

Come follow Christ



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese
of Lichfield



Title post in the
Bucknall Team Ministry



Three churches spanning
on the edge of the city
of Stoke-upon-Trent

evangelical/central



Welcome to Lichfield Diocese

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

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

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

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

(Diocesan Vision Statement)

Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

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

‘...a spacious and gracious diocese

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



+ Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield

A caring diocese

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

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

Homes and schools

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

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

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

Vocation and mission of all

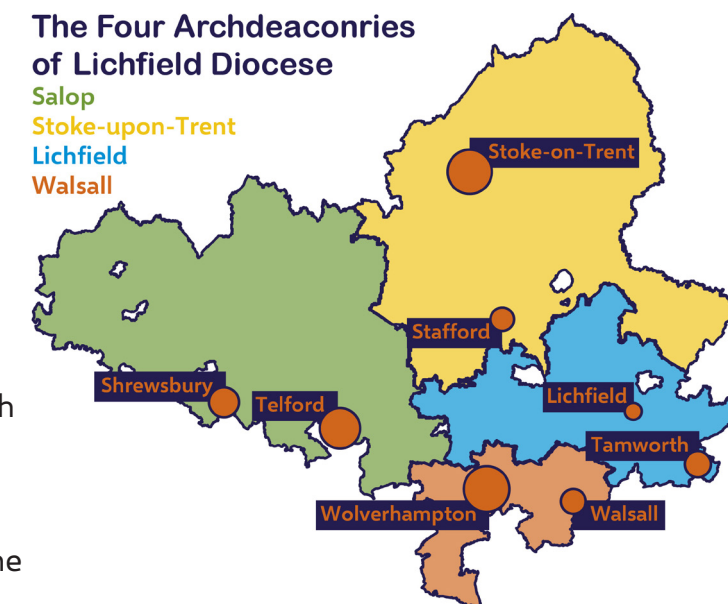
Our vision for the diocese is that all people, lay and ordained alike, will grow ever more deeply into their vocation as disciples of Christ. We hope to become a Church where all our members are equipped to know they are called by God to worship and to be the eyes, hands, feet and mouth of Christ in their own contexts.

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



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

Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley



Everything but the sea



David Rayner (Wikipedia) / Stoke-on-Trent Bottle Kiln / CC BY-SA 2.0BY-SA 4.0

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

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

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



Opening of the Lighthouse Project at Kingsland CE Academy, Bucknall



Road and rail links



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

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



Dovedale (location of one of the Diocese’s two residential retreat centres) / Shaun Dunmall (wikipedia) / CC BY-SA 2.0 4.0

Leisure and pleasure

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

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



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



Apedale Valley Light Railway near Stoke with the adjacent country park and Heritage Centre is one of many transport and leisure museums in the Diocese / Simon Jones

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



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

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



The Benefice of the Bucknall Team Ministry

Our parish serves c.29,600 people in the urban districts of Abbey Hulton, Bentilee and Bucknall, just outside Hanley, the city centre of Stoke on Trent. We are one parish with three centres

of worship, St. John’s Abbey Hulton, St. Mary’s Bucknall and St. Stephen’s Bentilee.



Bucknall Team Ministry

Working together for God’s Glory

offering support as governors. We also support St Peter’s Church of England Academy and their 1200 secondary pupils, just a few miles away.

Across the parish there are local amenities including three chemists, various newsagents, three pubs, various fast food outlets and local Co-op, Heron food stores and an ASDA store which is very much at the hub of local activity. There are two doctors’ surgeries and nearby Bucknall Park, with bowling greens, tennis courts, football pitches and a small play area.

There are two large retirement villages and other smaller homes in the parish, with whom we have a good relationship and offer support and services.



St. Mary’s Church, Bucknall is at the centre of our Parish and planted the two estate churches as the two large council estates of Abbey Hulton & Bentilee were developed in the 1950s.

Income is generally low and 24% of school pupils in this neighbourhood have special Educational Needs. Kingsland C.E Academy, is our pioneering Church of England School and incorporates the ‘Lighthouse Community Centre’ and Lantern Café, with which we have a very special relationship. School Chaplain Rev Rob is also a clergy member of the Bucknall Team. We work closely with four other primary schools in our parish with regular assemblies and



As a city, Stoke on Trent boasts some good secondary schools including St. Peter’s Academy, St. Joseph’s College and its own 6th Form College. Both Staffordshire and Keele universities are also in the area.



	St Stephen’s	St John’s	St Mary’s
1st	10:30 Holy Communion	10:30 Holy Communion	10.30 All age worship
2nd	10:30am Morning Worship	10:30am Morning Worship	10:30 Holy Communion
3rd	10:30 Holy Communion 6:30pm Biker Church	10:30 Holy Communion	10:30am Morning Worship
4th	10:30am Morning Worship	10:30am Morning Worship	10:30 Holy Communion

Services in the churches:

All three churches offer Sunday 10:30am as their main gathering for worship with Holy Communion fortnightly and a Wednesday Holy Communion service is offered at St.Mary’s Bucknall.

