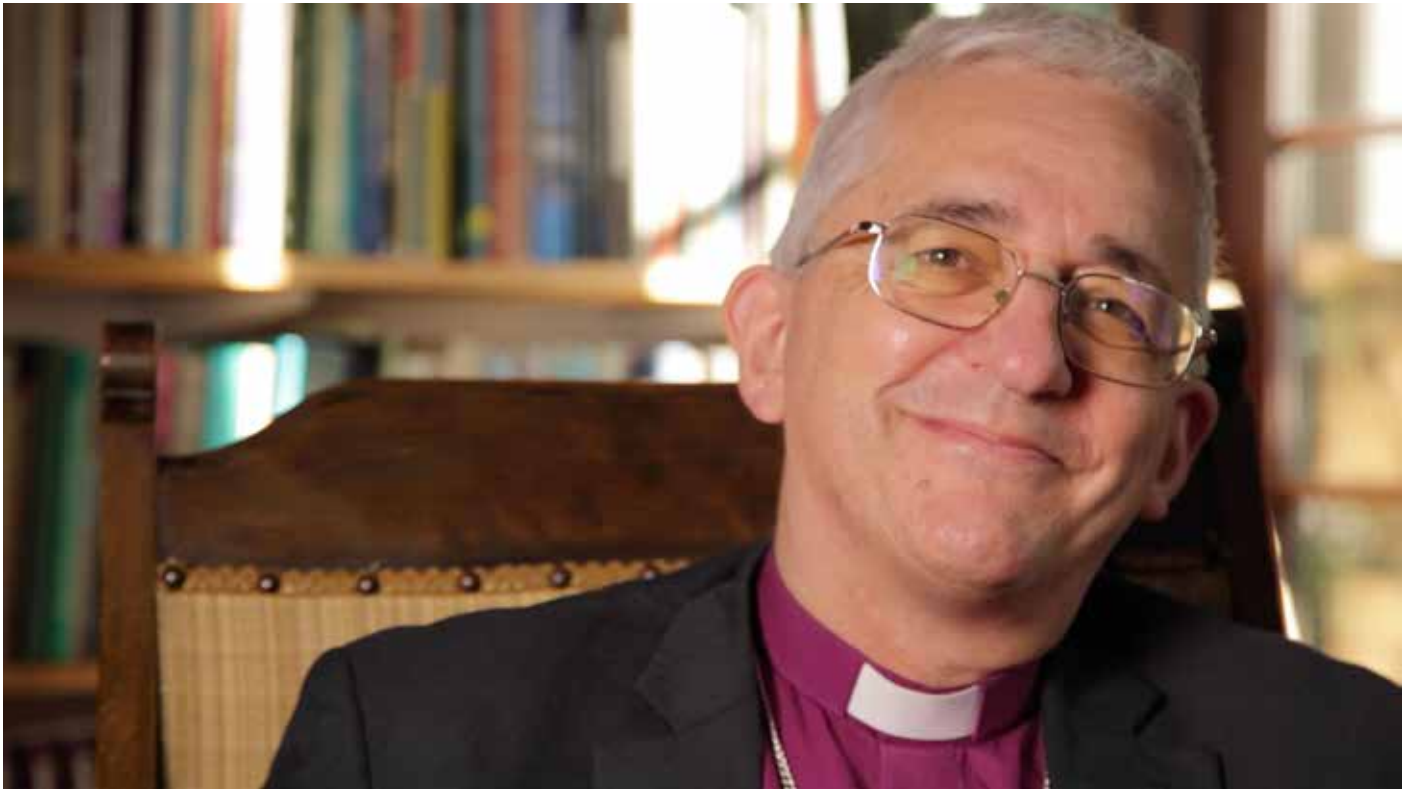


# SPOTLIGHT

The Diocese of Lichfield Magazine

Mar/Apr 2016



## The 99th Bishop of Lichfield

The Right Reverend Dr Michael Ipgrave has been named as the next Bishop of Lichfield.

Bishop Michael (57), the current Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark, will be the ninety-ninth Bishop of Lichfield, in a line going back to St Chad in the seventh century.

In a personal welcome message to the Diocese, Bishop Michael says "I've had twelve wonderful years in London but I am so looking forward to coming back to the Midlands. Lichfield is the mother church of the Midlands, and the city of

St Chad, a man of great humility and profound Christian faith."

