

Come follow Christ



DIOCESE OF  
LICHFIELD

in the footsteps of St Chad



Curacy in the Diocese  
of Lichfield

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Title post in the  
Benefice of  
Kinver and Enville



Two village churches

central churchmanship

# 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

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.

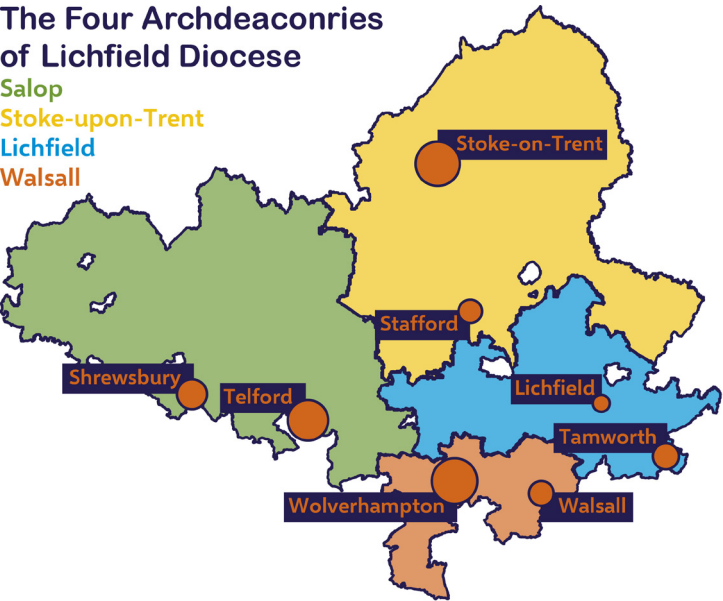
As well as the 208 Church of England schools in the Diocese, there are many good schools and colleges that will welcome clergy’ children, and a

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

**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)



# 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





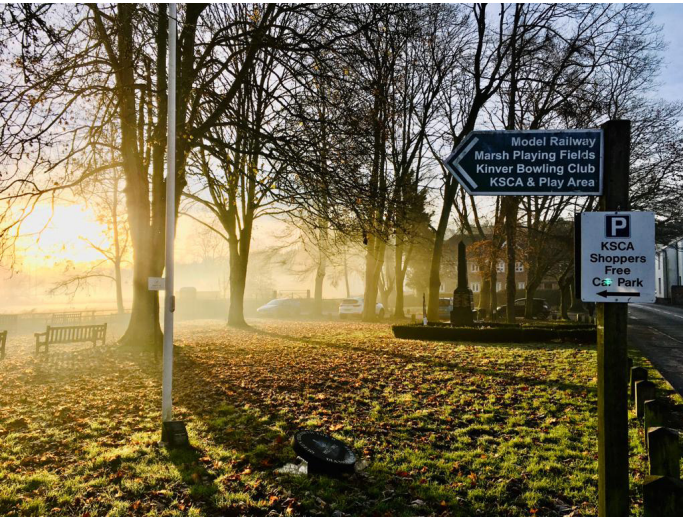
# The Benefice of Kinver and Enville

Two villages - one large, one small - in the beautiful South Staffordshire countryside.

Kinver and Enville are two villages with a long shared history. One of the oldest Staffordshire folk tales tells of a fight between the giants of Enville and Kinver – thankfully things are a bit more amicable now!

Kinver is a large village with a growing population of around 8,500 people. The village of Kinver lies on the River Stour and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, and nestles below the glorious sandstone ridge of Kinver Edge (National Trust). The population is mixed in age, with three great schools (Foley Infants, Brindley Heath Juniors and Kinver High School), a thriving high street full of independent shops, and numerous community groups and organisations. Kinver has a reputation of being a place where people from the Black Country aspire to move to and so the residents have a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, although it is not particularly ethnically diverse.

Enville is a much smaller village with a population of around 400. It is primarily a farming community, mostly arable with some livestock mixed in. The village is dominated by Enville Estate, to whom most of the farms are tenanted. The Williams family who live at Enville



Hall are regular worshippers at St Mary’s Church and host fundraising and community events. The village includes a coffee shop, post office, cricket club, pub and brewery.

Both villages attract significant numbers of tourists, particularly boaters, walkers and cyclists visiting the canal, Kinver Edge, Highgate Common and other areas of the countryside. St Peter’s Church can be seen from miles around, especially when floodlit at night. Although both villages have a rural character they are not far from ‘civilisation’, with Bridgnorth, Stourbridge and Kidderminster all within a few miles. Stourbridge Junction station is only 15 minutes away by car or 40 minutes by bike, and offers regular trains to Birmingham, London and more.



Worship at St Peter’s is generally central Anglican, but with a range of styles through the year. The weekly Holy Communion is accompanied by a robed choir and we are working towards restarting the popular Messy Church. St Peter’s is working towards becoming an Inclusive Church. St Mary’s uses the Book of Common Prayer for its weekly Holy Communion and also has a monthly outdoor family service. There are strong Ecumenical links with Kinver Methodist Church. Both churches are at the heart, and in the hearts, of their community and have been for nearly a thousand years.



	Kinver	Enville
1st	9.30am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Indoor/Outdoor Church
2nd	9.30am Holy Communion	11am BCP Holy Communion
3rd	9.30am Holy Communion 12.00 Messy Church	11am BCP Holy Communion
4th	9.30am Holy Communion	11am BCP Holy Communion

## Services in the churches:

St Peter’s has a weekly Holy Communion service at 9.30am which through the year uses a mix of Common Worship and locally written liturgies. Hymns are accompanied by organ or harp, and the robed choir sing weekly, bolstered by members of a village choir on special occasions. We use the lectionary readings, with sermons around 10 minutes long. Refreshments are served in Church at the end of the service, and this social time is really important to the congregation. We have also done a lot of work to make our building and our Holy Communion services more welcoming and accessible to families. Regular attendance is around 70.

St Mary’s has a weekly BCP Communion service at 11am, except on the first Sunday of the month when we have an 8am BCP Communion and an 11am Outdoor All Age Service. Hymns are usually accompanied by organ or by recordings. At Outdoor Church the singing is accompanied by guitar or concertina. Attendance is usually around a dozen for communion services and 20 for Outdoor Church.







We have regular ‘specials’ at other times across the Benefice including Taize services, contemplative services, Folk Communion, outdoor services etc. We are in the process of restarting our monthly Messy Church at St Peter’s after a COVID-enforced break. St Mary’s hosts REVs, a monthly Christian community based around classic cars. We have a Wednesday morning prayer meeting in Kinver, and live stream Daily Prayer on Facebook Monday to Friday. Seasonal services are always well attended by the community, with Remembrance, Christmas and Mothering Sunday being particular highlights.



It’s worth noting that the times of Sunday services across the benefice are under review so are likely change by the time a prospective curate arrives.

## Buildings / Community

The oldest parts of St Peter’s date back to the 13th century with various additions over the years, including a beautiful North Aisle extension from the 1970s which adds great flexibility to the space. St Mary’s’ strapline is “A 12th Century Church with a 21st century welcome”. The building is full of fascinating bits of architecture and history, and is open regularly during the week for passing visitors.

Both Churches have kitchen facilities and toilets, and are in good repair. We host concerts regularly at St Peter’s and occasionally at St Mary’s, and the annual Community Christmas Tree Festival alternates between the two Churches. St Peter’s also has a Church Hall in the centre of the village of Kinver which is an excellent facility that is well used by the community.

Both Churches have beautiful, well maintained churchyards which overlook their villages. St Mary’s is an open Churchyard with a team of dedicated volunteers, while St Peter’s is closed and is looked after by the local council.

## Your Training Incumbent

### Revd Richard Clarkson

The Rectory, Vicarage Drive, Kinver, DY76HJ

- **Trained:** Trinity College, Bristol
- **Ordained:** 2014 Lichfield
- **Curacy:** St Alkmund’s, Whitchurch and the Shropshire North Six Benefice
- **Vicar since** 2020

I moved to Kinver and Enville with my wife Lucie and our three boys in the summer of 2020 after 6 years of rural ministry in North Shropshire. Before ordination I was a music teacher and church Music Minister in Telford. I am a keen musician and play a variety of instruments – I can often be found singing folk songs in local pubs! I have a keen interest in environmental issues, have been Diocesan Environmental Officer since 2019 and am on the Board of Directors for the John Ray Initiative ([www.jri.org.uk](http://www.jri.org.uk)).

