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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.**

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.**



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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 to truly 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



We're delighted that you're looking at this post, as Team Rector of Haughmond and Wrekin. 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 Team Rector scope to serve creatively as a priest and as leader of a substantial team of experienced colleagues, reaching out with God's love to the communities between the two towns of Shrewsbury and Telford. Large new housing developments will give you the scope for fresh outreach, and established villages with churches at their heart open the door for mission through spiritually-enriched communities and inspired congregations. With the right leader, we believe that the benefice has an exciting future.

We hope that this profile gives you enough insight into the benefice of Haughmond and Wrekin and the role of Team 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



The Team Rector we need

Haughmond and Wrekin Benefice is seeking to appoint a Rector to lead the local Team Ministry which also includes:

- a Team Vicar
- a house for duty ordained Minister (part time)
- A house for duty licensed lay Mission and Outreach Minister (part time)

The team also includes

- three licensed Readers, (one of whom is a prayer guide, two are Lay Canons at Lichfield Cathedral)
- one locally commissioned Pioneer Minister
- the Benefice Team Administrator

The future life and work of the team relies on continued growth, cohesion, collaboration and mutual support. The most important resource in the benefice is the church community which offers gifts of time and talents. We welcome the energy and enthusiasm of new and inspired leadership.



The Team Rector we are seeking to appoint will:

- lead and inspire our worship, value traditions and respect the diversity across the benefice
- preach and teach making the scriptures understandable and relevant to our daily lives whilst sustaining us through sharing the celebration of the Eucharist
- work collaboratively with other clergy, readers and leaders of worship
- help us to focus on, grow our vision and develop strategic plans for mission action
- enable and encourage thoughtful, sensitive and effective outreach initiatives to all parishioners
- develop and support diverse ministries with people of all ages
- collaborate with the Team to engage and envision the spiritual needs of children at the schools located within the benefice.
- encourage joint meetings and closer working relationships across the benefice
- visit those needing pastoral care while expanding the involvement of the lay ministry
- facilitate and empower the team and the growth of lay ministry
- enthuse about the life of the church – it is the place to be!
- be a visionary leader of the wider benefice team
- be a good communicator with strong interpersonal skills
- be flexible and adaptable with an understanding of rural and suburban communities and, in particular, the needs of new and emerging communities
- participate in community events raising the profile of the clergy and church work
- have strong administrative skills

Haughmond and Wrekin Benefice is a grouping of twelve parishes (twelve churches and six Fresh Expressions) set amongst beautiful countryside in rural Shropshire, the largest land locked county in Britain. It borders the historic county town of Shrewsbury to the west and the more recent new town of Telford to the east.

Much of the southern and western boundaries of the Benefice follow the River Severn. Parishes in the south of the Benefice are close to the Birthplace of Industry - Ironbridge and its ten award winning museums.

The Benefice extends through the North Shropshire Plain with the landmark 1,335 ft. hill 'The Wrekin' located close to its geographic centre. From the top of the Wrekin, you can, on a clear day, see fifteen counties. To the west of the benefice is the smaller shallow Haughmond Hill. The benefice takes its name from these two hills within its geography.



The Benefice includes large centres of population in the villages of Admaston and Bratton on the north western edge of Telford. Work is nearing completion on a new development of almost 500 houses at Allscott on a site previously a sugar factory, which together with Admaston and Bratton sit within the parish of Wrockwardine. Construction of a development of around 1,000 new homes has recently started in Buildwas parish on the site



where previously a power station stood. Over 100 homes have recently been built in the village of Crudgington on a site previously used as a dairy.

The Local Plan for Telford & Wrekin, now under consultation, has earmarked a new community at Bratton Green, which will provide a mix of homes for all ages, needs and means as well as shops, a school, community facilities and open green spaces to promote a healthy and active community. This development will offer up to 2,100 homes, a new two form entry primary school, a new local community hub with shops, services and co-working space.

The recently completed and the future developments have and will significantly change the makeup of the benefice communities. Housing in other areas of the benefice are likely to remain much smaller communities in villages and hamlets.

Despite the major developments in parts of the benefice, it is predominantly a rural area with employment provided by small local businesses. Many people commute to the nearby towns of Telford or Shrewsbury but some travel further afield to Wolverhampton, Birmingham and other locations in the West Midlands.

Transport links to and from the area include direct rail links to the West Midlands and Birmingham Airport from stations at Telford, Wellington and Shrewsbury, which also has links to Cardiff, Aberystwyth, Chester, Holyhead and Manchester. A one-hour journey to Stafford gives access to the West Coast Main Line with trains taking 90 minutes to reach London.

The M54 motorway has its most western point within the Benefice and provides a fast road link to the West Midlands and onwards using the M5, M6 and M40.



The Benefice is also relatively close to four airports (Birmingham, East Midlands, Liverpool and Manchester) which can be reached with travelling times of between 50 and 75 minutes.

Heritage sites in the Benefice include Buildwas Abbey, Haughmond Abbey, the first iron aqueduct at Longdon upon Tern and Wroxeter Roman City.

Other visitor attractions close by include the National Trust property Attingham Park, the Severn Valley Railway, the RAF museum at Cosford, Weston Park Stately Home and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site



Missional Engagement and New Worshipping Communities

With the support of our benefice missioner, we have made significant progress over the last ten years in reaching new generations, and our engagement with children, young people and families is better than the national trend. We have a good base of volunteers leading our new worshipping communities. Our mission strategy is already addressing some aims of the diocesan 'Seeking the Kingdom' strategy, i.e. growing new disciples, new worshipping communities, age profiles reflecting community, and connection with every primary school, but there are pockets in our benefice where we are not yet meeting these objectives.

