



Welcome to the Parish Profile for our  
**Priest in Charge**

IN TEN CHURCHES FORMING THE STAFFORDSHIRE

**BENEFICE OF MID-TRENT**



# A welcome from Lichfield Diocese



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## THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

### ***A word of welcome to the Diocese 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.

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

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a variety of contexts – from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

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

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.

*+ Michael Ipgrave*



### **The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE**

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A  
welcome  
from  
Mid-Trent  
Council



Dear Applicant

Welcome from the Mid-Trent Team Council, we hope that reading our parish profile will encourage you to apply for the position of Priest in Charge.

We have an active Mid-Trent Team which is made up of representatives from each of the parishes to aid coordination of the administration, such as service rotas, weddings, baptisms and funerals and share ideas for Mission and our way forward to serve our Lord.

We understand the pressure that having 8 parishes could put on an incumbent, and we are realistic about how we need to change and adapt to support you in your ministry. You will see in our job description that this is a central theme. We need someone who can lead that change taking our existing congregations with us and bring in new people to the church community.

We have worked hard in the last 6 months with our stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy, and each other, and are excited about the work going on. We want to buck the trend in the Church of England and see our congregations grow and thrive. We have shared in our profile what is going on in our churches. Each of our parishes has a newly written Mission Action Plan.

We hope that you are excited about our benefice and we would like you to come on the journey with us as we share God's love throughout our communities.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Hodson  
Lay Chair of Mid-Trent Team Council

# Realising our Vision

Working  
together

We pray

Reaching  
out

Doing the  
basics well

Looking  
forward

We are a community of churches in eight beautiful rural parishes operating as one, and our aim is to grow the number of people touched by the Gospel. We are committed to developing our own faith and discipleship, and in building on the strength which comes from being part of a large benefice.

**Prayer:** This has always been at the heart of what we do. We meet regularly for worship in all our churches and are inclusive and welcoming, offering services in the central tradition of the Church of England. We pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to grow in faith and effectiveness.

**Mission:** our theme is growth and new beginnings which is reflected in:-

Schools: outreach through 'Open the Book' at Weston and Hixon schools, school services and workshops for families at various churches across the benefice.

In church: with breakfast services at Weston and Hixon, fellowship groups, communion in local nursing homes, special services at Christmas and Easter, concerts and special performances.

Communication: Compass is our church magazine with 2,500 copies delivered free across the benefice each month, and to which the whole community contributes. Our online presence, A Church Near You and Facebook, keeps everyone up to date with what is happening in church and in our villages.

And in the community: with regular coffee mornings, tea parties, social events and fundraising.

We deliver the practicalities of running the benefice through **an effective Team Council** supported by a strong team of wardens, PCC members, experienced administrators and team treasurer. An integrated service rota has been developed to include a Team Service each month at which we gather together from across the benefice. A single Common Worship service book is used across all parishes except for Sandon with Burston which use the Book of Common Prayer. Lay leaders have been trained in supporting services. All Saints', Milwich, work in an L.E.P. with the Methodist community.

**Led by the Holy Spirit, we want our churches to grow and thrive**, seeking to attract families and young people to ensure we become a beacon for Christ and the joy of the Gospel in our communities and across the benefice. We look forward to welcoming a new leader that will work with our Associate Minister and Reader as we continue on our journey.

# OUR WORSHIP TEAM

To support the priest in charge there is a team of people across the benefice who support in leading services and other activities. We meet as a Worship Group 6 times a year to put together the service rota and other mission activities. There is a coordinated reading plan and theme for services each week across the benefice. We have an Associate Minister and hope it may be possible to have an additional House for Duty Minister in the future.

## Our team includes:

Associate Minister:  
Rev'd Vivienne Starkie



Lay Reader:  
Andy Cooper

Retired Minister:  
Rev'd Duncan Leake



# OUR LAY WORSHIP TEAM



Lay Leader:  
Elizabeth Jarrett



Lay Leader:  
Gordon  
Broomfield



Lay Leader:  
Rose Rae



Lay Leader:  
Sarah Emery



Lay Leader:  
Stephen Butt



Lay Leader:  
Stuart Hodson

# Priest- in -Charge

## **Role purpose:**

We are seeking a Priest in Charge who will create and execute a dynamic, exciting and sustainable future strategy for the Mid-Trent Team, working with the Mid-Trent Team Council, the PCC's and an exceptional group of licensed non-stipendiary clergy and lay ministers.

