



The Church of England
around Staffordshire, northern
Shropshire and the Black Country



Curacy in the Diocese of Lichfield



**Title post in the
parishes of
Saint Mary's, Stafford
Saint Chad's, Stafford
Saint Leonard's,
Marston**



St Mary's | inclusive catholic
a town centre church with a civic role at
the heart of the county

St Chad's | inculsive catholic
an ancient High Street parish with a
ministry to the shopping area centre

St Leonard's | central
a small rural church on the route of HS2
with a new parish being built around it

Welcome to Lichfield Diocese



**Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad**

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

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

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

Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

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

**‘...a spacious and
gracious diocese.’**

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

+Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave
Bishop of Lichfield

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

A caring diocese

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

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

Homes and schools

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

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

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

Vocation and mission of all

Our vision for the Diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to

worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in their own contexts.

To further these aims, and to develop creative patterns of ministry, we ask all training parishes to offer 'sixth-day' opportunities for curates – which might be a chaplaincy attachment (school, hospital, prison or

hospice), involvement with local gardening ventures, night-shelter involvement – to mention just a few possibilities.



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

Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley

The Archdeaconries of Lichfield Diocese



Everything but the sea



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

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

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

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



Opening of the Lighthouse Project at Kingsland CE Academy, Bucknall



Road and rail links



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

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



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

Leisure and pleasure

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

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



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



Apedale Valley Light Railway nr Stoke is one of many transport and leisure museums in the Diocese / Simon Jones

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



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

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



The Benefice of Saint Mary's, Stafford; Saint



Saint Mary's in the sunshine

At the centre of Staffordshire is the County Town of Stafford. The County and Borough Councils are both based here. The town draws people from a wide area to the high street shops and coffee shops; the Gatehouse Theatre, park and nature reserve. Across the leafy park, a few minutes' walk away, is the railway station with direct trains to London.

The town hosts an army base and a prison. Former industrial areas are being restored.

At the centre of Stafford are the two churches of Saint Mary and Saint Chad. These two churches have been places for the people of Stafford to gather in the name of Christ to pray at the most important times in their lives.

The two congregations have had parallel lives for some time. Now they are working together as two places of distinctive Christian presence at the heart of the town.

Three miles north of the town centre is Marston. Marston is a small rural

community facing massive change. It will be a major building site for HS2. New housing is going up in the fields around the church, bringing new opportunities for mission, and new challenges for a small congregation.

Stafford hosts a significant BAME community, a Polish community and a Traveller community.

Traditionally Stafford was a centre of shoemaking. Today it is a retail centre and centre for hospitality and service industries. People commute from Stafford to Birmingham, Manchester and London.

*The Bishop of Lichfield
and the Rector of Stafford*



Saint Leonard's, Saint Mary's, Saint Chad's



Services in the churches:

All three churches have a variety of services. Vestments are worn at the Eucharist. Incense is used at Saint Chad's.

There are regular weekday services in the town centre, providing an opportunity for town centre workers to take time for worship in the middle of the day.

Common Worship modern language is used for all services except Sunday 8.00am and Choral Evensong, when traditional language is used.

Music plays a large part in our worship. There is an excellent choir and Children's Choir at Saint Mary's, and a group of musicians who enhance everything from Celtic Evening Prayer to Venetian Vespers.

At Saint Chad's we have recently appointed a new Director of Music who is working to rebuild a musical life.

Our church buildings welcome a wide variety of



A normal Sunday in Stafford

8.00am	Said Eucharist	Traditional language	Saint Mary's
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Modern language	Saint Mary's
11.15am	Morning Prayer or Eucharist	Modern language	Marston
11.15am	Parish Mass or (monthly) Morning Prayer	Modern	Saint Chad's
11.30am	Family baptism service (monthly)		Saint Mary's
6.30pm	Evening Prayer or (monthly) Choral Evensong		Saint Mary's
	Occasional contemplative or Taize style evening services		

A normal week in Stafford

Daily: the Eucharist @1.05

Tuesday at Saint Chad's

Wednesday at Saint Mary's

Thursday at Saint Mary's at 10.05.