Missional engagement with young families and baptism contacts

We have three midweek new worshipping communities for families with children under school age in the benefice.

- Little Angels with Praise and Play- weekly term-time Tuesday mornings at St Michael and All Angels church, High Ercall,
- Lucy's Lambs with Praise and Play – weekly term-time Friday afternoons at St. Lucia's church, Upton Magna and
- Praise and Play – weekly term-time Friday mornings at St Peter's church in Wrockwardine.

Each Praise and Play group has a small team who plan and lead the sessions with support from the ministry team.



In the last few months, we have launched Bubble Church in our benefice. It meets on the third Sunday of the month in Upton Magna Village Hall.

Bubble Church regularly attracts around ten families each month and there is a team from across the benefice who lead and support this initiative. We intend to roll out Bubble Church to other parishes

in our benefice with significant numbers of young families in the near future. *(Bubble Church is a national church of England project for reaching new generations and we were the first benefice in Lichfield Diocese to be accepted onto this project)*

Missional engagement – all ages/families

We have four Messy Churches in the benefice which meet on Sundays for worship. Each messy church has its own core team to plan and lead, supported by the ministry team. The venues for Messy Church are High Ercall, Ellerdine (in Rowton parish), Rodington and Wrockwardine.

In recent years, nine children and three adults have been baptised in Messy Church, one child has been dedicated.



Six adults and two young people have been confirmed at Messy Church.

We have a well-attended all age service with puppets once a month at St Peter's church, Wrockwardine, and would like to address the lack of all age services in other parishes in the benefice soon.

Missional engagement with young people

Until very recently we had three youth cafés in our benefice – at Wrockwardine, Longdon upon Tern and Upton Magna. However, as older young people have moved on, and due to the current clergy vacancy, we have temporarily brought the youth cafés together in one place, meeting once a month in Upton Magna. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who lead this, with help when required from the wider ministry team.

We have regularly taken our young people away for youth weekends and two years ago we held a service within youth café at which four young people were confirmed.



Missional engagement with the schools in our benefice

We have six primary schools in our benefice, one of which is Church of England Voluntary Controlled, and another is a member of the St Chad's Academies Trust (A Diocesan multi-academy trust). In addition, we have one independent special needs school in our benefice.

We are invited into all our local schools to lead collective worship at least monthly (more often in our Church schools).

Schools visit our churches for services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and we host various special events with year groups throughout the year.

We have an 'Open the Book team' in St Peters CofE Academy, Bratton and would like to restart Open the Book in St Lucias CofE VC school in 2025.

We offer Experience Easter and other Experience events to our schools.

Our church schools are very keen to engage with us and work closer together in mission and outreach. Upton Magna parish has the largest proportion of under 19's as a % of the population than any other parish in our benefice. The head teacher from St Lucia's is part of our Bubble Church team, and the school hosts family worship quarterly in the school and are also keen to support family worship quarterly in Withington. There is a desire from the school for the new team Rector to be ex-officio on the governing body, taking part in the decision making in terms of worship and Christian vision in the school.

Missional engagement in our communities

Seven of our twelve parishes hold a monthly or weekly 'no-charge' coffee morning for their community. The one at Buildwas is a recognised 'Place of Welcome'.

We run board game cafés during school holidays to serve all ages as well as pop-up mission and outreach events throughout the year

There is a monthly dementia friendly group that meets in Upton Magna and a monthly "Come and join us" craft café for older people in Eaton Constantine. Wrockwardine church hosts a simply creative craft group in the church side chapel on two evenings a month as well as offering a 'no-charge' community lunch in the neighbouring village hall once a month.

We hold regular worship services at the two care homes in our benefice.



Other missional opportunities

A local faith charity, Yellow Ribbon, has recently purchased Halfway House, situated one-third of the way up to the top of The Wrekin which it is developing into a community café and resource centre. This will present missional opportunities for us to partner with Yellow Ribbon at Wellness events, youth events and in creating new worshipping communities.



Significant new housing

As detailed elsewhere, there has been and will be significant housing development in our benefice.

The missional opportunities these present are huge, and we see missional engagement with these new communities as a priority once a new Team Rector is appointed.



Our Communities and Churches

Buildwas

Buildwas is a small rural village on the edge of the Ironbridge Gorge. It has a local primary school (Academy) and a small village hall. Housing is mixed and mostly rural in nature. The beautiful ruins of Buildwas Abbey are an English Heritage site of special historical interest. The village hall committee organises social events, some of which have links with the church. Construction of a large housing development of over 1,000 new homes has just begun, outside of the main village on the previous Ironbridge Power Station site (CGI image of intended development at completion, right). The southern and eastern boundaries of the parish are also part of the diocesan boundary with the Diocese of Hereford.



Holy Trinity Church at Buildwas dates from 1720 and replaced a medieval church. It has been described by Pevsner as “a diminutive building”. The chancel of the church was “Gothicised” in 1864. The pulpit of the church is Jacobean. Its west gallery dates from 1720 and is supported by strong square pillars which also support the bellcote.



The east chancel window dates from around 1864 and depicts scenes from the life of Christ. A restoration fund has been established to fund work on the tower and other parts of the building and has received pledges from a number of grant awarding charities. The church celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2020.

Eaton Constantine

The **Eaton Constantine with Wroxeter Parish** consists of small rural villages and hamlets. The Domesday book of 1087 gives the name as ETUNE and it was part of the Domain of Roger, Earl of Montgomery. In the 12th Century it passed to the family of Costentin or Constantine from which it gets its second name. After several changes of ownership, it passed in 1805 to the 3rd Earl of Darlington (later created Duke of Cleveland). In 1890 the estate passed to Lord Barnard in whose family it remains.

