



# **Mission Priest (Assistant Priest) in the Parish of Tamworth Information Pack**

**2023**





Parish of Tamworth : Parish Profile  
**Mission Priest (Assistant Priest)**

## **Bishop's Introduction**

It is with a sense of real excitement that I am able to commend this post and I trust and pray that it will attract applications from richly gifted and suitably called priests who are looking for an opportunity to have a really impactful ministry. It will be suited to those who are not afraid of a challenge, who relish the opportunity to be missional, entrepreneurial and risk taking, and who are able to both respect and work with traditional models of church, while being passionate about innovating new ones.

The parish of Tamworth has been on a vocational journey during the last 18 months and has a clear sense now of its vision and priorities going ahead, as you will discover in the pages that follow. There is a wholehearted commitment, across the four churches, to be focused on outward facing mission within their local contexts, different as these are, and to prioritize discipleship and evangelism in order to grow deeper and younger.

With the recent appointment of the Vicar of Tamworth, there is now the opportunity to forge a new and dynamic ordained and lay leadership team and, in particular, the complementary nature of the two clergy roles is a very important part of the vision for the parish going forwards.

I very much hope that you may feel called to help shape the immensely exciting future for Tamworth which I am convinced God has in store. If so, you will be very well supported within the parish, the Deanery and by senior colleagues within the Diocese.

**+Michael Lichfield**

## **Rural Dean's Statement**

Tamworth Deanery comprises 6 Parishes encircling, and including, the historic town of Tamworth. It is a varied Deanery with rural villages, town centre, suburban and outer estate components. Tamworth Parish lies at its heart, with so much opportunity for civic and community involvement.

Tamworth Deanery is comparatively small which we believe has enabled a prayerful, supportive relationship across the Parishes alongside our engagement ecumenically through Tamworth Christian Churches. Our Chapter meets regularly as a place for support, prayer, discussion and vision. There is a committed team of full-time ministers alongside the immensely valuable self-supporting and retired ministers.

Our Deanery, along with every other Deanery, is currently engaged with the Lichfield Diocesan Initiative: Shaping for Mission. This is a process focused on the Deanery to reflect, review and set a vision for the best deployment of resources over the next 5 years at a local level. We believe these two appointments to the parish, of which this is the second, will be significant for us as a Deanery going forward. We are particularly excited by the missional and discipleship aspects of this post.

Our joint Deanery vision for Tamworth is vividly expressed in a prophetic picture of a huge and majestic tree towering over the town and nearby countryside with roots underground stretching out across the town in different directions.

As a Deanery we aim to be SIMPLER in our communication, administration and use of buildings, HUMBLER as we partner in the Gospel with each other and our ecumenical friends and BOLDER as we consider re-shaping the Deanery to make it fit for purpose.

Our vision acknowledges the importance of the primacy of the parish, the ministry of all the baptised, developing discipleship, focusing on children and young people and supporting each other as we work as a team

We have a real enthusiasm for sharing resources and avoiding duplication, particularly in the areas of finance, Messy Church and work with children. One of our specific plans is to hold a termly Deanery Youth event jointly with TCC. We recognise the importance of underpinning all we do with prayer as we work together to serve God.

As a Deanery we are prayerfully excited for the two appointments to be made in Tamworth Parish, recognising its strategic importance and the potential a full complement of ministers will bring for God's kingdom purposes here.

**Rev. Gary Simmonds - Rural Dean of Tamworth**

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## A Welcome from the Parish Wardens