Our churches have comfortable modern seating, good P.A and sound systems and use screens and digital media as appropriate in worship, which has a ‘New Wine’ flavour.

Gatherings are informal and very welcoming and loosely follow a Common Worship style and structure with a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs. We offer good bible teaching and an expectation to encounter the Holy Spirit at work both in and through us. Prayer ministry is offered at most services... and the obligatory mug of tea afterwards.

St John’s has many younger families that have mostly come through school relationships and



The Benefice of the Bucknall Team Ministry



along with St Stephens offer groups for both teens and younger children every Sunday. St. Mary's has some younger children alongside a mostly older generation of very faithful followers of Jesus.

All three churches have excellent relationships with local schools and host special events and seasonal services with good attendance at Christmas Events and Services.

A monthly service is offered in a local large retirement home and also in one of the smaller care homes.

Morning and Evening prayer are offered on Facebook and a weekly digital service on Youtube has 136 subscribers and around 50 views each week.

Buildings / Community

The current St Marys church was built in the early 1850's replacing a previous chapel on the site where folk have worshipped for many generations. Its extensive graveyard, now closed, creates a link with many families in the parish and there is a long history of the church being actively at work in the local community and serving families through the pastoral Offices. Its modern interior, comfy chairs and digital lighting system offer a wonderful environment for modern worship and highly valued social events.

The separate Marychurch Centre, hosts the parish office, meeting rooms and large hall which is regularly in use by the local community including a camera club, karate, dog training, sequence dancing etc.

The Marychurch centre is also host to the well attended monthly men's breakfast, 'connect, craft, create' group and a very popular toddlers group that has run for many years.

St John's Abbey Hulton is in the heart of the Abbey Hulton estate (population c.6500) and is a modern building with excellent facilities for church and community use. The brick structure dates from the 1960s but benefited tremendously from major refurbishment in

1999. The main worship area, hall with café area, crèche and toilets are all on the ground floor; the 1st floor comprises a suite of meeting rooms and office accommodation, all heavily used each week. We estimate over 300 people pass through its doors each week for various activities.

The congregation has grown considerably under Revd Malc's leadership and vision for outreach to local families. Many needy people are supported and have come to faith through school relationships, recovery groups, youth and children's work, the weekly 'prayer warriors' gathering, 'Well being Wednesday,' Saturday morning Bible studies and more recently the launch of Biker Church.

St Stephen's Bentilee was built in the 1950's as the huge council estate of Bentilee developed. The charismatic, evangelical congregation work hard being good news to the local community, hosting



foodbank; parent power toddlers; Storm breakers youth club and a Thursday Community Café. The church is well respected on the estate and hosts many Community events including an annual firework event with over 1200 people attending.

The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2022	St Stephen's	St John's	St Mary's
Electoral Roll	45	50	70
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	23	40	45
Average Sunday Attendance Children	10	20	4
Baptisms	8	11	11
Marriages	2	5	8
Funerals (church)	3	7	18
Funerals (crem)	17	20	13



The Benefice of the Bucknall Team Ministry

Your Training Incumbent

Revd Dave Street

- **Trained:** St John’s College Nottingham
- **Ordained:** 2008 Lichfield
- **Curacy:** Bucknall Team Ministry
- **Team Rector since** 2021

Dave and his family moved into the Bucknall parish in 2008 to embark on his curacy after which he was later appointed as team vicar in Bentilee. Since 2021 he has served as team rector and now leads the Bucknall Team. Prior to ordination Dave’s career was in retail design and he maintains a love for things artistic and creative. Being local to the area Dave has a deep passion for both the city and locality and is involved in city wide leader’s gatherings for prayer and worship and also serves as assistant area dean.

Dave is passionate about ministry in schools and has excellent relationships with many schools across the area who are eager for creative and enthusiastic support. He is involved in community and other groups and seeks to inspire the church to be relevant and engaged in its local neighbourhood. Accessible and

relevant worship and music is important to Dave to enable people to engage with God and be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. Even though the parish context can sometimes be tough and challenging, he wholeheartedly believes that God does wonderful things in the most unlikely places... so why not here and why not now!

The Bucknall Team and parish can offer a curate a unique breadth of mission and ministry, vital outreach opportunities through schools and into local care homes; work with those trapped by addiction and plenty of opportunities to walk alongside families through the Pastoral offices. Dave’s heart is to see leaders equipped, enthused and supported in growing vibrant communities of faith.



Context

The Bucknall Parish is home to around one tenth of the City’s population and has three distinct areas or districts. The central area of Bucknall includes a new housing estate and many pre and post-war homes for working families from the industrial history of the area. The two large estates were built to home workers in the pottery, mining or steel industries which were all huge employers in the city’s industrial past. These now include areas of severe deprivation, many single parent families, drug and alcohol abuse and high unemployment. Across the road there is in complete contrast the large ‘Berry Hill’ estate and its neighbouring nature reserve.