Friday at Saint Chad's at 1.05

Also...

Praise and Play on Wednesday morning for children and their carers

Or the Saturday Coffee Concert series

Monthly service of Healing, Rest and Peace. Saint Mary's at 1.05.

Monthly Music for Prayer service at Saint Chads at 1.05



The Benefice of Saint Mary's, Stafford; Saint

Your Training Incumbent

Revd Prebendary Richard Grigson

The Vicarage, Victoria Terrace, Stafford ST16 3HA

- Trained: Queens, Birmingham
- Ordained: Lichfield diocese
Deacon 1988, priest 1989
- Curacy: Saint Francis of Friar Park, Wednesbury
- Then: Vicar of Smallthorne 1992-2014
- Since 2014: Rector of Stafford, Vicar of Saint Chad's, Stafford.
Since 2018 Rural Dean of Stafford

He has worked for the Post Office and British Gas. He is a musician, out of practice these days, who was for a year as Cathedral organist in Jerusalem. He is married to Gill, and they have two adult daughters. His children were brought up while he was in Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent. He has wide experience of parish life, has supported many students on placement and has chaired a Diocesan committee. He had a very good curacy himself where he was encouraged, trusted and supported.

The Context

The Stafford community is rapidly changing. New retail areas and housing areas are being developed. The challenge for the Church is to be part of change and development, and to see there the action of God who makes all things new. The town centre churches have very few people living close by. There is a rapidly expanding residential population of over 10,000 people, most of whom live at some distance from the town centre. The church of this generation needs to re-connect with those people.



The Ministry

This training post offers experience of parochial and civic, town centre and rural, parish and outreach, established and pioneer.

Sixth-day placements can be arranged with prison chaplaincy or hospital chaplaincy. Our current self-supporting curate, who leaves in September gained experience with the local hospice ecumenical chaplaincy and the House of Bread, a cross-church charity which works with the homeless.

A curate with a gift for overseas issues would find a warm welcome from our One World group.

A curate who wanted to experience children's ministry would find a ready place in our Praise and Play ministry or with the Children's choir.

A curate in Stafford will gain experience of weddings: everything from no-expense-spared to making pastoral provision for those who are seeking a way into the church.

People reach out to the church for baptism ministry.

We aim to extend a welcome and an invitation in the name of Jesus rather than judging motives.

A bell ringer would be welcomed at Saint Mary's, but the ringers have also been very welcoming to the Rector, who is not a ringer!

Until recently, Stafford was a Team ministry. The team was dissolved prior to the appointment of the current Rector. A curate will need to be aware that

The Congregation in numbers: across the patch

Figures from 2018	
Electoral Roll	150
ASA	115 Adult 15 Children
Marriages	15
Funerals	30
Baptism	33

And Christingle fills the church.

And Remembrance Sunday is too big to fit everybody in.

And Open Door welcomes hundreds of primary school children every year

And *Come and Sing* carol services reach far beyond the usual congregation

And the Christmas Tree festival attracted 9500 people

Saint Chad's was regarded as a church with Alternative Episcopal Oversight. However, a newly

Easter in Saint Marys and Saint Chads



*Parish Pilgrimage to
Lindisfarne 2018*

*Our current curate celebrates at
Saint Mary's, Holy Island*

The Benefice of Saint Mary's, Stafford; Saint

created PCC declined to pursue this and the current female curate has been warmly welcomed.

The curate will work alongside the Rector, the voluntary Town Centre Chaplain, an experienced licensed Reader and a retired priest with Permission to Officiate. The ministry is supported by a part time Parish Administrator.



We're really grateful for all the support we got from the Diocese, starting with the DDO, who went out of her way to help in finding a good match, and to work out practical matters.

My vicar has been very supportive, through planning carefully together and weekly supervisions, where we reflect on different areas of ministry. I have been given new challenges progressively, all done sensitively and fitted to the stage I was at. Our churches have been so welcoming to the whole family, and very supportive of my ministry, even when this involves less regular ideas, like planting a tree during a sermon (only in a pot, I regret to say!).