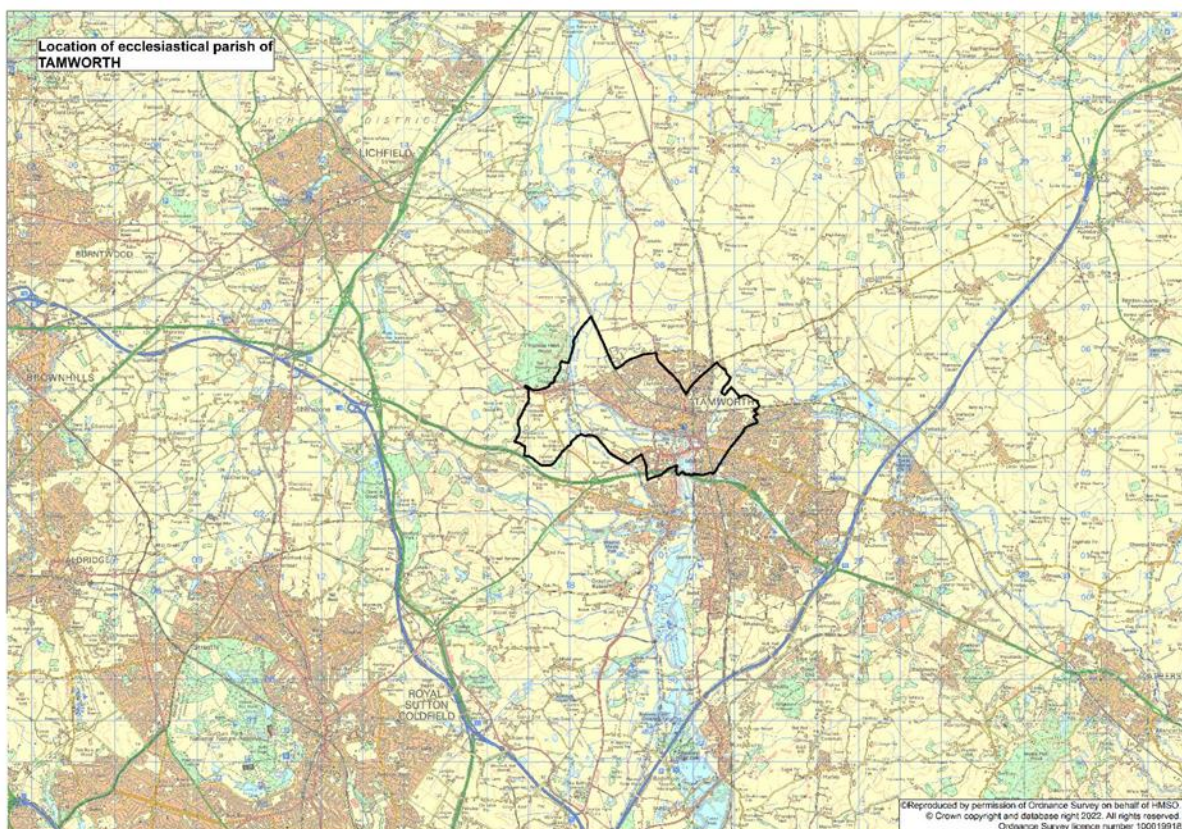
We warmly welcome you to our Parish Profile, and hope that it gives you an insight into who we are and what we hope to achieve in the future as we look to appoint our new Mission Priest (Assistant Priest).

If you feel called to apply for this post, we look forward to meeting you to explore the exciting possibilities and challenges of our expanding community as we work to grow God's Kingdom here in Tamworth.

Keith Dawson and Briony Brookman  
(Parish Wardens)

### Context

The Diocese of Lichfield is one of the largest in the Church of England, serving a population of over 2 million. It covers Staffordshire, the northern half of Shropshire and the Black Country boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall and half of Sandwell. Under the overall leadership of Bishop Michael Ipgrave, it is divided into 3 Episcopal areas: Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury and Stafford. Tamworth is part of the Wolverhampton area.



## The Challenge

We have recently introduced an exciting new staffing structure and have appointed an experienced Vicar to oversee the parish as a whole, and the four churches within. The Vicar is building a growing ministry team to ensure that the parish is well administered and we are together working to develop ways in which we might take advantage of the massive outreach potential God has given us.

**We are now seeking to appoint a Mission Priest (Assistant Priest) to work alongside the Vicar and help the whole parish to flourish. We are looking for a creative, enthusiastic priest who is comfortable working across traditions and working within both inherited and pioneering contexts to develop mission and ministry across our large and diverse parish.**

**This role will include some parochial responsibility, developing what our parish is already doing across four churches. The Mission Priest will have a regular role in preaching and leading worship, pastoral visiting and coordinating Occasional Office ministry. We expect this to take up something like 25% of the Mission Priest's time.**

**The other, wider aspect of the role is as a mission enabler and facilitator; identifying creative new ways in which we can develop ministry to the unchurched or people on the fringes of the church. We are looking for someone who would take the initiative in working with local schools and businesses, developing new provision for children and young people; building missional teams and perhaps, if appropriate, starting new fresh expressions or missional communities. We would expect this to take up something like 75% of the Mission Priest's time.**

- The parish is well resourced in both people and plant. We are blessed with four fantastic church buildings which, whilst all being very different, are all well placed within the diverse population of Tamworth. We would like to have our doors open in hospitality to everyone, including those in need.
- We pay our Common Fund in full and on time. To do this however, we presently rely on financial reserves. We need to increase our regular income so that we can reduce our dependency on these reserves into the future. That said, there are significant funding streams available for specific missional projects.
- Tamworth is the ancient capital of Mercia and we have recently resurrected the ancient 'Cherry Fayre' on St Editha's day. We hope to further build on the fabulous opportunities we have, to engage with Anglo Saxon heritage for our Churches and the Gospel. This will help promote the church wider within the communities we serve in Tamworth.
- At present, we have very little regular discipleship or evangelism training. We would like to see this happen collaboratively across the parish, in order to train and empower the church community to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and grow our congregations.