Two very large retirement villages support the older generation along with three smaller care homes.

The employment opportunities provided by the creative pottery industry have mostly been replaced with warehousing jobs due to the easy links to the M6 and aspirations are generally low.

New investment is seeing the city centre redeveloped with new opportunities coming with the relocation of government offices to the nearby city centre.



Local people are generally warm and friendly and families rarely move out of the area, making tight knit communities. The age profile varies hugely with many young families alongside young adults and the elderly.



The Benefice of the Bucknall Team Ministry

The ministry

The Bucknall Team is an exciting and challenging place to minister with a wide range of opportunities to engage with people in both weekend worship and then a full program throughout the week. The team consists of the rector, team vicar, two SSM assistant ministers, (one who is the full time school chaplain at Kingsland C.E Academy), a Reader and five authorised lay ministers who serve across our three churches. The clergy meet for morning prayer four days a week to pray and support one another. We have one PCC with representatives from each of the churches and local leadership teams with delegated responsibility in each of the districts.

Our parish office is staffed by Lynn Brough our part-time administrator. Based at the



Marychurch Centre in the Bucknall District, the office handles all key admin, finances, wedding and funeral enquiries as well as other important administration tasks that support the staff team and the life of the Parish.

We have a range of styles and approaches to worship and enjoy being creative and including new things whilst honouring and valuing time-honoured traditions. We minister to the elderly and right across the age spectrum with mid week groups for children and youth and are a part of the city-wide youth collective.

You will have the opportunity to be involved in the life of three churches which are seeking to be good news in their local area. This will include the opportunity to roll your sleeves up and serve local people through our community café, toddlers groups, foodbank, recovery groups and door to door evangelism with the good news of Jesus.



"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

Midweek groups for children and young people are vital to the strength and vitality of our Parish and the chance to inspire and encourage the younger generation. We have an open door into five primary schools and a large C of E secondary academy and the opportunity to come alongside young people in their education context through assemblies, small group work and RE lessons.

Regular ministry extends into local care homes and listening and supporting the elderly with a new chaplaincy team led by one of our lay ministers.

Mid-week prayer groups encourage people to seek God in prayer and to intercede for our friends and neighbours and small groups meet to use the 'Urban Catechism' to help new Christians grow in their faith.

Ministry beyond the parish includes city-wide leaders prayer and worship, supporting the chapter and deanery and working together with



colleagues and ward councillors in community initiatives and events.

You will naturally come alongside families who come seeking marriage, regular funerals, baptism of children and the joy of baptising the occasional adult by full submersion. As an ordained minister you will have ample opportunity to learn and grow as a 'visible representative of the church in the wider community'.

Housing and Accommodation

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



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

Supporting learning and formation

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

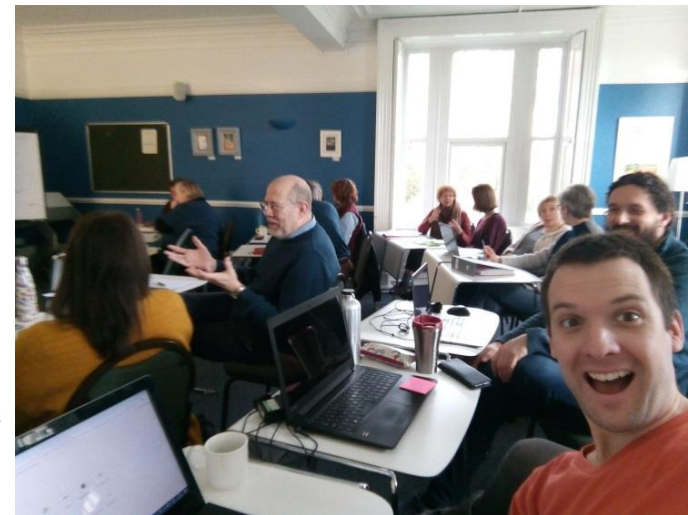
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial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

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

Pattern of training

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

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



IME2 to equip for ministry

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

Opportunities for academic awards

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

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

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

Revds Adam & Charlotte Gompertz



Care for curates and families

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

More info

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



Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

The Revd Preb Romita Shrisunder,
Bishops' Director of Ordinands
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[E] romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org

Find us on:

AChurchNearYou:

Bucknall:
achurchnearyou.com/church/4187/

Bentilee:
achurchnearyou.com/church/4186/

Abbey Hulton:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4184/>

Website:
bucknallteam.org.uk

Facebook:

[Abbey Hulton - facebook.com/sjwcah](https://www.facebook.com/sjwcah)
[Bucknall - facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064799530014](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064799530014)
[Bentilee - facebook.com/SSCCBentilee](https://www.facebook.com/SSCCBentilee)

The Bucknall Team Ministry

Join us in mission and ministry
across our Parish and estates as
we share the love of Jesus with
families, the elderly,
through youthwork,
recovery groups,
in our schools and
with our neighbours.

“I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness
of the LORD in
the land of the living.”
Ps 27