## **Key aspects of the role:**

We want our Priest in Charge to show Leadership:

- Work collaboratively with all those in the team and enable all to meet the priorities of the church and the local community.
- Work with the PCCs to develop MAPs that deliver the priorities of the Mid-Trent Team Council within the realm of that parish.
- Explore simpler and more effective forms of governance within the Mid-Trent Benefice.
- Support us to become increasingly financially sustainable
- Developing a pattern of clergy deployment which is missionally effective and affordable
- Foster courage and confidence that helps the churches' families to pursue an adventurous expression of faith and mission
- Provide an inclusive approach that enables the churches to be welcoming churches embracing all differences and enabling people to feel safe and welcome.

## **Through their Worship:**

- Provide flexibility to both transform and shape the different styles of worship across the Mid-Trent benefice.
- Ensure worship is accessible and engaging for children and families.
- Explore the service pattern across the benefice to ensure regular worship is accessible to both current congregation members and encourage new members of the church community.

# Priest in Charge

## **To actively lead our Mission:**

- Engage with the Church of England schools both through and beyond collective worship, working towards the further development of pathways to discipleship for both children and families.
- Active missional development of the relationship between churches and the church and county schools in the benefice
- Developing evangelistic and pastoral opportunities through occasional offices
- Explore points of connection with younger adults within the benefice, seeking to creatively use these to develop conversations of faith and offer steps to discipleship.

## **Working with Discipleship and Vocation**

- Nurture and develop lay leadership
- Find new ways of mutual support between churches in the Team, particularly to enable pathways to growth in discipleship and confidence in evangelism

## **The person:**

- Someone who engagingly communicates a passion for their own faith
- A forward thinking priest with a missional heart
- Able to discern and nurture the ministry gifts of others
- Able to manage the interpersonal challenges of change well
- A strategic thinker who can enable congregations to develop a vision for sustainability and growth and resource a plan to achieve it
- Able to quickly build effective relationships in the wider community
- Someone with experience of engaging with schools



# About us

Schools Mission

JAM (Jesus and Me)

Breakfast Services

Team Services

Open Churches

Both St Andrew's, Weston, and St Peter's, Hixon, have active relationships with their Church primary schools, including 'Open the Book' and regular services both in school and church for pupils, parents and staff. All Saints', Milwich, is developing a relationship with its local primary school. There is a team who are actively involved in this mission.

As a benefice we hold occasional child-friendly worship sessions JAM (Jesus and Me) specially designed for whole families with lots of activities for children, and we hold Christingles at Hixon, Sandon, Fradswell and Weston.

Every month, St Andrew's, Weston, and St Peter's, Hixon, host popular Café Church-style Breakfast Services, which include children's activities.

Once a month, all our churches now come together to worship as one, hosted in a different church each time. Donations are collected for a local Christian charity, House of Bread, which supports vulnerable people in Stafford. In recent years, these services have become a focus for developing community across the benefice.

We believe in our churches being open, where possible, for people to come and worship privately or just to look around (we have popular walking and cycle routes across Mid-Trent).



Starting at Sandon Church The Bishop of Lichfield's walk around the Mid-Trent Benefice



# More about us

Occasional  
Offices

Fellowship

Community  
Events

Heritage

Our beautiful churches, set in long-established communities, attract weddings and family baptisms. We see these as great missional opportunities.

All eight parishes have open churchyards.

We hold study courses every Advent and Lent, as well as occasional quiet days.

Regular fundraising concerts are held at All Saints', Sandon, and St Andrew's, Weston.

Many churches have arts and crafts activities during the year.

- Weston has an annual 'Open Gardens' weekend, famous for its 'Best Scarecrow' competition, while Milwich, Hopton and Stowe by Chartley all have garden and produce guilds.
- Hixon's 'Craft and Chat' group meets once a month in the village Memorial Hall,
- while St Peter's, Hopton, and St Andrew's, Weston, host weekly 'Knit and Natter' groups.
- There are regular coffee mornings held in St Peter's, Hixon, St Peter's, Hopton, and
- St Andrew's, Weston.
- All Saints', Sandon, is developing opportunities for visitors interested in learning about its heritage, having obtained a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, building on recent 'Heritage Open Days'. All of our churches participate in the annual Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' event.