- We need to establish a business plan for our Church Halls and other fixed assets in order to boost usage and increase revenue. This will facilitate greater engagement with the wider community as well as offering venues following occasional offices, etc.
- We do have some children's groups and we have recently begun some successful initiatives in schools, including starting a new Choral Scholarship program. We would like to create further engagement initiatives with young people, in order to increase the diversity and age profile of our congregations.
- We conduct a significant number of Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals as well as civic and military services. We would like to find creative ways to use these missionally to grow our congregations.
- Tamworth is a growing market town with a considerable number of new housing developments currently being built within the parish. The church is at the very heart of a new vision being built across the town for retail, leisure and heritage. There is an ideal opportunity for outreach, and we need resources and guidance as to how to maximise the potential for mission and engagement.
- The Tamworth Campus of South Staffordshire College is relocating from the outskirts of Tamworth to the town centre, next to St Editha's Church. We would like to create direct links with the college with the aim of creating some sort of chaplaincy for the younger generation and staff of the college. This will enable the church to assist in promoting the mental wellbeing of both students and staff as well as offering safe and quiet places for discussion, learning, and reflection.
- Tamworth is blessed with excellent sporting facilities and entertainment in many forms. We would like to look at engagement with sporting and artistic people and venues, providing the church with opportunity to serve and be a Christian presence. This will bring more people into the buildings as well as creating a new source of revenue and outreach.
- We would like, by God's grace, to foster vocations across our parish. We pray this will make our leadership broader and younger and identify people who could go on to support the congregations of the four churches by becoming lay ministers, readers, wardens etc.
- We need to look at increasing ministerial cooperation ecumenically and strengthen links with our local Methodist brothers and sisters, especially at St Chad's and St Francis' churches. By doing so, we will demonstrate unity amongst the different ecumenical churches, all of us working together for the greater good, and for the people of Tamworth.



## Role Description

The Parish of Tamworth offers many opportunities and challenges working across four contrasting, yet complementary, environments. In partnership with the Vicar, this post offers opportunities to lead the parish forward with enthusiastic leadership, vision, and direction.

Key duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead a regular discipleship course and establish small groups for prayer and bible study.
- Co-ordinate Occasional Office ministry (baptisms, weddings, and funerals) throughout the parish, including preparation and follow-up, to ensure a generous, thoughtful, and evangelistic pastoral response to life events.
- Fully participate in the liturgical cycle of the parish including regular preaching across the parish.
- Establish new and innovative opportunities in which people can explore their spirituality through liturgy, prayer and worship and enthuse them to witness their faith so others will be encouraged, and curiosity will be roused.
- Strengthen the growing links between the four churches of the parish.
- Develop the parish's provision for children and young people through undertaking regular schools work including assemblies and developing outreach and educational opportunities in collaboration with local partners.
- Encourage and create mission and outreach opportunities in new housing developments.
- Develop lay leadership and ministries across the parish, empowering, inspiring, encouraging, equipping, and training members of the church. This in turn, will enable them to use newly gained skills to reach out to the communities they serve.
- Bring an innovative, imaginative, and creative approach to evangelism across the parish
- Forge a presence within the local college and potentially develop a chaplaincy for the staff and students providing safe havens and promoting mental wellbeing.
- Build on existing ecumenical relationships with other churches in Tamworth promoting unity among the town's Christian churches.
- Look outwards to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones in the local community with a wide range and diverse people in a sensitive, friendly, and approachable manner.

- Think entrepreneurially, with practical skills to enable God's mission to become reality within the wider community.
- Work diligently to build thriving diverse multigenerational congregations, to enable the word and work of God to reach everyone, young and old alike and to develop provision at every stage of their discipleship.
- Strengthen and build links with local heritage, business, entertainment, sport, and civic communities.

## Person Specification

The successful candidate should ideally be able to demonstrate, where necessary with good evidence of its effectiveness, that they:

- Are a person of committed Christian faith, grounded in prayer and able to worship with a breadth of Christian tradition.
- Feel called by God to a ministry in Tamworth.
- Are an inspirational priest with a positive outlook, having the ability to challenge and lead in mission.
- Are a 'team player' who will collaborate with the Vicar in building teams across the parish.
- Are excited by the prospect of ministering in four different churches.
- Are a person with the charisma and entrepreneurial ability to make links between churches and local heritage, business, and civic communities.
- Have experience in mission in new housing developments, with a keenness to develop this ministry.
- Have experience of working in schools, with children, young people, and families, helping them to engage fully with the life of the church.
- Are able to bring creativity and innovation into worship and mission.
- Are a preacher who can help make faith relevant to daily lives and be relevant to all ages and stages of faith development.
- Have the ability to bring Scripture to life through delivering services with a broad inclusive theology that reflects the many traditions of the Anglican Church.
- Have experience of developing and strengthening discipleship, through study and discussion.
- Can encourage a creative use of church facilities and surrounding open spaces as places where the community can find rest and relaxation, and as places of prayer and pilgrimage.
- Can work creatively and positively with other churches in the area, in the light of the diocesan 'Shaping for Mission' process.
- Can encourage people of all ages, in collaboration with the Vicar, to explore and develop their skills within the church.

This is a fantastic opportunity to minister in a significant, growing, well-resourced parish context with four diverse churches comfortable with a range of styles and traditions.

We envisage the priest appointed to this role to be a 'hands on' person, an evangelist who is excited by a ministry which seeks to connect church and community: a visible presence across the parish.

We would welcome applications from the breadth of theological tradition in the Church of England.