The Church and Village Hall ‘committees’ work closely together to manage events that foster a strong community spirit. Social events in aid of Church funds include Harvest Songs of Praise (and most recently ‘Hymns and Pimms’) in October, Punch, Pies and Carols in December and a car

Treasure Hunt is planned for the summer. The Church is a member of the Shropshire Historic Church Trust and proactively supports their annual ‘Ride and Stride’ and periodically the ‘Open Garden’ events. It is important to us that National events are commemorated e.g. D Day 80 (bells rang out followed by a community sing-along), Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, her Majesty’s State Funeral, King Charles III Coronation. and the 80th anniversary of VE Day in 2025 (St Mary’s bell rung) as part of the National celebrations.’



The **Church of St Mary the Virgin at Eaton Constantine** stands on a hill with beautiful views of both the Shropshire Hills and Wenlock Edge. It was built in 1847/48 in the early English style. It replaced a smaller medieval building with a spire and a thatched roof which needed restoration. The font dates from about 1150. Two panels let into the sanctuary chairs date from 1500. The Victorian ‘closed pews’ have been ‘mentioned in despatches’ by the Victorian Society. The pipe organ was built in

1762, altered in the late 19th century and restored to its original specification in 1988. It is grade two listed by British Institute of Organ Studies and registered at the Imperial War Museum London as a World War I memorial.

The Church of St Andrews Wroxeter is now managed by the Churches Conservation Trust, its closed Churchyard by the Council but oversight remains with the Eaton Constantine PCC.

High Ercall

The parish of **High Ercall** consists of the villages of High Ercall and Crudgington along with the hamlets of Roden and Walton, amongst other surrounding farming communities. High Ercall itself has mixed housing, some older and some newer, the latest estate having been completed only five years ago. There is private and affordable housing, several Alms Houses, an estate of sheltered accommodation for the elderly and a large Hall, dating back to the 16th Century, which featured in an episode of Time Team in 2002.



There is a Village Shop/ Post Office, a Primary School, a Pre-School, a Tennis Club and a Village Hall which is home to the Friday night Community Bar. The Hall has a very active committee which hosts regular events such as Quizzes, Bingo, Yoga/Keep Fit Classes, Indoor Bowls, Coffee Mornings and is just about to trial opening as a 'Warm Space'.

The Church and Community pull together for a number of events each year including the Harvest Supper, Carols by Tractor-light and the Christmas Fayre. It has a Choir and Bell Ringers who ring most Sundays.

The parish also includes Crudgington, a small rural village alongside a busy main road, which has grown very recently with the addition of 100+ new homes. There is a small primary school half a mile from the village which caters for children from a much wider area.

The community of Roden is also in the parish. Roden is known for its residential care home and a garden centre



The original Church of St Michael and All Angels at High Ercall is thought to have been built around 1090, and enlarged in the year 1200. It suffered considerable damage during the Civil War in 1645 during the siege of the Royalists in the adjoining Manor House. A peal of four bells is recorded as hanging in the belfry in 1689 with two more bells added seventeen years later and a further two hung in 1812. The bells have been restored a number of times since. A new bell ringing floor was installed in 1998 and the fine peal of bells are rung regularly throughout the year.

The church contains many fine examples of stained glass, an impressive candelabrum and an effigy of a crusader thought to date from 1300.

Leighton

Leighton is a small rural village. The parish includes the nearby hamlet of Garmston.

The village is comprised of mixed housing, mostly individual with some executive dwellings and barn conversions. There is a Village Hall, used by the Women's Institute, particularly during the summer months. It is also in regular use with events and meetings by the Village Hall Committee and the Church.



The Annual Ball held at Leighton is a popular event for those in the locality. The Mill at Leighton is a thriving community pub, and a great place to eat.

St Mary's Church at Leighton has a history going back to the 11th century and is a small brick and stone built Grade II* listed building. Mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1087, the Norman Church of the 11th century which stood on the site at that time was restored in 1717 when a classical east window was installed.

The font sits on a stone shaft recovered from Viraconium and the two iron tombstones in the aisle dated 1677 and 1696 were cast in the village when iron was smelted there from about 1650.



Situated in the grounds of Leighton Hall the church is now a popular venue for weddings. The interior of the church was altered to make an area available for children and less-abled persons.

Longdon upon Tern

Longdon-upon-Tern is a small rural village sprawling along a busy road. Its population consists of mainly retired people, some commuters, a few local businesses and some 'working from home'. There are three family farms. There is a pub/restaurant in the centre of the village and a village hall next to the church (used for private, social and church events).

The village has a Site of Special Historic Interest in the Iron Aqueduct by Thomas Telford built more than 200 years ago.

Church members actively support their Clergy and Lay Leaders, Messy Church and many other initiatives within the Benefice. They also give high priority to pastoral care in the community, making everyone welcome in a helpful, friendly and caring way.

Fundraising events, such as Easter Raffle, Summer Fete, Harvest Supper and Christkindl Market, are well supported by the local community and the Church gives 10% of it's fundraising to charity.



The Church of St Bartholomew at Longdon on Tern is a small eighteenth century, Grade II listed Georgian stone and red brick church.

The church has seen major alterations since it was first built in 1742 including an extension in the late nineteenth century. The church has excellent acoustics and is an ideal venue for musical events.

Close by is the refurbished village hall, formerly a schoolhouse provided by the Duke of Sutherland in 1849.