His appointment was announced on 2 March and was greeted in Wolverhampton by Bishop Clive: "A year ago on St Chad's Day, Bishop Jonathan announced his retirement as Bishop of Lichfield. Today, on St Chad's Day, we can share the wonderful news that Bishop Michael is joining us here in the West Midlands. He brings with him a rare combination of gifts, as theologian and teacher, pastor and mission enabler, which will greatly enrich our life as a Diocese."

# Welcome, Bishop Michael

Following the announcement of Bishop Michael's appointment on the 10 Downing Street website, Bishop Michael made a whistle-stop tour of the diocese, beginning by meeting staff and clients of the YMCA Black Country with Bishop Clive in Wolverhampton as well as members of the media.



Debs Walton of Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries which works closely with the YMCA Black Country reflected: "We've had some brilliant conversations with the non-Christian staff as a result of the visit, many of whom were deeply moved that this important man chose to start his new job by listening to them talk about their work. The fact that he wants to come back to find out more was really important for them. One person said it was the first time that they had realised that Christians would offer love and encouragement to people who are working hard in difficult circumstances."



who are working hard in difficult circumstances."

Then a dash up the M6 through the sleet to Stoke, where he met clergy and clients of the Sanctus refugee project at St Mark's church Shelton:



And in anticipation of the annual walk of witness by combined churches across Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent, he pinned a yellow ribbon to the Sentinel Cross.



Next to Little Drayton, to meet the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, volunteers at the Market Drayton Food Bank and CAP, clergy of Hodnet Deanery chapter and the team



behind the new 'TGI Monday Show' led by the Diocese of Lichfield's Online Pastor:



Finally, it being St Chad's Day he went to Lichfield Cathedral and was prayed for by the Dean, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber. He was welcomed by, and addressed, the Greater Cathedral Chapter before



attending a special service of Evensong which included the St Chad's Day

commemoration of Benefactors and the installation of three new Prebendaries.

The Right Reverend Michael Geoffrey Ipgrave OBE, MA, PhD grew up in a small village in Northamptonshire. He studied mathematics at Oriel College, Oxford, and trained for the ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford after a year working as a labourer in a factory in Birmingham. He was ordained Deacon in 1982 in the Diocese of Peterborough.

After more than twenty years' ministry in Leicestershire and Japan, he became Archdeacon of Southwark in 2004, and Canon Missioner at Southwark Cathedral from 2010 to 2012, Chair of the Southwark and London Diocesan Housing Association. Prior to this he had been Inter Faith Relations Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and Secretary of the Churches' Commission on Inter Faith relations. He was awarded the OBE in 2011 for services to inter faith relations in London. Since 2012 he has been Area Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. He chairs the Council of Christians and Jews, and is co-Chair of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and of the Church of England's Mission Theology Advisory Group.

Bishop Michael is married to Dr Julia Ipgrave, a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Humanities at Roehampton University. They have three grown up sons, one with a German and one with a Russian wife, and have just become grandparents.

Michael and Julia are enthusiastic about things Japanese. They enjoy walking, and are looking forward to exploring Staffordshire and Shropshire on foot. He is a supporter of Leicester City FC.



# United in love

**"We were on our honeymoon, and I was listening to a podcast by the pool, hearing about what God is doing all over the world, and this chap was talking about Immanuel church, Fujairah. It was interesting but nothing more. Then it turned out Ash knew this guy's wife. So we began chatting to them out of interest and it snowballed."**

Kieran and Ashley McKnight are going to the United Arab Emirates in September, working in non-salaried posts as Pastoral Assistant and Women's Ministry Co-ordinator in Immanuel church, Fujairah.

"We went out to visit in December. Fujairah is a lot more remote and traditional than some of the better known Emirates. It's the only mountainous region in the Emirates, a city of about 200,000 and forecast to grow rapidly. We went in the winter and the temperature was in the high 20s!



"After that we took some time to think and seek God. I think we already knew, but we had to make sure the excitement didn't cool off.

"It is very multi-cultural, like the whole world in one place. But Indians tend to spend time with Indians, Pakistanis with Pakistanis and so on. There doesn't seem to be much mixing or integration. In the church it's a different story. There are about 20 nationalities in the church, all worshipping together and sharing their lives.