## What we have to offer

You will be fully supported by the Vicar and the wider ministry team, who will enable opportunities for wider learning, reflection and developing of best practice. This is a role with a significant element of flexibility to allow the post-holder to engage in ministry about which they are passionate.

- We have an enthusiastic team of lay ministers and supportive congregations who will all do their part in working together with the Clergy. We are committed to promoting and resourcing lay leadership.
- There is administrative support from the part-time administrator, based in the parish office . We currently employ an Events Co-ordinator and are hoping to employ a Facilities Manager at St. Editha's in the near future.
- We will support our clergy through prayer and a willingness to work together to achieve our vision for the parish.
- There would be full reimbursement of expenses. We acknowledge the importance of regular days off, which are respected by those in the parish, and holiday entitlement. The diocese encourages that in one week per month 2 days off are taken.
- The Mission Priest will be offered accommodation in the parish.
- We will give the Mission Priest a £1,000 well-being grant every year to be spent as they please for the first 5 years in post.

## Church Leadership

In recent years we have taken the opportunity to embark on a new and exciting staffing structure with two full-time clergy working collaboratively across the parish. Tamworth has four excellent Readers who are all involved in preaching, and leading services. There is a growing culture of delegation, co-operation and mutual trust and support.

Each church has two District Churchwardens and there are two Parish Churchwardens for the parish as a whole. There exists a strong sense of community within our churches and recently a renewed desire to work together, as four churches in one parish.

Members of the congregations also read lessons and lead intercessions in services.



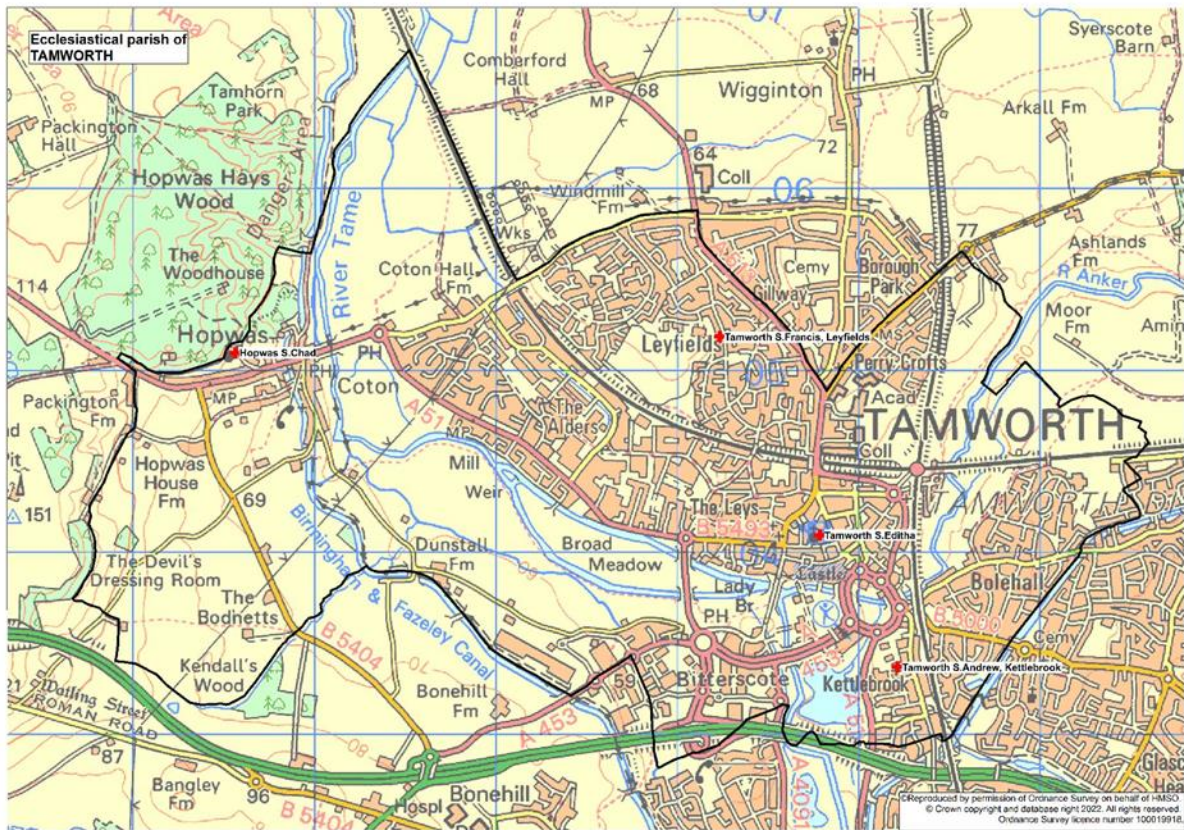
## **Safeguarding**

We have a named Safeguarding Officer for the parish who works closely with the diocese. We have a clear understanding that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the parish. Our PCC and DCCs pay attention to national and diocesan developments and advice in this area and discuss and adopt appropriate policies.

Our aim is that we will promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those who have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

# The Parish of Tamworth

*A map showing the locations of the churches, from the air*



Tamworth is a lively market town in south-east Staffordshire, some 20 miles to the north-east of Birmingham and only 10 miles from Lichfield Cathedral.