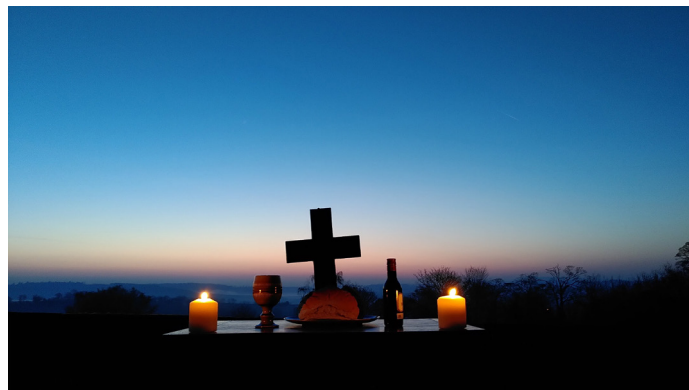
I absolutely love the variety of parish ministry, in particular the ways that it enables you to come alongside people at their highest and lowest moments. My approach to ministry has always been highly collaborative, working with lay and ordained colleagues to encourage their different gifts and skills.

I was a curate in Whitchurch, North Shropshire, and had an excellent curacy where I was encouraged and supported, but also stretched and challenged. Learning from that experience I will work hard to build a good, supportive relationship with the curate. I will make sure they have opportunities to develop their own skills and areas of interest, as well as learning about the wide range of hats that one needs to wear in parish ministry! My biggest hope would be that a curate will end their time with us having grown and flourished in their vocation.





## Context



Kinver very much has a village identity, even though it is the size of a small town. It is an active village with a strong community spirit – many local facilities are run by volunteers including the library, sports centre and numerous clubs and organisations. There is an active Eco-Collective in Kinver, and St Peter's has joined many other groups in signing their Plastic-Free Pledge.

All three schools have had changes in leadership in recent years, and have joined academy trusts. Although the schools are very strong now these changes have not been easy for the community which values its independence and has felt a loss of ownership.

Tourism and hospitality are key to life in Kinver,

with the population swelling considerably on weekends and bank holidays, and the High Street has numerous cafes, gift shops and restaurants.

Enville is a traditional farming community, with all the challenges and uncertainty that farmers face at the moment. The pub, coffee shop and cricket club are valued and well supported by the local community.



## The ministry

The benefice of Kinver and Enville will give a curate a wide range of opportunities to learn all about parish ministry as well as exploring the particular features of their own Vocation. As well as a supportive and encouraging Training Incumbent we have a fabulous Ministry Team



comprising of three associate priests (Revs Anne, Nicki and Nick), a Lay Reader (Sheila) and a Local Lay Minister (Barbara), all of whom have lots of wisdom and experience to share and learn from. We have lovely Church Wardens at both Churches, and although there is no paid admin support there are several volunteers who cover various aspects of parish administration. Both Churches are financially sound, and are supported by regular giving, historic legacies and local charities.

There will be plenty of opportunity to engage with occasional offices – in 2022 we expect to have 20 weddings, 30 baptisms and around 40 funerals between the two Churches.

We have strong, active links in all three schools in Kinver, including an ecumenical chaplaincy team at the High School. St Peter's and St Mary's work well with Kinver Methodist Church as Churches Together in Kinver and Enville (CTiKE), with a particular focus on shared Youth and Children's work which is gradually being built back up post-Covid. The pupils from the junior school come up to St Peter's several times a year for Experience sessions, lessons, and services. We have a great relationship with all three heads and are actively invited to participate in school life, even though none of the schools are Church schools.

We would want to encourage, and resource, a curate to develop their own particular areas of Ministry shaped by their individual strengths and experience. Although it is only two parishes the Benefice contains a mix of contexts, from deeply rural farms through to the urban edge of Stourbridge. There is lots of scope for developing chaplaincy opportunities, be that on the High Street, the canal, the agricultural community, tourists on Kinver Edge, or even the two local breweries!