"Through the church, God has stripped people back, and matured them - you can see that in the way people interact. There are a lot of single men who are over there to make money, and suffer with loneliness, so also a real sense that the church is their family. There is a hunger to know God more, especially among the poorer expat labourers."

"You see the power of the gospel in the church, bringing all these nations together, united in their love of Jesus, though they wouldn't normally be friends or even cross paths.

"We'll be working mostly on a one-to-one basis, facilitating people's study, helping them know and understand the Bible. We'll also be building relationships with the local community. There's an obvious need - the church is keen and switched on, many go on from

their meetings to a theology lunch and further study, and we will be able to put the time to train and guide people. The church is two years old and already planning and praying about planting other churches on the coast.

"Between now and September, we are hoping to visit churches who believe in what we're doing, and might offer prayer support."

To sign up for news from Kieran and Ashley and follow their journey, or to invite them to your church, contact them on [kieranandash@gmail.com](mailto:kieranandash@gmail.com)

# Flushed with success

**Worshippers at St Bertelin's Church in Stafford could not imagine what it would be like not to have anywhere private, safe and hygienic to "spend a penny" when they needed to. So, when they heard about people living in communities in the developing world didn't have access to safe and clean toilets, they thought they would do something about it.**

"We decided to twin the toilets at St Bertelin's Church with a toilet in the developing world through a charity called Toilet Twinning" said Revd Elaine Evans, vicar of St Bertelin, Stafford.

"The initial target was to twin two toilets, but as that target was soon met, we decided to keep going, fundraising through donations at Christmas, the proceeds from our Lent Lunches, and selling the fresh produce given to the church at Harvest time.

"People collected pennies...and tuppences, fivepences and ten pence pieces, all of which were counted, checked and bagged...and we eventually managed to twin our church toilets with 14 toilets throughout the world.

"Toilet Twinning provides people in the poorest communities on the planet with a decent toilet, clean water and all the information they need to stay healthy. It's the key to helping whole communities break free of the poverty trap.

"Children are healthier, and able to go to school; parents are well enough to work their land and grow enough food to feed their family. With better health, and more ability to earn a living, men and women discover the potential that lies within them to bring transformation."

St Bertelin's Church with their toilet twinning certificates



# Royal Maundy Money

Every year, Her Majesty The Queen presents special 'Maundy money' to local pensioners in a UK cathedral or abbey. The presentation takes place on Maundy Thursday in recognition of the service of older people to their community and their church.

The Royal Maundy Service used to take place in London, but early in her reign The Queen decided that the service should take place at a different venue every year. It was held at Lichfield in 1988.



This year's recipients include four local people whose service has been recognised.

**The Revd Warren Bardsley** is a retired Methodist minister living in Lichfield. During his ministry he served in Sierra Leone and elsewhere. He has done exemplary work in helping inter-faith relations develop locally, been involved in trade justice campaigns and taken a leading role in the Kairos Britain process supporting the Palestinian people. He is a member of the Iona Community and has written several books.

**Mrs Veronica Fletcher** has served as Lay Chair for nearly 20 years in Telford Deanery – one of the most difficult deaneries. She has also served as a Licensed Reader for St Peter's Priorslee since 2000. She still maintains a childlike enthusiasm for her ministry and for the Gospel.



**Miss Mary Jephcott** has lived at Alstonefield since retiring as Head of a school in Birmingham. She is held in deep affection by many in the community. A long-serving Churchwarden of St Peter's, she was licensed as a Reader in 2003 and led worship and bible study groups with infectious enthusiasm, also taking home communion around the Benefice

until failing sight and reduced mobility led her to retire in 2014. She is an Associate of the Iona Community and leads groups from the area to stay with the Community each year. Mary spent several years as a Missionary in South Africa with Bishop Trevor Huddleston in the 1940s-50s.

**The Revd James Potts** was a former incumbent in Madeley and Stafford, now living in Lichfield in retirement. He worships and assists at the Cathedral. He was a missionary in Tanzania for 12 years.



Since the fifteenth century, the number of Maundy coins handed out, and the number of people receiving the coins, has been related to the Sovereign's age: for example, when The Queen was 60 years old, 60 women and 60 men received 60 pence-worth of Maundy coins.

Maundy coins have remained in much the same form since 1670. They have traditionally been struck in sterling silver, except for the brief interruptions of Henry's VIII's debasement of the coinage and the general change to 50% silver coins in 1920. The sterling silver standard was resumed following the Coinage Act of 1946. In 1971, when decimalisation took place, the coins' face values were increased from old to new pence.