Rodington

Rodington is a rural village and it together with the surrounding area has mixed housing, some recent development including rented and privately owned. There is a public house, a good-sized well equipped village hall, large playing field with a small children's play area, and a community orchard. Young children attend the primary school at High Ercall.

There is an ongoing programme of social events at Rodington which are also fundraising for various charities and for the local church. The proceeds of these events have been shared between local charities, including the Midland Air Ambulance, Hope House, Severn Hospice, TACT (mental health and recovery, various homeless projects (including Kip, Wellington, The Ark Shrewsbury) and the church.

The church is ecumenical, having established a formal partnership (1993) with the Telford Methodist Circuit following the closure of its chapel. It has an outward looking congregation, active in the community running a monthly café at Rodington Village Hall where villagers and others can meet together. It runs a free weekly coffee morning in church. There is a strong community spirit amongst the congregation which is eager to reach out to the community as an essential part of their mission.



The stone foundations of the Church of St George at Rodington are more than 1,000 years old. The church is one of five in the benefice identified in the Domesday Book. It has two ancient bells - a tenor and a treble dating from 1350-1380. The chancel was built in 1843 and eight years later, the stone walls were covered in brick and the north aisle was built.

In 2016 the church building had major roof repairs and internal reordering. There is now a superb kitchen area, social seating area and disabled and baby friendly toilet facilities.

It has excellent access for the disabled and young families, a projector and screen, internal security cameras and a roof alarm system. The building also has a community information hub displaying the history of church, community, local pubs and canal. It also has a film of Rodington made as part of a community project in 1990.

Rowton

The parish of **Rowton** also includes the neighbouring hamlets of Ellerdine, Ellerdine Heath and Cold Hatton to the north of Rowton village. It is made up of mixed rural housing and farms. Ellerdine has a village hall and Methodist chapel.

The village hall provides a centre for social and church functions, e.g. Flower show, Church Fair, Harvest Supper, as well as the monthly Messy Church. There is a monthly act of worship in the local residential home 'Hatton Court'.



The village contains eight Grade II listed buildings including All Hallows Church which is constructed of coarse purple sandstone and said to be of medieval origin.

Nothing at the church can be dated earlier than 1800, when the nave was reconstructed and widened and the broad lancet windows added.

Richard Baxter, the English Puritan church leader, theologian and controversialist was born at Rowton and is commemorated by a small stone obelisk which stands on a triangle of grass in the centre of the village.

Uffington

Uffington, the most westerly parish in the benefice, is another small rural village situated three miles from the county town of Shrewsbury.

It has a modern Village Hall with good size car park which is leased to the parish and used for church and social events.

The PCC works hard to foster a sense of community and organises social and church events. There is a very popular public house which attracts visitors to the village. Most of the younger children attend St. Lucia's school in the neighbouring village of Upton Magna. The English Heritage site of Haughmond Abbey is nearby.



Holy Trinity Church at Uffington was built in 1856 replacing a medieval building. It is built of tooled Grinshill sandstone ashlar. The chancel and nave are in one, with a south chapel and a narrow north aisle. There is a timber framed south porch. The gable end of the chancel (pictured) displays a wheel window over three lancets.

The sixteenth and seventeenth century glass in the church windows came from the Netherlands and Germany and the square panels in the lancet windows came from Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland - two of which are dated 1579 and 1658.



Uppington

Uppington is a traditional village originally based on an agricultural estate comprising mixed housing and farms. The local agricultural estate provides some employment but most travel away from the village for work. Those directly engaged by farms are fewer than in past times but there has been an increase in the number working from home, either in their own business or for their employer.

Uppington has significant numbers of late middle aged and elderly people, many of them living alone but there are also some families with children. The village has a cricket club on the outskirts of the village. This is used to hold village events following the conversion of the "Reading Room" into residential use.



Holy Trinity Church at Uppington is of Norman origin and was restored and partly rebuilt in 1885 (financed by the Fourth Duke of Cleveland). It is listed as a grade II building. There are six bells which are rung for special occasions.

The blocked north doorway, which has some Anglo-Saxon features is carved with a long dragon with loose knots in its tail. There is a Norman window in the south wall of the Chancel. There is also a three-light fourteenth century window.

The 1885 rebuild dramatically altered the building with heightened and strengthened walls, an extended nave and a new tower. The attractive churchyard includes what is said to be a Roman altar, presumably robbed out of Viriconium Roman City (in nearby Wroxeter) after the Romans left.

Upton Magna

The parish of **Upton Magna** is approximately five miles from Shrewsbury, the county town. Attingham Park, a stately home with large gardens and parkland, run by the National Trust, is close at hand and is a very popular place to visit and take walks.

St Lucia's Church is at the village's heart and is surrounded by a range of houses of various styles and ages. Modern houses exist within the village. Sundorne Estates are the predominant landowner and landlord. They support the activities of the church and also the Memorial Hall.

St Lucia's Church of England Primary School is a "Good" school and is thriving. The Haughmond pub/restaurant is an established local business that also runs a shop. There is also a small business park nearby.

St Lucia's Church has a small congregation, of generally older local inhabitants who despite their ages are very active within the community.



Our Communities and Churches (continued)

They help to run Messy Church, and Bubble Church and are often seen in school as facilitators of "Open the Book" assemblies and teaching hand bells. The church has recently undergone significant work after being successful in obtaining a lottery grant.

Throughout the year the PCC arrange a number of fund-raising events, bridge drives, coffee mornings and big breakfasts. Alongside the village hall committee, they arrange an annual village fete and dog show and a produce show.

Upton Magna's harvest supper is a very popular event. There are also larger and 'one off' events such as flower shows, open gardens; last year there was a very successful art show, a lunch with jazz and a Living Nativity.

Teddy Bear Parachute jumps with an afternoon picnic have taken place and there is talk of a drama production later in the year.

The church at Upton Magna is apparently one of only two in the country dedicated to St Lucia. The windows in the north wall of the chancel seem to date back to the time nearby Haughmond Abbey was built (around 1135). The windows in the east and south wall date from later periods - the thirteenth and fourteen centuries respectively.

There was some restoration in the nineteenth century with rebuilding of the chancel arch, and possibly the east end of the church. The roof, north aisle and vestry date from the nineteenth century. The tower was completed in 1475 and houses a good ring of six bells - most from the seventeenth century, though new bells were added in 1907 and a hundred years later in 2007.

Withington

Withington has developed from a small community based primarily around farming into a much sought after village for everyone from young families through to retired people with a strong sense of community. There is a village green, used for village events, sports and recreation. The church community is always willing to try new approaches to worship and through summer 2024 held a series of Café Church meetings in the Parish Room, to reach out to others in the community and included the Alive in Christ course as part of our worship through Autumn 2024.



The church is financially supported by various social activities (particularly the Summer Fete & Christmas Bazaar) that are very well supported by the community. The Parish Room (effectively the village hall) is run independently, but comes under the umbrella of the PCC and is used for parish meetings and various social activities. It was originally a WW1 army hut; this has been significantly refurbished to meet the needs of the community. The lively and popular village pub hosts the annual harvest auction which is a fun evening and raises money for the church and local charities.



St John the Baptist church at Withington was founded in the twelfth century as a Chapel of Upton Magna. It was entirely rebuilt between 1872 and 1874 in the style of the late thirteenth century to the design of G.E. Streete (who also designed the Royal Courts of Justice in London). The church has a two-bay chancel with organ chamber to the north side, a three-bay nave and porch. At the west end of the church there is a four staged tower, with a clock, topped with a spire which is a landmark for some miles. The church houses two bells cast around the thirteenth/ fourteenth centuries which hang in a timber frame from around 1800, pre-dating the 1874 tower. The bells are the second and third oldest church bells in Shropshire.

Wrockwardine

The parish of **Wrockwardine** has both rural and suburban communities with mixed housing including large modern developments at Admaston and Bratton, and one of just under 500 new homes close to completion at Allscott, which continue to increase the population of the parish.

There is the more traditional older mixed housing and farms in the rural village of Wrockwardine and its surrounding hamlets.

There is a Methodist church and non-denominational outreach centre in Admaston.

Wrockwardine has playing fields and a well-used village hall. Admaston has a community hall, playing fields, a small parade of shops and a public house. 420 pupils attend St Peters Bratton Church of England Academy.





The Telford and Wrekin Local Plan nearing has earmarked significant housing growth to the north of the borough, including a development of 2,100 new homes to be called Bratton Green which will also incorporate a second school for 420 pupils, a local community hub, play areas for children, and sports pitches with supporting pavilions.

Praise and Play, a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers meets in church every Friday in term time. Messy Church meets in the village hall on a monthly basis.

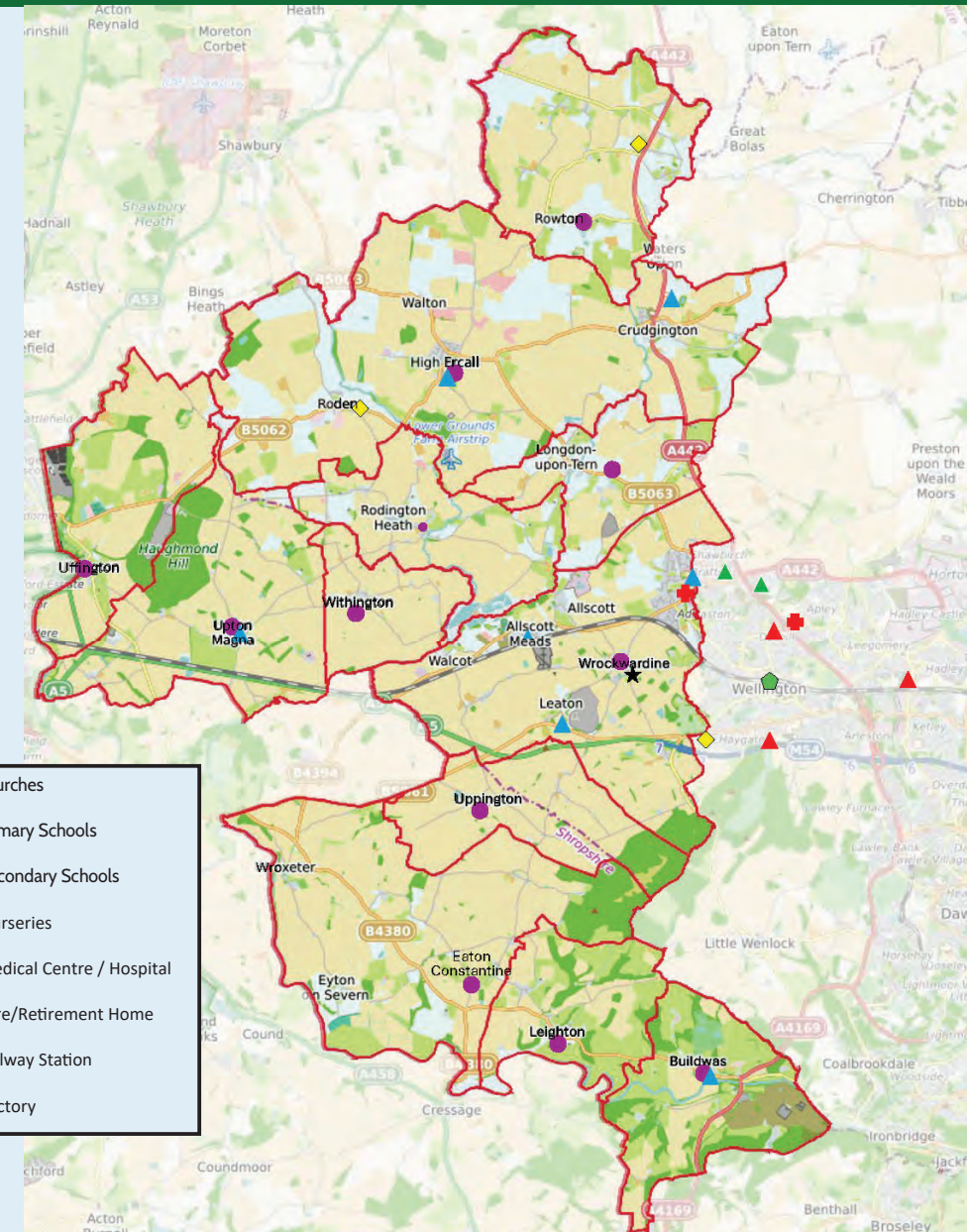
The church organises a monthly community lunch in the nearby village hall. There is also a once-a-month free

coffee morning in the church for the whole community. Fund raising activities include an annual Summer Fete and a Christmas Fayre.

The church has a small choir, prayer group, two house groups, bell ringers, and a fete committee.

St Peter's Church at Wrockwardine is thought to be of Saxon origin. The Domesday Book of 1068 refers to a church and a priest in the settlement. There have been changes to the church but since the Perpendicular age (late fourteenth century) there have been few major alterations. The church has a nave and chancel with north and south transepts. The north transept houses the Cludde Chapel.

The tower holds six bells, which have been ringing out over the parish for over 600 years.



Base Map from Open Street Map (February 2025)
Parish Boundaries from Church of England Data Services team

Our Schools

There are six Primary Schools located in the Benefice. Pupils of secondary school age travel to schools in Shrewsbury, Telford and Newport.



Buildwas Academy is part of the Mighty Oaks Academy Trust, a primary phase Multi Academy Trust. The school provides education for 75 children aged 3 – 11 (capacity 105), who are taught in four mixed-age classrooms. In the most recent OFSTED inspection (June 2024) the overall effectiveness was reported as 'Requires Improvement', but the report reflects the strong upward trajectory the school is on with positive comments from the Inspectors, which reflect the school motto, 'A small school with a huge heart'.

Crudgington Primary School, is part of the Learning Community Trust. It sits in the benefice parish of **High Ercall** but its nearest church is in the village of Waters Upton, in a neighbouring benefice. It has 135 pupils (capacity 156) and holds an OFSTED rating of Good.

Children at the school visit St Michael's church in Waters Upton at Easter and for Christmas Nativity and Carols. The benefice's ministry team visit the school to speak to its Year 6 leavers and conduct collective worship from time to time.



High Ercall Primary School was built originally in the shadow of the Norman church in 1877. The original old school building is still in use, but there is now also further building on site. Currently the school has 147 children on role (capacity 156), spread over five classes. The school's most recent OFSTED was in March 2023, and it was rated as Good in all areas.

It prides itself as being a school family – with a strong focus on pastoral care and engagement with families. Although

not a church school, there is a positive relationship with St Michael and All Angels church, and the current team vicar, who is a regular and welcome visitor in school, leads collective worship through the term. The school uses the church for services at Harvest and Christmas in particular, but also as part of our local heritage learning within the curriculum. Classes visit the church as part of teaching and learning in History, Geography and Religious Education.



High Ercall Primary School

In **Upton Magna, St Lucia's** is a small village primary, rated Good by OFSTED in 2024. There are currently 93 pupils on roll (including Nursery). It has a capacity of 112. The school is proud to have a strong partnership with Upton Magna Church, including weekly clergy led worship at school, regular services in church (including Harvest, Christmas and Easter), and the school hosts Sunday Family Worship or Bubble Church on a termly basis.



The largest primary school in the benefice is **St Peter's Church of England Academy located at Bratton**, a suburb of Telford which sits in the parish of **Wrockwardine**. The school provides education for pupils from the Early Years Foundation Stage through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

It is a two form entry school and currently has 414 pupils, just short of its capacity of 420. It was inspected by OFSTED in July 2024 and was rated 'Requires Improvement'

Allscott Meads Primary School is a vibrant new school in a beautiful, growing area, welcoming families and fostering a sense of community. Since opening its doors in September 2023, the school has been dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for its 84 students, including those in the nursery. With plans for future expansion, as it transitions to its full capacity of 210, the school is excited about the opportunity to build strong relationships with local churches as it continues to establish itself in the new community centred around the almost completed housing development of close to 500 homes.



Overley Hall School, is an independent, residential special school and children's home situated within Wrockwardine Parish.

It provides education and care for children and young adults aged from eight to nineteen years who have a range of complex needs, including autism and learning disabilities. The school visits Wrockwardine Church a number of times each year, and is supported by the ministry team.

Pattern of Worship

The main Sunday Service at all but one church in the benefice is on a Sunday morning. Of these, several begin their service at 9.30am with the remainder beginning at either 11am or 11.15am. Buildwas parish hold their Sunday service at 3pm. Their fourth Sunday services is a more informal "Worship in the Village Hall".