St Peter's PCC has recently done some work developing a Mission Action Plan and vision based around being a "Caring, Welcoming, Communicating Church". To be a more Caring Church we are building up our Pastoral Care Team, and working on how we can strengthen our Occasional Office follow-up. To be a more Welcoming Church we are looking at opening our Church building more to the community, broadening our pattern of services, and working on how we can welcome and include those who have often been marginalised by the Church. To be a Communicating Church we are looking at both our internal communications, and how we communicate what we do to the community so that nobody misses out on the opportunity to hear that God loves them!

St Mary's PCC haven't developed a formal Mission Action Plan as yet, but there are two

"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



strands to our mission that we are developing. Firstly, as our strapline says, we want to be a "12th century Church with a 21st century welcome" so we are also working on how we can be more welcoming and accessible to our community, while being true to our traditional roots. Our monthly Indoor/Outdoor church is a big part of this. Secondly we are seeking to build up our links with the agricultural community in the parish, through seasonal services and building relationships with local farms.

As with any benefice, things haven't always been smooth within and between the parishes. However both Churches work together well and there is a shared sense of mission under Rev'd Rich's leadership which has been particularly seen in the way that members of each congregation has supported the other in practical ways at fundraising events and special

services. The annual Remembrance Sunday service alternates between the two Churches, as does the Christmas Tree festival.

This is a fantastic place to learn the craft of parish ministry, with a supportive team and scope to develop your own gifts and skills - we look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful communities!

### The Congregations in numbers:

Figures from 2019	Kinver	Enville
Electoral Roll	144	105
Average Sunday Attendance Adults	52	30
Average Sunday Attendance Children	1	0
Baptisms	20	6
Marriages	9	6
Funerals	25	4



## 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.

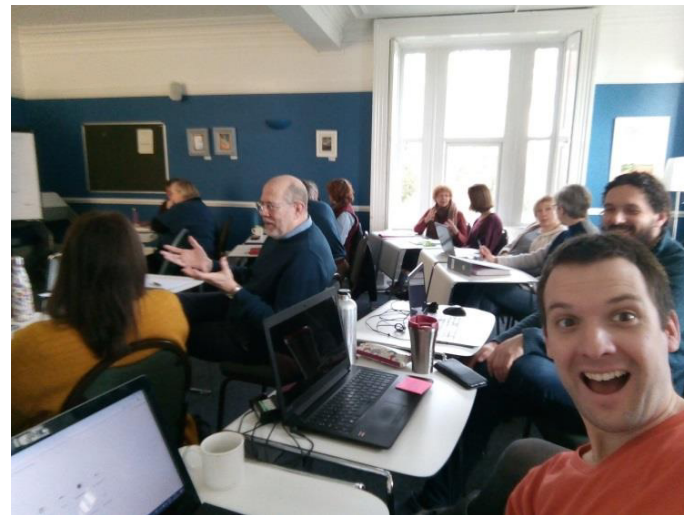
The programme provides space and an environment beyond the parish context in which curates come together with skilled tutors to learn with and from each other's shared experience, so that they can better integrate their practice and reflection, develop their personal qualities, spiritual, ministerial 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](https://lichfield.anglican.org/curacy)





# Curacy in Lichfield Diocese

## For further information

In the first instance, please contact:

**The Revd Romita Preb Shrisunder,**  
Bishops' Director of Ordinands  
[M] 07949 033091  
[E] [romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:romita.shrisunder@lichfield.anglican.org)

### Find us on:

ACChurchNearYou:

**St. Peter's Kinver:**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/4342/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/4342/)

**St Mary's Enville:**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/4343/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/4343/)

Website:  
[www.stpeterskinver.org.uk](http://www.stpeterskinver.org.uk)

[stmarysenville.wordpress.com](http://stmarysenville.wordpress.com)

Facebook:

[Facebook.com/KinverStPeter](https://www.facebook.com/KinverStPeter)

[Facebook.com/EnvilleStMary](https://www.facebook.com/EnvilleStMary)

## The St Peter's, Kinver

A Caring, Welcoming,  
Communicating Church

## St Mary's, Enville

A  
12th Century Church  
with a  
21st Century Welcome