Revd John Beswick Pallister

As a curate develops in Formation, they can take on a particular project. This could be to work with a particular congregation, either where they feel comfortable or challenged, or to discern new areas of ministry.

Alternatively, they may want to develop a particular ministry across more than one congregation and parish. It is important that they do not become 'rota fodder', simply being used to keep the show on the road.

A curacy in Stafford is a supportive, encouraging discerning place to begin ministry as a Deacon and Priest in the Church of God.

Housing and Accommodation

The Diocese of Lichfield either has a curate's house in the benefice or a 'strategic' house for curates in close proximity of the benefice. These are good houses, mainly with four bedrooms. If there is no curate's house in the benefice and where such a strategic property exists within easy reach of the proposed training parish this will be the preferred curate's house. If there is no strategic housing available nearby the diocese is committed to providing appropriate accommodation for all those entering ministry. We generally do not offer rented accommodation except as an emergency short term measure. Our curates can be confident that their home will be of a consistently high standard. If you wish to know further details about the house, the DDO will be able to provide you with more information.



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

Supporting learning and formation

Curate learning, formation and development is strongly valued and affirmed in Lichfield Diocese. Curates receive ongoing supervision and reflection on ministry in the parish, complemented by our curate-training programme in which you share with your year-group of peers. The aim of the training programme is to enable each person to flourish in their ministry and inhabit more deeply their vocation as deacons and priests. This programme supports learning and formation through a partnership between the Diocese and The Queen's Foundation. And it takes place in the context of parish supervision and reflection on ministry.

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



The curacy experience is very much a collective one, often gathering at Lichfield Diocese's centrally-located Shallowford House for study, prayer, retreat and de-stressing with peers: as such, it's a much less scary venue during IME2 than as a base for a BAP!

Pattern of training

The programme focuses on grounded and situated learning and prioritises the Diocese's focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism:

- In Year 1 establishing you in your new ministerial context and practice, and supporting your preparation for ordination as priest.
- In Year 2, deepening your practice and understanding of mission and ministry with the theological tools and skills you need to contextualise this.
- In Year 3 helping you prepare for life-long ministry and to take up a post of responsibility to be entered into with skill and confidence.



IME2 to equip for ministry

At the heart of the programme are residential events which bring together a year-group of curates. They reflect the diversity of the Church, while the different ministry contexts reflect the diversity of the Diocese. This cohort is the primary context for the essential learning and formation to develop your ministries, focusing on ministerial formation, and on the development of relationships which enable mutual flourishing for all.

Opportunities for academic awards

Alongside the IME2 training you may wish to continue studying on an accredited pathway with Common Awards. Curates who already have a Diploma award from IME1 may register for a BA in Theology, Ministry and Mission. Others who already have a degree or higher award or are recognised as potential theological educators have opportunities to further their studies alongside their curate programme.

Care for curates and families

"We have had amazing support from the diocese over the past 6 years through both of our curacies and that's not always been straightforward- particularly when 'life' sometimes gets in the way!

"But the support, through thick and thin has been fantastic, particularly discerning Adam's call to pioneering ministry and curacy under 'pioneer' supervision."

Revds Adam & Charlotte Gompertz



Many second year curates have the opportunity to grow through visits to our link dioceses in Canada, Africa, or Germany– this group enjoying a day on safari.

The wellbeing of clergy and their families is very important to us. In addition to the supervisory aspects to curacy, we have a free, confidential counselling service (*the Listening Ear* scheme) for all clergy, diocesan staff and their families.

More info

– contact the DDO (details on back cover) or visit Lichfield.anglican.org/curacy



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

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Stafford Churches

Saint Chad : Collegiate Church of Saint Mary : Saint Leonard

**A place of Christian welcome
Come and see**



Find us on:

ChurchNearYou:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4507

Website:

www.stmarysstafford.org.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/staffordchurches.uk

Twitter:

@staffordchurch