Worship is led by a team that comprises the Team Rector, the Team Vicar, the Associate Minister, the Lay Minister for Mission and Outreach, three Readers, retired clergy and lay worship leaders.

As ordained members of the team are limited, each parish is usually restricted to one Sunday morning Holy Communion service each month between 9.30am and noon.

Outside of this period, parishes may request additional Communion services. High Ercall has an 8am service on the first Sunday in a month and Wrockwardine has an 8am service on the second and fourth Sundays. Wrockwardine also holds an evening Communion service on the first Sunday and a midweek one every Wednesday morning. Rodington has two Sunday morning Communion services - as a Local Ecumenical Partnership, one of these is led by a Methodist Minister.

There are Fresh Expression forms of worship each Sunday - Messy Church or Bubble Church.

Uppington Church has only two Sunday morning services. However, they hold an evening service on the fourth Wednesday in a month.. Leighton church holds services on only two Sunday mornings each month.

Service patterns are published in community magazines in the benefice, are detailed on both the Benefice website and on A Church Near You. Information is also circulated by email.

Service patterns vary in the months of Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festivals, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Additional worship is offered on Ash Wednesday, during Holy Week, and on Ascension Day

In months with a fifth Sunday, a joint benefice service is held at only one (occasionally two) of the churches in the benefice

	First Sunday		Second Sunday		Third Sunday		Fourth Sunday	
	Time	Service	Time	Service	Time	Service	Time	Service
Buildwas	3.00pm	Evening Worship	3.00pm	Holy Communion	3.00pm	Evening Worship	3.00pm	Worship in the Village Hall
Eaton Constantine	9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Morning Worship
High Ercall	8.00am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Morning Worship	11.00am	Morning Worship
	9.30am	Family Worship / Messy Church						
Leighton	11.00am	Holy Communion	No service		11.00am	Morning Worship	No service	
Longdon on Tern	9.30am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Family Worship	9.30am	Morning Worship
Rodington	11.00am	Methodist Led	3.00pm	Family Worship / Messy Church	11.00am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Methodist HC
Rowton	6.30pm	Evening Worship	9.30am	Family Worship / Messy Church (Elerdine VH)	9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Holy Communion
Uffington	9.30am	Morning Worship	11.00am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Celtic Morning Worship	11.00am	Holy Communion
Uppington	No service		9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Holy Communion	No service	
Upton Magna	9.30am	Morning Worship	9.30am	Holy Communion	9.30am	Bubble Church	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Withington	6.30pm	Evening Worship	9.30am	Family Worship	6.30pm	Evening Worship	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wrockwardine			8.00am	Holy Communion			8.00am	Holy Communion
	11.15am	Family Worship	11.15am	Morning Worship	11.15am	Holy Communion	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Holy Communion			6.30pm	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Messy Church (Village Hall)
	First Wednesday		Second Wednesday		Third Wednesday		Fourth Wednesday	
Uppington							7.00pm	Evening Worship
Wrockwardine	10.30am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Holy Communion

Accommodation - The Rectory

The accommodation provided with the post is a four bedroom modern house set well back from the road at the south eastern edge of the lovely village of Wrockwardine. The Rectory is approximately ¼ mile from St Peter's Church.

The front garden is mainly grass with well established fruit trees and a tarmac drive with a parking area. The rear garden is mainly lawn with views to the Wrekin.

The ground floor accommodation includes a large living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, good sized office/study, storage area and cloakroom with toilet.

The first floor comprises four bedrooms (one with a walk in wet room) and a bathroom.

The Rectory has gas central heating and there is an open fire in the sitting room. It also has a single garage.

The Rectory offers easy access to the M54 and A5 (1.3 miles). Wellington Railway Station is only 1.8 miles away. (48 minute train journey to Birmingham New Street Station)



Accommodation - Distances to Local Services

Airports	Birmingham	47 miles	Pharmacies	Morrisons	1.4 miles
	Manchester	64 miles		Boots, Shawburch	1.8 miles
	East Midlands	65 Miles	Post Offices	Admaston	1 mile
	Liverpool	66 miles		Shawburch	1.8 miles
Cinemas	Wellington Orbit	1.8 miles		Wellington	1.8 miles
	Odeon	6 miles	Pubs/Restaurants	The Pheasant, Admaston	1.1 miles
	Cineworld	6.4 miles		Plough Inn, Allscott	1.1 miles
Coffee Shops	Greggs	1.8miles	Railway Stations	Wellington	1.9 miles
	Costa Coffee	2.2 miles		Telford	6.4 miles
	Starbucks	4.9 miles		Shrewsbury	12 miles
Colleges (age 16+)	Telford College	3.2 miles		Stafford (for West Coast Main Line)	23 miles
	Shrewsbury Colleges Group	8.3 miles	Retail Centres	Wrekin Retail Park	3.9 miles
Convenience Stores	One Stop, Allscott	1.3 miles		The Forge Retail Park	6.1 miles
	Spar, Shawburch	1.8 miles		Telford Bridge Retail Park	6.1 miles
Dentist	Shawburch Dental Practice	1.8 miles		Telford Centre	6.1 miles
Fast Food Outlets	McDonalds	3.9 miles	Schools -Primary	St Peter's Bratton Church of England Acad. (in catchment)	2 miles
	KFC	3.9 miles		Allscott Meads Primary (Rectory outside of catchment area)	1.3 miles
	BurgerKing	4.4 miles	Schools - Secondary	Charlton School	2 miles
GP surgery	Shawburch Medical Centre	1.4 miles		Ercall Wood Academy	2.3 miles
Hospitals	Princess Royal Hospital, Telford	2.4 miles	Supermarkets	Morrisons	1.4 miles
	Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	13.6 miles		Aldi	1.7 miles
Hotels/Lodges	Church Farm Guest House	0.1 mile		Tesco	3.7miles
	Travelodge, Shawburch	1.3 miles		Lidl	4.1 miles
	Fallow Field (a Marstons Inn Lodge)	4.3 miles		Marks & Spencer	6.1 miles
	Hadley Park House	4.5 miles		ASDA	6.2 miles
	Ramada Telford	5.7 miles		Sainsbury	6.3 miles
	Mercure Telford	5.7 miles		Waitrose	10.7 miles
Nurseries	Little Chicks	1.8 miles			
	Pioneer	2.2 miles			

Parish Statistics

Parish	Buildwas	Eaton Constantine	High Ercall	Leighton	Longdon	Rodington	Rowton	Uffington	Uppington	Upton Magna	Withington	Wrockwardine	Benefice
Deprivation rank (1=most deprived, 12,178=least deprived)	3,328	3,328	3,355	3,328	7,980	8,138	3,623	4,176	4,835	4,339	4,176	9,204	
Parish population (2021 census)	322	437	1,537	250	431	511	693	229	125	429	204	3,775	8,943
Parish number of occupied households	153	182	699	112	194	231	257	105	54	163	91	1,494	3,735
Area (square miles)	3.4	7.6	12.4	2.7	2.5	3.2	4.8	3.8	3	5.2	1.8	7.4	57.8
Population density (people per square mile)	95	58	124	94	173	161	145	60	42	82	114	513	155
% aged 0-4	1.0%	2.4%	3.5%	2.2%	1.6%	3.5%	4.3%	4.2%	2.7%	4.7%	2.4%	4.9%	3.9%
% aged 5-19	12.6%	14.3%	10.7%	12.5%	11.1%	10.7%	14.2%	12.8%	15.9%	19.1%	14.8%	17.0%	14.6%
% aged 20-29	9.0%	7.3%	8.2%	5.8%	9.1%	6.3%	9.5%	9.0%	9.3%	9.3%	3.3%	9.8%	8.8%
% aged 30-44	12.6%	11.1%	14.5%	10.5%	7.8%	15.6%	15.2%	19.1%	12.7%	15.7%	9.0%	15.8%	14.5%
% aged 45-69	43.2%	44.3%	37.5%	47.0%	40.8%	38.9%	38.1%	38.5%	41.4%	37.1%	45.2%	37.8%	39.0%
% aged 70 and over	21.5%	20.7%	25.6%	22.0%	29.7%	25.0%	18.7%	16.3%	18.0%	14.1%	25.2%	14.8%	19.3%
% Asian ethnicity	-	0.1%	1.2%	0.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.3%	-	-	0.7%	-	4.3%	2.4%
% Black ethnicity	-	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	-	0.5%	-	1.9%	0.9%	0.6%
% Mixed ethnicity	1.0%	0.5%	1.1%	-	0.3%	0.6%	1.6%	1.0%	1.2%	1.6%	-	2.2%	1.5%
% White ethnicity	99.0%	98.8%	97.2%	99.6%	97.4%	97.6%	96.8%	99.0%	98.1%	96.1%	98.1%	92.0%	95.3%
% Other ethnicity	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-	-	-	0.2%	1.6%	-	0.6%	0.4%
% Buddhist	0.3%	-	0.1%	-	0.2%	0.2%	-	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%
% Christian	56.7%	62.3%	58.5%	61.6%	67.3%	56.4%	51.3%	60.9%	62.0%	52.9%	64.4%	55.6%	57.2%
% Hindu	-	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	1.4%	0.2%	-	-	-	-	-	0.5%	0.3%
% Jewish	-	-	-	-	0.3%	-	-	-	-	1.6%	-	0.1%	0.1%
% Muslim	-	-	0.1%	-	-	-	1.3%	-	0.2%	1.4%	1.4%	0.5%	0.4%
% Sikh	-	-	0.5%	-	0.2%	-	0.2%	-	-	-	-	2.3%	1.1%
% Other religion	0.3%	0.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%	1.1%	0.4%	-	-	-	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
% No religion	36.1%	32.8%	33.6%	32.9%	27.6%	36.6%	41.0%	34.9%	34.0%	37.7%	26.4%	36.5%	35.4%
% Religion not stated	6.5%	4.7%	6.3%	5.1%	2.8%	5.6%	5.8%	3.8%	3.7%	6.1%	6.7%	4.3%	5.0%
Rural/Urban classification	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural
% Area urban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.0%	-	-	-	14.7%	1.7%
Parish code	200616	200617	200618	200620	200621	200622	200623	200573	200624	200625	200626	200627	
Parish local name	Buildwas: Holy Trinity	Eaton Constantine & Wroxeter: St Mary Eaton	High Ercall: St Michael & All Angels	Leighton-under- Wrekin: St Mary	Longdon-on- Tern: St Bartholomew	Rodington: St George	Rowton: All Hallows	Uffington: Holy Trinity	Uppington: Holy Trinity	Upton Magna: St Lucia	Withington: St John the Baptist	Wrockwardine: St Peter	
Parish legal name	Buildwas	Constantine With Wroxeter	Ercall Magna	Leighton-under- the-Wrekin	Longdon-on- Tern	Rodington	Rowton	Uffington	Uppington	Upton Magna	Withington	Wrockwardine	

Source: www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a

