and mission;
- An effective communicator, to facilitate our life together as benefices;
- A clear and engaging preacher across a variety of congregations and age groups;
- Organised, skilled in prioritisation and wise in the use of time, including for their own rest and renewal;
- Pastorally skilled and committed to ensuring the provision of good pastoral care;
- Familiar with and committed to the principles and practice of safeguarding in parish leadership;
- In possession of a full driving licence and with use of a vehicle for work purposes.

Contact Us

Thank you for taking the time to read this Benefice Profile. We hope and pray that you will consider whether God is calling you to become our next Rector.

If you would like to find out more, or have an informal conversation, please contact the Archdeacon of Salop, the Venerable Nick Watson on 07506 748702, archdeacon.salop@lichfield.anglican.org.

We conclude with a prayer:

GOD OUR FATHER

***You have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be His Body in this place.***

***Send us your Holy Spirit,
to fill us with vision, energy,
and faithfulness in prayer,
that we may be true to our calling
to bring new life to our communities.***

***Guide with your heavenly wisdom
those who are to choose a new Incumbent for this Benefice,
that the one whom we receive
may be a wise and caring shepherd of your people:
ready to serve us with joy,
to build us up in faith,
and to lead us by example
in loving obedience to your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.***

Amen