Tamworth enjoys excellent transport links including the M6, M6 Toll and M42 and local railway stations. Travellers for business or leisure find themselves only thirty minutes away from two regional airports with scheduled and charter flights.

Tamworth has its ancient Castle, a popular historical tourist attraction. There are excellent out of town shopping areas with most of the major supermarkets represented, plus a large Marks and Spencer's. In the town centre one finds independent retailers, restaurants, cafes, and pubs, some of them with a heritage offering.

Excellent leisure facilities abound, including playgrounds, bowling greens, a large central library, and the Snowdome, one of the first real snow slopes in the UK. We are close to Drayton Manor Park, excellent sporting facilities at each of the local secondary schools, as well as several gymnasiums, and sports clubs. The town boasts a multiplex cinema, the Assembly Rooms which acts as a venue for smaller scale touring shows and concerts, as well as being a resource for local arts and musical societies.

Traditionally the town's major employers were found in light engineering, coal mining and associated industries. In common with much of Britain these declined some years ago and

the town experienced significant unemployment problems. These have now been somewhat eradicated and the town's unemployment figures are better. Most employment is today found in distribution and service industries with some light industry and engineering surviving. There is significant socioeconomic deprivation to be found in parts of the parish.

In 2018 figures suggested that approximately 50% of the population of the parish are aged 44 or younger, whilst 20% are over the age of 65. The town is 97% white with small minority populations who self-identify as Asian or African Caribbean. The population of the parish in 2018 was 20,373.

There was a substantial increase in the population of the town from the 1960s onwards, mainly due to receiving families from neighbouring Birmingham. Housing is largely made up of a mixture of older houses, multi-storey flats, and mixed types of local authority dwellings as well as recent, large estates of private housing.

Following a successful, significant funding bid by the Local Authority, Tamworth town centre is undergoing a major regeneration and renewal. This has brought new businesses and energy to the two. There is generally a feeling of positivity and progress, and a sense that Tamworth is "up and coming", not least as one of its newer pubs was voted best in the country in 2023! There is good feeling and an approach of mutual trust and co-operation between the church and the Local Authority.

## **Communication**

The parish is working on a Social Media strategy, due to be completed in September 2023. One of the aspirations of our Mission Action Plan is to widen and improve our social media offering. The Parish magazine is produced monthly and is widely circulated both electronically and in paper form. A weekly prayer notes and newsletter is also available electronically and converted into a paper handout freely available throughout the parish to all who wish to have it.

## **Pastoral Offices**

Baptisms are conducted on a regular basis at St Editha's and St Chad's churches. There is a baptism preparation session for all families, and this covers what happens in the service, what baptism is and how to help the children grow up to become full members of the church in the future.

This year we hope to put forward about 10 people as candidates for Confirmation.

There are several weddings across the parish throughout the year. We are open to marrying previously divorced persons after an interview with the Vicar.

In common with many other churches, the number of funerals we mark across the parish is falling year on year, but there is still a significant funeral ministry in Tamworth.

## Parish Activities

Covid restrictions limited our activities for over a year, but all churches are working to resurrect their activities and invite the communities back through their doors. We are therefore re-establishing our mission and ministry in various ways:



St Editha's and St Chad's have held **Summer and Christmas Fayres**. St Andrew's church restarted its Christmas Dinner as well as regularly running their **Lite Bite and Young at Heart** groups for the community. **Knit and Natter** runs fortnightly, providing social fellowship for people from across the parish. They produce items for sale and are now currently engaged in knitting prayer shawls for those on the prayer lists.

**Prayer group:** this group has sprung out of the Informal services and meets fortnightly in St George's Chapel in St Editha's on Tuesday mornings following Informal services.

**Milton's Mates:** This small children's group takes place on the first Sunday of the month at St Editha's Church during the morning service. It is open to all children and where a Baptism takes place, we invite children (and their parents, if they wish) to join us.

**Foodbank:** All churches collect for the foodbank and St Editha's office gives out Foodbank vouchers provided by the council. St Editha's also works with the local council and (until its demise) with Starfish to provide tents, food, clothes and sleeping bags for those who need them. We have close links with the council officers in the housing department and the local police force and work with those who come into church in need of food, utilities, transport costs and housing.



**Christmas Services:** All churches have provided a variety of Christmas services, welcoming local schools into church for their own concerts as well as providing Christingle and Crib services, Darkness to Light and Nine Lessons and Carols and Light Up a Life services in cooperation with St Giles' Hospice and the Co-operative funeral service. St Chad's and St Editha's Churches are open daily for prayer and reflection.

**Schools' work:** There are no Church of England Schools in the parish. We do however have good links with several schools in the parish and they are very open to working with the churches and there are considerable opportunities in this area across the parish.



# The Churches

## St Andrew's Church (Kettlebrook)



St Andrew's Church is friendly and welcoming with a small congregation, mostly of older people. It nestles at the centre of the community by which it is well supported. Located to the Southeast of Tamworth Parish, it is a small community consisting of mainly terraced housing. There is, however, a recent development of detached and semi-detached houses and starter homes built on former industrial land. The residential population of Kettlebrook is now a mix of families, first time buyers and the elderly.