The tradition of the Sovereign giving money to the poor dates from the thirteenth century. The Sovereign also used to give food and clothing, and even washed the recipients' feet. The Queen has distributed Maundy on all but four occasions since coming to the throne in 1952.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the day of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. The word 'Maundy' comes from the command or 'mandatum' by Christ at the Last Supper, to love one another.

# In the name of the Father



L-R: Cabinet Maker Jamie Hubbard, The Archdeacon of Salop the Ven Paul Thomas, Martin Andrews, glass artist, and The Reverend Murray McBride, Vicar of St George's Church, Frankwell.

**After 182 years, St George's Church in Frankwell, Shrewsbury, has commissioned a new font for baptisms.**

The old stone font was disintegrating and no longer safe to use. Instead of replacing it with another stone or 'off the peg' font, the church took the step of having a new, hand-crafted, bespoke font designed.

The new font, created by master-craftsmen Jamie Hubbard and Martin Andrews, can be moved into the centre of the church for baptisms. The project has taken three years and the church held a thorough consultation, which included getting ideas from the local school.

The glass bowl was hand-blown with waves of cobalt blue weaving through clear glass by glass artist Martin Andrews. The base, involving clever engineering techniques, was completed in American white oak by master carpenter, Jamie Hubbard. Both craftsmen work from the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge, a national centre of excellence for glass and crafts.

A special service was held at St George's to thank everyone who had raised funds to commission the unique font. The Archdeacon of Salop, the Venerable Paul Thomas, dedicated the font and Shrewsbury Town Crier, Martin Wood officially proclaimed its arrival.



Rev Murray McBride said: "This is a very auspicious day in the life of St George's. We really want to say a big thank you to everyone involved and especially the two master craftsmen for all their hard work. Many generations of children and adults will be baptised in this new font."

"The new font is unique to the area and I really think it's a thing of beauty. It's not just beautiful, it's strong. I'm already looking forward to baptising people in the new font. I will be baptising Catherine and Jack Buckley's baby in April, a couple I married here two years ago. Their unborn baby was here today to see the dedication!"



# Celebrating faith in action



**This year will see Mothers' Union mark 140 years of faithful Christian outreach to families of all faiths and none. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own parish to build up their confidence in bringing up their children, Mothers' Union has grown to an organisation of over four million women – and men – in over 80 countries.**

From left to right: Rev Julia Cody (Vicar and MU Member), Val Hannah (Walsall Archdeaconry MU Leader), Penny Allen, Brenda Walters, Helen Lyford, Maggie Smith, Chris Tough, Helena Payne, Lianne Bole, Liz Beardsmore, Mandy Ricketts, Jane Williams, Margaret Davies (Trysull Deanery MU Leader)

I wouldn't go on my own, even though my Mum and my Gran had been members. And now look at where I am!

**“In the beginning, Mothers' Union provided practical support for people, in a world before social services. Now we feel there is a real need again.**

Lichfield Diocese has been part of the story since the beginning. “Our oldest branch Pelsall branch is 138 – we were only two years behind the national launch!” says Sue Egerton, the new Diocesan President of Mothers Union, which has over 1600 members in 80 branches across the Diocese.

“I joined because I got a personal invitation from a friend. I knew about Mothers' Union but

fellowship and prayer in the Mothers' Union, but perhaps don't anticipate just how deep the friendship is. Walking into any branch is like walking into a family party – you are

“People rightly expect to find friendship,



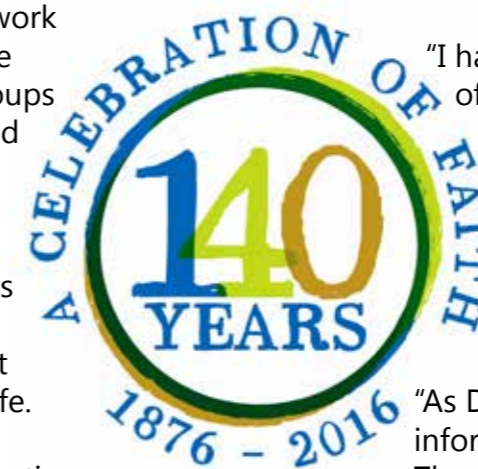
never forgotten but part of a great big family. If you ask for prayer, you feel you are getting it.