# Our Parish Churches

## Fradswell

**Our Church:** a small Grade II listed building with a chancel arch dating back to the thirteenth century. The chancel survives, but the main part of the church was rebuilt in 1764 and later enlarged in 1852.

**Our village:** we live in a small, isolated rural village where agriculture and a strong connection with the land still play a major role in the life of those living here. Our parish has a population of 175, 40 of which live in a residential care home. Think “Far From the Madding Crowd” - with no water supply!

**Our services:** these are lay led by a local farmer at 10-00am on the 1st Sunday of every month. The regular time and date is a response to those that have cows to milk, livestock and young children, and who find this more convenient. Adopting this service pattern and allowing dogs to every service has seen our congregation increase three-fold. Each service is followed by delicious home-made refreshments kindly donated by members of our community. In addition, we host the Benefice 'Worship Together' Holy Communion Service every 5th month.

Since July 2023 our lay led worship has followed a Celtic theme and the influences of the changing seasons. Our music is full of exuberance and life and never fails to raise even the lowest of spirits; it stems from an older more traditional style which is sometimes referred to as 'the music the church lost'.

- Our worship style now deeply reflects our rural community. We consider ourselves 'pioneers' because we have connected with people who previously did not attend church by creating new ways of worshipping together in our community.
- Our Mothering Sunday Service, Easter Day Dawn Service, and Lambing Sunday each attracted an average of 30 people and 5 dogs. Notably, 6 sheep also attended the Lambing Sunday service!

**Our Mission work** includes:

- Supporting our village hall committee with their Lunch Club and Quiet Dementia Friendly Café;
- Our annual 6½ mile Rogation Walk (now in its 7th year) captures the imagination of those who feel constricted by the church building;
- Monthly Holy Communion by Extension at the Old Rectory Residential Care Home (led by the same farmer).

## St. James the Less



## Fradswell (continued)

## St. James the Less



Lambing Sunday at St. James

Community Carol Singing in local pubs along with “Magical Christmas”, a free event for our community;

We have 2 Churchwardens and a full complement of PCC Officers and our Common Fund payments are up to date with no arrears.

Due to our remote location and distinct style, Fradswell is unique within the Benefice.

We are a rural community rediscovering our spiritual identity and its importance. We are confident about the future of Mid Trent, with Fradswell playing a significant role in the team. We eagerly anticipate and embrace this fresh start with new leadership.

Please visit <https://www.fradswellvillage.co.uk> to see how busy Fradswell is as a community.

Photos of services at St James the Less can be accessed here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/magicfoundry/collections/72157699599046461>

The ancient tradition of Rogation, dating back to 470 AD, is alive and well in Fradswell. For the seventh consecutive year, St. James the Less Church, supported by the village hall committee, organized a procession along stretches of the parish boundary, totalling 6½ miles.

Handmade crosses, crafted from hazel trees in the parish and engraved with the year, were placed at strategic locations. Short blessing ceremonies were conducted at each of the following sites: the Village Hall Community Hub, a large arable field on the boundary, a boundary marker stone, a bridge spanning the boundary, some beautiful lakes, and the old country church, where special prayers were said to celebrate the Patronal Day of St. James the Less.

Forty people gathered at the village hall for the start, ranging from octogenarians to babies in pushchairs, with nine dogs also joining the procession. After the initial ceremony at the village hall, the procession moved to a large arable field on the boundary of Fradswell and Stowe by Chartley, where a local agricultural contractor set the cross.

The procession then ventured into the wilds of the parish, with eleven hardy souls and four dogs completing the full 6½-mile walk. Along the way, they were refreshed with Fradswell cider, left out for them - in keeping with ancient traditions. It was fitting that the final cross was set at the church, having done the entire route and witnessed the blessings bestowed at each site.