There are embryonic links with the local football club, Tamworth FC, which neighbours the church.

The Organ is a (Registered) War Memorial for both First and Second World Wars. It is in good condition and our Organist chooses all the Hymns for our services. Our church makes full use of its newly fitted kitchen for social events and special occasions. At the rear of the church is a beautiful, well-maintained garden with a spacious lawned area and cottage garden style borders; this is looked after by a local resident with another resident who will carry out any odd jobs as and when needed. The garden provides much of the greenery and flowers used for floral displays within the church and is a lovely venue for celebrations and parties.

The Working Men's Club and local shop support by weekly giving, provide prizes for the tombola stall and raffles for the social events and have fund raising events most months. Planned fund raising events include a quiz being held by the Working Men's club, Tamworth Male Voice Choir giving a concert also at the Working Men's club and the local shop running raffles – with all proceeds to St Andrews. The Church and the community have gained a lot by joining together in one common cause – supporting the Church.

The principal service is on a Sunday evening at 6pm – a service of CW Evening Prayer with Holy Communion once a month. It is principally lay-led.

The church is in very good order. Recent renovation and repairs include trickle vents to the windows and windowsills clad to make them level. This work has been completed with the support of local donations; making St Andrew's feel at oneness with the community who cannot attend Church.



## St Chad's (Hopwas with Riverside and Tame Meadow)

St Chad's is a small village church adjacent to Hopwas Woods. It is a popular venue for



weddings. It has its own parsonage, a house for the vergers and a small hall situated in the centre of the village. Hopwas is a relatively affluent area of Tamworth and the church sits at the heart of the village.

Within the district there are three excellent public houses, a social club, a village primary school, several care homes as well as the Tamworth Cricket and Hockey Club.

Approximately 3000 people live in the area.

There are 76 people on the electoral roll. We hold a Holy Communion service every Sunday Morning at 10.30am. The average service attendance is around 20-25, and that number is generally growing. Currently, evening services have not resumed since Covid. Worship is fairly traditional, but relaxed. Despite Covid, our congregations have held up and the Churchwardens and parish Readers regularly lead the services for us.



We use recorded music from a portable tablet and amplification system. We do have an organ, but it needs repair and as such is only used for occasional life events such as funerals and weddings.

The church building is a Grade 2 listed building, built in 1879 and opened in 1881. It is built of local brick and stone and the structural

timbers are oak. It is of a 'Swiss Chalet' style and has a small spirelet which was recently recovered with timber shingles. Our latest Quinquennial inspection was good, and no significant repairs or maintenance are required. The sound system has recently been upgraded to accommodate all musical interfaces currently available

The churchyard is approximately 1 acre in size and located to the North and East of the church and has a mix of burial plots and a memorial plot for interment of ashes. There is a small area to the South of the church which is reserved for interment of ashes only. We have a further field reserved for graveyard extension in the future, should it be required and other undesignated lands which are currently leased out.

We have strong links with Thomas Barnes Primary School. The children come into church for Harvest and Christmas services, and we enjoy a wonderful Leavers service in July. We also

have close ties with Hopwas Methodist Chapel where we take it in turns to host a joint service when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month.

### **St Editha's Church, Tamworth (town centre)**



St Editha's Church is the largest parish church in Staffordshire. It is wonderfully situated right in the heart of Tamworth, adjacent to the marketplace and close to the Castle. It is well-loved by the townspeople and the surrounding area, much used for occasional offices and civic events and people drop in for prayer all the time. We regularly welcome more than 100 visitors a week. Following a visit at Easter 2022 from Dame Lesley Garrett, we have recently employed an Events Manager to increase visitor footfall.

We recently finished a significant internal reordering in church to install a new café and bookshop. We hope that this will increase footfall and help us to enhance our ministry of hospitality and welcome. The Church Administrator's Office has been brought into Church, allowing us to significantly increase church opening hours.

Architecturally, St Editha's is Grade I Listed, and is one of the major Heritage buildings in the Midlands. It contains a double spiral staircase and a Grade I listed Harrison and Harrison organ which has been recently restored. The parish church stands as a significant landmark in the centre of the town. The last quinquennial inspection was in 2021; despite its age there are no major issues with the building and the church is in good order.

St Editha's Church has a strong band of volunteers from within the congregation and across the parish who keep the many aspects of our mission and ministry working smoothly.

We have a growing group of worshippers willing to take an active part in worship and a weekly prayer sheet is sent out across the parish and beyond electronically. This is converted to a weekly handout available to all who cannot access the electronic version and delivered to those not able to get to church. There is also a small WhatsApp prayer group started by a member of the congregation.

### **Services at St Editha's**

Usual Sunday attendance is about 100; average weekday attendance is 15.

St Editha's church has a variety of worship services, formal and informal, said and sung, traditional and contemporary:

## Sundays

8.30am Said Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month only)

10.00am Sung Eucharist with Children's group

6.00pm Choral Evensong (the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month this is replaced with "Café Church")

## Wednesdays

10.15am Said Eucharist

Morning Prayer is said every day in the church.