“In the beginning, Mothers' Union provided practical support for people, in a world before social services. Now we feel there is a real need again.

“In this Diocese, we knit for premature babies – hats, jackets, blankets – right up to making dementia cushions for care homes, the whole life cycle. We provide away-from-it-all holidays for people suffering from stress, and we supported farmers with holidays when the foot-and-mouth crisis was on. We have trained parenting facilitators, running parenting classes, supported women's refuge centres.

“Then there's all the work abroad – in places like Burundi, teaching groups of women how to read and write. It's a real global family. At Spring Council on April 21 our speaker is Rebecca Tamba from Zambia, talking about her Mothers' Union life.

“We have a big celebration at the Cathedral on August 9 during Evensong, and also the commissioning of myself and the Trustee Board. We're also encouraging every branch and Deanery to hold at least one celebratory event, each getting a certificate and a number, trying to get 140 celebratory events across the Diocese.



“You don't have to be a member to benefit. Anyone could knit for our babies. And it is important that churches in areas that don't have a branch know they are very welcome to partner with us. We are here for every parish.”

“We had twelve people enrol in the Mothers' Union in Perton, forming a new MU Group” says Julia Cody.

“Advent Sunday, as we began another church year, seemed a very appropriate occasion to form a brand new Mothers' Union group and enrol 10 members! In fact, after listening to Walsall Archdeaconry Leader Val Hanna speak earlier last year about the work of the MU worldwide, there are 12 new MU members in Perton!

“I have been a Diocesan Member for a number of years, and there are 3 additional MU members living in Perton who are part of the Tettenhall Wood branch, so it's really fantastic and exciting that these 12 women have been so inspired by the ministry of the MU and have decided to become Deanery Members.

“As Deanery members, they will be able to stay informed and pray for the work of the MU. They have also agreed they would like to meet together as an MU Group from time to time, in order to chat, build friendships, pray and support each other as well as consider how they might further support the MU.”



You can contact Sue Egerton on 01785 227221 or [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk) or [www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](http://www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

# Fayre Trade

St Thomas' Wednesfield has held a wedding fayre. Sixteen local businesses had stalls in the church centre, alongside tables from the church and the Mothers' Union.



"Our aims were to encourage people to think about a church wedding, and to support local businesses by showing what can be bought locally, including from members of our own congregation" says Joanna Watson.

Stallholders included a dress shop, dressmaker/alterations, photographers, a candy cart, balloon decorations, and beauticians.



"We had refreshments including savoury pastries provided by a local caterer and private chef - who was a choirboy at St Thomas' when he was a boy! And we had cup-cakes made by a new local business set up by two local young women with a Prince's Trust loan.

"Meanwhile Nick (the Team Rector) had lots of conversations - some with couples who have already booked, and others with those who haven't decided about where to get married, wanted to know more about marriage after divorce, wedding blessings, or renewing vows."



"We had well over 50 brides register with us, and others came too who didn't register, and the stallholders have fed back that they had a really successful day. We think it was a really worthwhile thing for the church to do."



made. It is a privilege to see Jesus alive and inspiring transformation in the lives of his followers and communities all over this diocese. This is the last time I will edit Spotlight; I now look forward to reading it, and sharing your stories of God at work ever more widely, among and beyond the Church of England.



In April, I leave my role in Lichfield Diocese to take up the new post of Head of Media for the Church of England. Thank you for the stories you have shared with me and the friendships we have