The walkers were treated to a tour of the bell tower and had the opportunity to ring the bells themselves. The procession ended at the village hall with a final blessing and a 'toast' of Fradswell cider. Everyone then joined together for a picnic, once again in keeping with the tradition of ancient processions. Long may the tradition of Rogation continue in Fradswell

## Gayton

## St. Peter's

St Peter's at Gayton is a small rural church with over 800 years of service to the community in which it stands. It is a Grade II\* listed building with a long-documented history, indeed records exist for the church of weddings in the 1500's. Times are rapidly changing and the need of a community for a Christian place of worship, sometimes seems no longer clear, although maintaining its spiritual presence remains a priority.

There was a time in living memory when a thriving Sunday school and vibrant congregation were in place but many social changes, and depletion of families in the village have led to a dwindling and ageing congregation and with that the practical problems faced by any small church battling to survive in the 21st century. But survive we do, and over the last 15 years in spite of all the problems faced we have been able to get back on track with common fund payments. This however is increasingly difficult.

In 2011 our church was selected to be the subject of a detailed study by the Church records part of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies) in which all the historic items were recorded and researched; from wood to brass, fabric to paper, all were considered. The detailed report that followed was presented to us in the form of a hard-back book that provided a historical reference for the future.

In 2013 the small PCC managed the difficult Chancel repair liability issue without detriment either to the church or the local community and joined with the local village heritage society in creating a Heritage walk which provides the opportunity for many to learn about the history of the church and village. This was followed by a book covering the history of the village with a chapter devoted to St Peter's written by the Church Warden.

A quinquennial report in 2006 had given the church its biggest challenge and a considerable amount of work was required to restore and repair the church particularly the tower, roof and medieval wall. By the next quinquennial in 2011 grants had been applied for and we were granted not only a large sum from English Heritage but several other small Grants-no mean feat in these days of financial restrictions. These grants, alongside considerable fund raising and galvanising of the community, led to a restoration and repair project of over £120, 000 This project spanned from October 2013 to Spring 2014.

A church of this age will always need repairs and work and it is easy to become caught up with the challenges of the bricks and mortar and forget the purpose that we are here. Yes, we no longer have a large congregation and one cannot fail to have concern for the future but the Christian presence of the church is still vital.



## Gayton (continued)

## St. Peter's

Special services, weddings, funerals and baptisms take place. Our services, though usually twice a month are often visited by members of the wider Mid-Trent team. We host team services (along with all the other churches in turn) and Gayton church and village hall have previously welcomed members to the Team quiet days which provide us with peaceful meditation and shared spiritual experience strengthening our bonds within the team and with our Lord. And what of the years ahead? We hope to continue to celebrate the church's history and place in the community bringing God's word to Gayton and the wider Mid-Trent Community.

## Hixon

## St. Peter's

St Peter's Church, Hixon, a mid-19th century building designed by Gilbert Scott to serve a small village, is now at the centre of a growing community of around 2,000 people (the largest settlement in the benefice).

The service pattern in Hixon currently includes a breakfast service held in the nearby guide hall which is well attended.

The 8am morning service on a Sunday is popular with the Hixon congregation. St Peter's school has a good relationship with the church with Open the Book, an excellent recent SIAMS inspection and regular assemblies held by members of the church.

The church chimney needed extensive repair this year which needed to be completed. This has been met by the parish but now leaves us in a low financial position. There is a village "giving campaign" in place to raise funds to allow the church to continue.

There is currently no formal PCC but there are two members representing the Church on Team Council. Currently Stowe is partnering Hixon to complete a regular service pattern and it maybe a recommendation that these two parishes join.



## Milwich (and surrounds)

## All Saints' LEP

The Church of All Saints Milwich is a Grade II\* listed building with a medieval tower housing the oldest dated bell in Staffordshire (1409 by John Colsale) and it is one of only two English bells to have both the founders name and date on it. The main body of the Church was rebuilt in 1792 and contains a 13th Century font and a Church on the site can be dated back to 1140.

In 1981 the Methodist Chapel at Garshall Green Milwich closed and since then All Saints' has had a joint Anglican / Methodist Congregation.



Our services presently are on three of the Sundays currently at 11.15am with one of those covered by the lay team and the fourth by a Methodist Preacher.

The second Sunday is a Praise together time bringing all team churches to worship together.

The attachment with the land is still the predominant occupation in the village, there is a local state school, two open public houses and a church/village hall.

- Excellent relationship with village state school.
- Host for school leavers service.
- School choir join us for Carol Service.
- Special Remembrance Service for Loved ones.
- Annual Village Duck Race & Music Festival.
- Harvest Supper for 80.
- Church open everyday for visitors & quiet prayer.



We have two Church Wardens, officers, fully paid common fund, funding for current repairs and you will be ensured of a special welcome.

## Salt with Hopton

**St James the Great, Salt**, is a Grade II listed church completed in 1842, with much of the interior being replaced in 1892. It's a typical Victorian church, and is an important focal point in the village. We have three services a month and draw a committed congregation of about 18. Our congregation is elderly and we would like to encourage younger people as well. The church installed central heating in 2022, so the church is warm. We have no other facilities other than one cold tap. Our current project is making the church watertight, we have the faculty approved and are in the process of seeking grants for the £100,000 project.



**St. Peter's, Hopton.** Hopton a village a couple of miles away has a mission chapel (St Peter's Church), a former barn consecrated in 1876, prior to this villagers used to walk to Salt. The Earl of Shrewsbury provided the chapel. The congregations of Salt and Hopton support both churches. The two congregations remain very close and continue to function as one. Hopton has electricity and heating but no other facilities. The building is in a reasonable state of repair.



## Sandon with Burston.

**All Saints' Church, Sandon**, is a friendly and welcoming Community located on the edge of Sandon Park. We have a very Busy group of volunteers who support services and who clean, manage The building, open the church on a regular basis for those wishing to visit. We have recently run a cycle of school and nursery visits to show the children the heritage of the church as part of our aim to widen the audiences that use the church building and churchyard to extend our reach into the community and as part of our wider fund-raising project with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).



The church building is much altered and extended over the centuries, the influence of the families from Sandon Hall can be seen in wall paintings, tombs, early stained glass, and funeral hatchments. Grade I listed for its interior features, the church has benefitted from much fundraising, including a recent NLHF grant to develop our conservation plans. A peal of six bells, dating to the 17th century is in frequent use by a troop of around twenty ringers. Regular BCP services are held which are led by the clergy and lay members of the church. The great asset we have is the quality of skills that are used to keep our church going. We are meeting the constant challenges through the active lay-led committees responsible for the Church Building and Churchyard, the Heritage Project and fundraising.

We are a popular choice for weddings and over time have grown our congregation from parents of wedding couples. Most of our congregation are from outside the immediate area and we share the issue common to many churches of an ageing demographic with no local schools to draw on. However, services are well attended and we are gaining further interest from those connecting with the church through the heritage project.

Finances can be challenging but are well managed. Everyday costs and maintenance are accommodated but larger repairs are often met by specific fundraising or grant applications. Other than for 2022 and 2023, our Common Fund contribution has been met in full. With the support of the Diocese arrangements had been made regarding any shortfall but the most recent reduction in the Common Fund across the benefice means we are back on track. We are raising funds for our contribution towards our £680,000 bid to the NLHF to deliver the conservation project. A group of our church members is spearheading this challenge and it is moving in a positive direction.

## Sandon with Burston.

The parish includes **St. Rufin's, Burston**, a small 19th century mission chapel in the hamlet of Burston, located on the 'Two Saints' Way' between Lichfield and Chester. St Rufin's was open daily for visitors hopping off the 'Two Saints Way' or the canal. Last year we had to close the church due to building issues which we have just resolved. The Chapel is now able to open one Sunday service per month and services for special Festivals. The church is supported by very few residents and is not financially viable. We are in discussion with the Archdeacon about its future.



We as a PCC and church are active members of the Mid-Trent Team and supportive of the team approach and the recent changes to the pattern of services across the team. As demonstrated, we are open to challenges and opportunities and are big on self-help and supporting others.

Some of our recent events:-



### Sandon Spring Bluebell Walk on Sunday 12th May at 2-00pm

- 📍 The distance is 2 miles.  
Please meet at All Saints' Church car park.  
The cost is £5-00 for adults (children free) which includes coffee, tea and cake..



### The Heath Chorus and Uttoxeter Town Band, June 25th at 7-30pm

- 📍 Another date for your diary.... Magical Musical Moments at Sandon Hall

The Heath Chorus and Uttoxeter Town Band wish to entertain you on June 25th at 7-30pm

All Saints Church, Sandon, ST18 0DB  
www.sandonallsaints.com

# Easter Family Adventures

A series of special family fun days  
this Easter holiday.

Join us for  
Self-guided Easter-themed family trails  
Family Crafts  
Storytelling  
Bring your own picnic!  
For more details see website

Fridays 29th March and 5th April  
11am-3pm  
Saturday 30th March and 6th April  
10am-1.30pm

Heritage Fund

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the poster featuring several colorful Easter eggs in shades of blue, purple, and pink, set against a green grassy background. To the right, there is a small circular inset image of a church building.

## Stowe-by-Chartley.

## St John the Baptist

The grade II\* listed 12th century church of St John the Baptist is situated in the attractive small village of Stowe-by-Chartley, off the A518 between Stafford and Uttoxeter, and has historical associations with Chartley Castle and Mary, Queen of Scots, who was a prisoner at the Manor House from 1585 to 1586. The church is of Norman origin and sits squarely in the centre of the village, together with a pub, a number of very old houses and a small development of properties built in the 1960's.

Within the church is the Early Renaissance tomb of Sir Walter Devereux (d 1558) and two wall tablets by Sir Edwin Lutyens to Sir Walter Congreve and his son, William la Touche, both of whom won the VC.



The population of the parish is about 440, spread over a number of hamlets, where redundant farm buildings have been converted to habitation, and in the village itself, where residents are mainly retired. The Electoral Roll stands at 24 and church members are actively involved in the regular Sunday services, administering the chalice, leading non-eucharistic worship, intercessions and reading lessons. A quarterly newsletter is sent to The Friends of Stowe Church – mainly people who think fondly of it although now living far away, and we take part in the monthly Communion service led by our clergy at the local Residential Home. Special services – e.g. for Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance and Christmas events are opportunities for outreach. We have recently improved the lighting and general appearance of the tower (the usual entrance) to create a welcoming first impression and guidebooks and information leaflets are available for visitors. We also take part in secular activities in the village, such as the monthly coffee and chat meetings and the annual fête.



We are mindful of the unjust treatment of so many in the world and support charities as we are able, notably, WaterAid and the local organisations of the House of Bread, the Acorns Trust and Donna Louise Hospice. Our enthusiastic Churchyard Team maintains the ancient cross and the graveyard beautifully, with a keen thought to wildflower and bird protection.

The PCC is careful to monitor the state of the church building, which was deemed to be in generally good condition at the Quinquennial Inspection in 2022 and we are able to pay our essential bills, although our finances have not yet recovered from the effects of the pandemic, making it a struggle to meet the full amount of the common fund.

As a parish we have good relations with the others in our benefice and a spirit of community in our own. We are alive to the future and look forward to welcoming a Priest in Charge who will help us to achieve our ambitions and for whom we will try to offer good back up and support.

## Weston

## St. Andrew's

St Andrew's Church, Weston, is a Norman church built of local sandstone. Subsequent restoration means that it is now in a style typical of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century and the bell tower dates from that period. The church underwent extensive restoration and enlargement in 1872.

We have a mix of services at varying times which include Holy Communion and a Breakfast Service which is All Age Worship. We pride ourselves on our celebration of the Christian festivals with our Lenten cross Transformation (the floral arrangement is amazing!) and thriving Christingle.



We work closely with our local primary school St Andrew's. They hold services in church, we hold a Good Friday workshop there, we have Foundation Governors and support their annual trip to Lichfield Cathedral.

Weston is a thriving village with a community spirit to match and we hold a range of community events; pub quizzes, Lent lunches and an Open Garden event to spread the word of God, at the same time raising funds for the church.

We have recently refurbished our church room which is allowing us to connect with the community further. We continue to pay our parish share but need to increase our giving for long term sustainability.

We have a dedicated PCC with churchwardens and governance of our church in our opinion is good. We too look forward to working with you to develop our mission throughout our community.

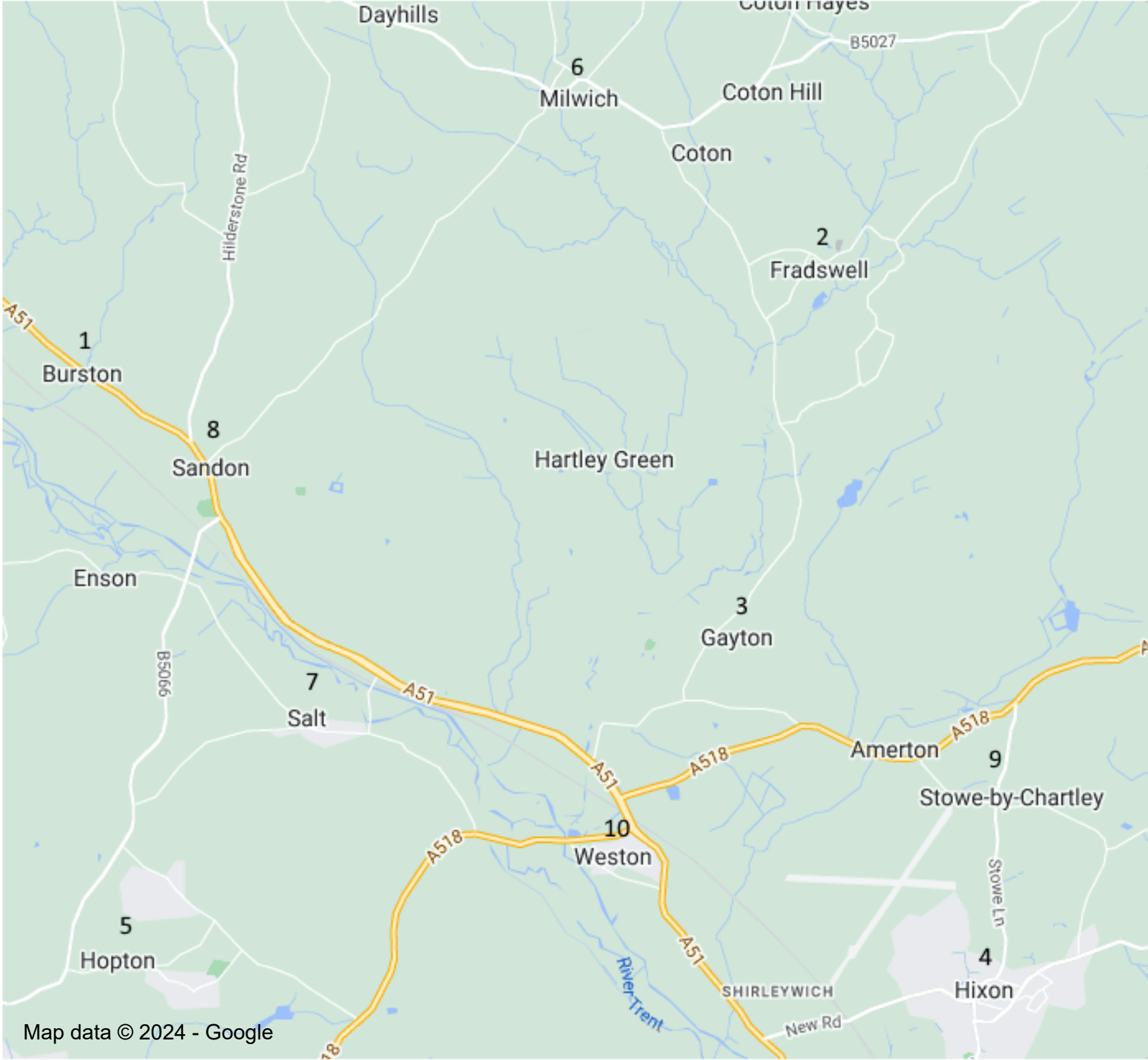


Further information about all of our churches can be found on 'A Church Near You' and Facebook



# Our service rota (this pattern shows a typical month)

	BURSTON	FRADSWELL	GAYTON	HIXON	HOPTON	MILWICH	SALT	SANDON	STOWE	WESTON
Wk 1	<i>With Sandon</i>	10-00am	<i>No service</i>	8-00am	<i>With Salt</i>	11-15am	9-30am	11-15am	9-30am	11-15am
		Morning Prayer		Holy Communion		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
		(or HC with P3)		BCP		(or lay led Morning Prayer)	Common Worship	BCP	Common Worship	Common Worship
		Lay led / P3		P1 / P3		P3 / Lay led	P2 / P3	P1	P1	P2
Wk 2	10-00am "Praise Together" Holy Communion Team Service rotating between Milwich, Sandon, Stowe and Weston.									
	4-30pm Evensong rotating between Fradswell, Gayton, Hixon, Hopton and Salt.									
Wk 3	<i>With Sandon</i>	<i>No service</i>	8-00am	9-30am	<i>With Salt</i>	11-15am	11-15am	9-30am	9-30am	9-30am
			Holy Communion	Breakfast Service		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
			Common Worship			Common Worship	Common Worship	BCP		Common Worship
			x	Lay led		P2	P1	P2	Warden / Reader P3	P1
Wk4	<i>With Sandon</i>	<i>No service</i>	11-15am	9-30am	9-30am	11-15am	<i>With Hopton</i>	11-15am	11-15am	9-30am
			Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Methodist LEP Service		Matins BCP ( or BCP HC with P3 )	Holy Communion	Breakfast Service
			Common Worship	Common Worship	Common Worship	Methodist Minister		Warden / Reader P3	Common Worship	
			P1	P2	P1				P2	Lay led
Wk5	10-00am "Special Service" with church to be determined by Worship Team.									
Please note that P1, P2 and P3 denotes clergy whose roles will alternate monthly or as needed.										
All services except those using Book of Commom Prayer (BCP) are celebrated using standardised Common Worship booklets. HC indicated Holy Communion.										



- 1 St Rufin Burston
- 2 St James the Less Fradswell
- 3 St Peter's Gayton
- 4 St Peter's Hixon
- 5 St Peter's Hopton
- 6 All Saints' Milwich
- 7 St James the Gt salt
- 8 All Saints' Sandon
- 9 St John the Bapt Stowe by Chartley
- 10 St Andrew's Weston

# Living in Mid-Trent

Work – life  
balance

Travel

Living In  
Weston

Your  
Rectory

We recognise the demands of the role of clergy and we will:

- Respect your day off and annual leave. Make sure that you take them
- Encourage your professional development, supporting through study leave.
- Encourage you to be part of the Stafford Deanery Chapter for support from others in the local clergy

The rural nature of these parishes means that being able to drive and having a car is essential.

We will pay all mileage occurred in your work for Mid-Trent Benefice.

[The Diocese has a car loan scheme](#)

Weston is a vibrant, quaint English village, a dog owners paradise with a large green in the centre and plenty of fields and countryside to explore on tap. Villagers are welcoming but not intrusive, catering for all ages! Weston holds regular events including a village fete on the green, Christmas fayres, cake sales, quiz nights and parties on the green. It has two public houses, a Methodist Church, St Andrews Church and a Primary School. There are a variety of sporting activities run in the Village Hall each week, WI, Knit and Natter, Dance Class, Badminton, Pilates, Table Tennis and Yoga. Both village pubs are busy, vibrant and run a host of entertainment.

The village is about a 15 minute drive to both Stafford and Stone and 35 minutes from the Cathedral City of Lichfield. Stafford train station has direct lines to Birmingham, Manchester and London [1¼ hour].

There are local primary schools in Weston and Hixon which are part of the [Mid-Trent MAT](#) and Secondary School in Stafford. [Weston Road](#)

We recognise the importance of support for clergy families and there is a clergy spousal group within the area.

The Rectory was built in Weston in 2008 and a purpose built facility. The office and accessible toilet are just off the front door which can be made separate from the living accommodation to give you a work / life balance.

There is a separate lounge, dining room which has doors which can be opened out into the kitchen which has a variety of cupboards, hob and oven. Off the kitchen there is a utility room with back door to the garden.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms. The main bedroom with ensuite.

Outside there is a tarmac drive, separate single garage. To the rear of the property there is patio area and grass. The garden could be seen as a “blank canvas”

# Living in Mid-Trent

Your  
Rectory  
and  
Garden  
ST18oHX





# Living in Mid-Trent

Your  
Rectory  
(Ground  
Floor)



# Living in Mid-Trent

Your  
Rectory  
(First  
Floor)



# Living in Mid-Trent

Your  
Rectory  
Study