## The Church Buildings attached to St Editha's

The Church Hall dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century and is not listed although it is within a conservation area. Downstairs it is well used but upstairs requires substantial renovation. A feasibility study is underway for its future use and benefit.

The Church owns various properties around Tamworth, most of which are privately let.



## Music at St Editha's

St Editha's boasts a growing choir led by our highly experienced Organist/Choir master. In answer to prayer, our choir has now grown to a healthy number of enthusiastic choristers. We are starting an ambitious Choral Scholarship scheme in September to recruit children into the choir. This will lower our age profile, ensure quality singing into the future, and bring new people of all ages into our fellowship. Music tends to be traditional except in Informal services where modern

worship songs are used.

## Links between St Editha's and the Town



The Vicar of Tamworth is currently the Chaplain to the Mayor as well as Chaplain for the local branches of RAFA, British Legion and Royal Navy. Remembrance Day Services are celebrated with a parade through town followed by a service of remembrance both outside and in church supported by all armed forces and the local population. There is a great working relationship with the armed and cadet forces in Tamworth and across Staffordshire.

St Editha's work closely with the local council to provide Food Bank vouchers, sleeping bags, tents, and other support for the homeless and those less well off, especially in the current economic climate. There is great scope for a developing ministry out of St Editha's

to the poor, homeless and refugees. Church members are active in many initiatives and organisations in the Town including Rotary, Soroptimists, Tamworth Heritage and lots more.



## St Francis Church - Leyfields



St Francis church is the least traditional looking church within the parish. It is located in the heart of the Leyfields, one of the most economically challenged areas in Tamworth although the area is improving. It is ranked in the lowest quartile as one of the most deprived areas in the UK. The Leyfields consists of 3-storey flats, maisonettes, bungalows and houses; a mixture of council accommodation and private housing, many people buying their council houses.

The church was built in the 1960s on a post-war housing estate and often talked of being the Birmingham overspill. The estate also has St. Andrew's Methodist church, a Sure Start Centre,

shops and Wigginton Park, the home to Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club. There are 3 pubs local to the church, Larkhall nursery and infant school, Flaxhill Junior School, Coton Green school (with which we have growing links) and Rawlett High school, all of which are friendly to the church.

It is fair to say that St. Francis has been treading water for a few years, but with new leadership in the parish we are directing a lot of new energy into ministry and mission. The church was thoroughly cleaned, redecorated and reordered in June 2023, making the space much more attractive and usable. Currently we have one church service a week on a Sunday morning, with a mix of Said Eucharist and Morning Prayer. Recently an evangelical group - Rooted Church - have begun to use the church for a few hours on Sunday afternoons and there is a growing partnership between us. Music is both traditional and contemporary and played via a CD player.

The church is a one room church, has a kitchen, vestry and washroom facility. The congregation is small but faithful and have held together well since Covid. Average Sunday attendance is about 10.

It is hoped that we can hire out St Francis' Church in the daytime during the week to increase funds. There is a lot of potential here and much could be done with the building, not least because it is located in the heart of its community. There is also a significant garden to the rear. St Francis' has hosted many Advent and Lent courses for the Parish and we hope to use it much more for evening church meetings (for which it is a great venue) such as discipleship courses, PCC meetings and more.



## Parish Finances

As a larger parish we had to register as a charity in 2009 and we are on the charities commission as The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Tamworth, Registered Charity Number 1133982. Our published accounts are the consolidation of the four churches.

We are in the fortunate position of having significant fixed assets in the parish. As of 31 December 2021 we have fixed assets valued at £3.4m including our five properties and various CCLA investments specific to individual churches and mostly for restricted purposes. That said, cash flow is generally tight.

We have always had the policy of paying the parish Common Fund in full each year and we were able to hold true to this for all but one year. We have managed to do this even though we have been running at a deficit for many years, relying on the generosity of previous benefactors to pay the Common Fund. We are hoping that 2023 will be the first year in many that we have not operated at a loss.