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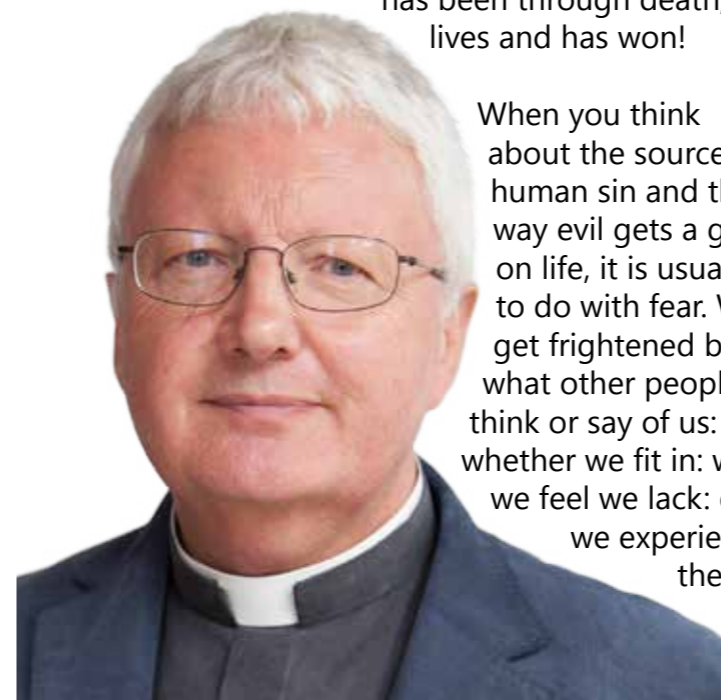
# Do not be afraid

Happy Easter! The fifty days of Easter (from Easter Day to Pentecost) give us the time and space to absorb the message of Jesus's Resurrection. Yet it has been a standard (and rather predictable) criticism of the Church and practising Christians that we neither look nor behave as if the Resurrection has happened.

We seem anxious creatures: worried about survival, the impact we make in our world, pre-occupied with money. Frankly it isn't an attractive mixture. Anxiety distorts what we're about and diverts us from our purpose.

That's why the Easter message is so important and relevant. The words of the angel to the women who came to Jesus's tomb on resurrection morning apply to you and me: 'Do not be afraid'. Christ's own words to his disciples are 'peace be with you', a message of blissful reconciliation to those who had betrayed and deserted him. There is no blame, no criticism in those words. They are words of deep assurance. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. The worst is over, Jesus Christ has been through death, yet lives and has won!

When you think about the sources of human sin and the way evil gets a grip on life, it is usually to do with fear. We get frightened by what other people think or say of us: whether we fit in: what we feel we lack: or we experience the



unsettling fear that people don't see things our way. That in turn produces a defensiveness and desire for self-protection that locks us more and more into ourselves. It takes hold of people and communities. But the message of the angel (St Matthew 28: 5) is clear 'Do not be afraid'.

The best book I've read recently is by an up and coming Australian Theologian, Sarah Bachelard. Her 'Resurrection and Moral Imagination' sees the Resurrection as the world changing event that allows us to perceive a generous God transforming the roots of human behaviour.

**'Peace be with you'... There is no blame, no criticism in those words.**

We are held in a love that is endlessly forgiving and reconciling. To have faith is to trust in God's goodness that is constantly and consistently for us. Sarah illustrates the transformative effect of this deep assurance with a parable. She speaks of being bullied at school, but when her mother suddenly Sarah herself felt freed up to be the loved person she knew herself to be. She was held in her mother's love and that confidence and joy actually stopped the bullying and made other children behave more naturally and calmly.

The great lesson we need to learn and re-learn is that the Resurrection frees us up to live lives of profound assurance in God's loving purpose. Being a source of non-anxious goodness is God's gift of Church to the World. Happy Easter! Christ is risen and we are risen with him.

**Adrian Dorber**  
Dean of Lichfield



**DISCOVERING**  
THE HEART OF GOD



GOING FOR GROWTH



Please send details of your events to Spotlight on [comms@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:comms@lichfield.anglican.org)

# DIARY

## Dream, Discover, Dare

A day for 11-18 year olds to explore God's call

April 23, Stafford

Contact Libby Leech  
07891 290564 or [libbyleech@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:libbyleech@lichfield.anglican.org)

## Called To Be Me

Quiet day to explore vocation, lay or ordained

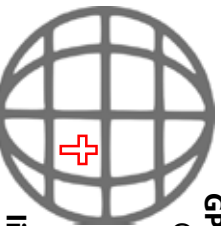
Saturday 16 April,  
Shallowford House  
Contact Angela Bruno 01543 306220  
or [angela.bruno@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:angela.bruno@lichfield.anglican.org)

## GPS Global Positioning Sunday

Celebrating God's World Wide Church throughout the Diocese.

Sunday 29 May Contact Philip Swan  
07857703303 or [worldmission@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:worldmission@lichfield.anglican.org)

# GPS



## Healing Ministry Day

with Br David SSF /Divine Healing Ministries

22-24 April  
St Michael's Penkridge  
Contact Irene Nichols  
01785 714686

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