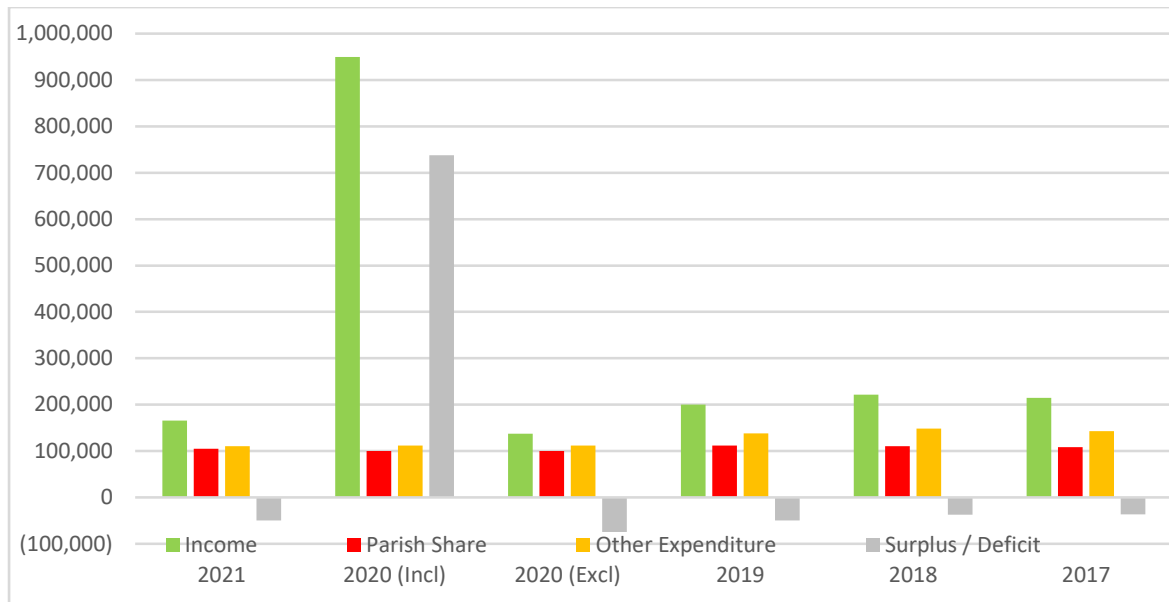
In 2019 we were heading into a crisis by depleting the last of our unrestricted reserves but were blessed by a totally unexpected bequest of £812k. This has allowed us to clear our debts and continue to pay our full parish Common Fund monthly and on time.

The Diocesan changes to Common Fund, with the introduction of the Low Income Communities Allocation, has helped reduce the pressure on our accounts.

Our income varies depending upon our fund-raising targets to meet the current restoration projects. Presently, with our regular giving, this remains insufficient to cover our basic expenditure including Common Fund although we are optimistic about rebalancing this going forward.

In order to meet the challenge of transforming our finances into a regular surplus we are taking several steps. Further work on stewardship, along with other much needed discipleship training, will be an important mission action point going forward.

The following table has our unrestricted income and expenditure over the last five years, with the last two years showing the impact of Covid. Expenditure is in 2 columns to demonstrate the level of Common Fund and other expenditure and the 2020 figures show both including and excluding the 2020 bequest mentioned above.



## Clergy Housing

The Mission Priest will reside in the Parsonage at Hopwas.



The Parsonage is adjacent to the church and situated, as is the church, at the foot of Hopwas Wood in the village of Hopwas. It is a modern and spacious double glazed, 5 bedroomed house with picture windows and a large modern kitchen. The living room leads into a large, mature garden and there is ample space for parking and a garage.

Repairs have recently been carried out which means that the house is in excellent condition.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL  
ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

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	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
Donations & legacies	2a	85,310	-	12,695	-	98,005	906,075
Charitable activities	2b	34,650	-	100	-	34,750	19,525
Other trading activities	2c	21,813	-	-	-	21,813	18,800
Investments	2d	24,005	1,118	17,151	-	42,274	29,143
Other	2e	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming</b>		<b>165,778</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>29,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,842</b>	<b>973,543</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>							
Raising funds	3a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3b	215,249	595	26,974	-	242,818	239,918
Other	3c	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expended</b>		<b>215,249</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>26,974</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>242,818</b>	<b>239,918</b>
<b>Net before transfers</b>		<b>(49,471)</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,976)</b>	<b>733,625</b>
Transfers between funds		56,000	(544)	(55,456)	-	-	-
<b>Net funds movement</b>		<b>6,529</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(52,484)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,976)</b>	<b>733,625</b>
<b>Gains on revaluations</b>							
Fixed assets		-	-	61,431	60,988	122,419	87,929
Investments		83,315	-	23,180	106,653	213,148	66,866
<b>Total funds movement</b>		<b>89,844</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>32,127</b>	<b>167,641</b>	<b>289,591</b>	<b>888,420</b>
<b>Funds at 1 January</b>		<b>905,238</b>	<b>26,589</b>	<b>931,845</b>	<b>1,414,941</b>	<b>3,278,613</b>	<b>2,390,193</b>
<b>Funds at 31 December</b>		<b>995,082</b>	<b>26,568</b>	<b>963,972</b>	<b>1,582,582</b>	<b>3,568,204</b>	<b>3,278,613</b>

If this profile has excited you, then we would love to hear from you.

Full details from [lichfield.anglican.org/vacancies](http://lichfield.anglican.org/vacancies)

For an informal conversation, feel free to contact Rev Andrew Lythall

[aslythall@gmail.com](mailto:aslythall@gmail.com)

The parish website is [parishoftamworth.co.uk](http://parishoftamworth.co.uk)

Enquiries: The Ven. Dr Sue Weller - 01543 306145

[archdeacon.lichfield@lichfield.Anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon.lichfield@lichfield.Anglican.org)

All applicants should normally have three years experience in the Church of England or another Anglican church in the British Isles.

Closing date for applications:

Familiarisation day:

Interviews: