

March 2025
DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD 
Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad



“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.”

Please note: Service types and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Services Sunday 2nd March

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Morning Worship

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

No service

St Georges Telford

9.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

4.00pm Holy Communion

Collect - Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Services Ash Wednesday 5th March

Holy Trinity Oakengates

7.00pm Ashing Service

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Ashing Service

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Services Sunday 9th March

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

4.00pm Holy Communion

St Georges Telford

9.30am Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

8.00am Holy Communion BCP

11.00am Family Praise

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Morning Worship

Services Sunday 16th March – please note change to service pattern

Holy Trinity Oakengates

No service

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

No service

St Georges Telford

No service

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

No service

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

No service

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion

Services Sunday 23rd March

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

4.00pm Holy Communion

St Georges Telford

9.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Morning Worship

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Morning Worship

Services Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday – change to previously advertised

Holy Trinity Oakengates

9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy

No service

St Georges Telford

9.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

11.00am Holy Communion

St Matthew's Donnington Wood

11.00am Morning Worship

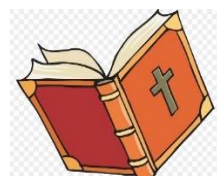
St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge

11.00am Holy Communion

Readings	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
2nd March <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	Exodus 34.29-end	2 Corinthians 3.12—4.2	Luke 9.28-43a
5th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12	2 Corinthians 5.20b—6.10	Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 or John 8.1-11
9th March <i>Lent 1</i>	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Romans 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13
16th March <i>Lent 2</i>	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3.17—4.1	Luke 13.31-end
23rd March <i>Lent 3</i>	Isaiah 55.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9
30th March <i>Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</i>	Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-end	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17	Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25b-27

Daily Readings

		Morning	Evening
Monday	03/03	John 3.1-21	Galatians 1
Tuesday	04/03	John 3.22-end	Galatians 2.1-10
Wednesday	05/03	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	06/03	John 4.1-26	Galatians 2.11-end
Friday	07/03	John 4.27-42	Galatians 3.1-14
Saturday	08/03	John 4.43-end	Galatians 3.15-22



Regular Dates for Diaries (For participation or prayer)

Mon

- Tue 9.00-10.00am Prayer Group at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
7.00pm Whist at Holy Trinity Oakengates (1st Tuesday of each month)
- Wed 8.45-10.30am Tea & Toast (Place of Welcome) at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
9.00-12.00pm Food Bank & Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
9.15am Morning Prayer at Wombridge Church
10.30am Midweek Service at St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Midweek Service at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
12.00-2.00pm Place of Welcome at Holy Trinity Oakengates
1.00-3.00pm Pray Bake Read at Lantern Academy Ketley Bank
7.00-8.00pm Prayer Group meeting at St Georges (4th Wednesday of each month)

- Thu 9.00-10.00am Foodshare at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
~~10.00-12.00pm Tea & Talk Bereavement group (2nd Thursday) at HTWW - Cancelled in March~~
1.00-3.00pm Place of Welcome at Priorslee Scout HQ

Fri

- Sat 4.00-5.30pm Messy Church at HT Wrockwardine Wood (2nd Saturday of each month)
11.00-1.00pm Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Donnington Wood (3rd Saturday of month)

Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Additional Dates for Diaries

- Sun 09/03 2.30pm Musical Dessert Afternoon at Holy Trinity Oakengates
- Mon 10/03 10.30am Funeral of Dorothy Powell at St Matthews Donnington Wood
1.00pm Ecumenical Service at St Matthews Donnington Wood
- Tue 11/03
- Wed 12/03 12.00pm Living Hope Lent Course at St Matthews Donnington Wood
7.00pm Service Leaders meeting at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
- Thu 13/03 10.00am Funeral of Baby Latham-Davies at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
- Fri 14/03
- Sat 15/03 11.00am Welcome Saturday at St Matthew's Donnington Wood
2.00pm Concert with Jean Martyn at Wombridge Parish Church
- Sun 16/03

Please note: Dates and times are correct at time of going to print but are subject to change.

Those in need of our prayers

Please pray for the families of Dorothy Powell, Sheila Fryer, Baby Latham-Davies, Jean Gulliver, Ingrid Langford, and all who are grieving the loss of loved ones at this time.

Merciful God, be close to all who mourn.
May they know the hope of your promises
and the comfort of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In our prayers we remember the Church, its members and our community. We pray for those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital and those who are adjusting to changes in their lives. We also remember those who can no longer join us physically in our church buildings for worship or fellowship.

We offer prayers for people of countries affected by conflict, persecution and natural disaster.



Those whose years mind we keep

Priorslee

- 02/03 Alice Jackson, Gerald Lewis, Constance Plant, Charles Hoofe, Ronald Withington, Mary Rigby, Peter Evans
- 09/03 Doris Harper, Sidney Plant, Thomas Hassall, Mary Peake
- 16/03 Barbara Corbett, Mary Stanworth, Maureen Stokes, Sidney Pearce, Joyce Le Neveu, Keith Corbett, Jane Tyler, Edith Canning, John Lane
- 23/03 Doris Plant, Roland Martin, Thomas Taylor, James Plant, Brian Clayton, Charles Glazzard
- 30/03 Stephen Adams, Barry Smith, Elsie Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Eric Perrins

Oakengates

- 02/03 Devon Holmes, Barbara Kearton, Francis Male, Miriam Howells, Ellen Ellans, James Shepherd, Joy Whyte, Harriet Pearce, Frederick Lloyd, Melanie Davies, Martha Harris, Susan Lewis, Audrey Black, Gloria Fletcher, Annie Briggs, Flossie Briggs, Frederick Pheby, Percy Spreckley, Frank Sylvester
- 09/03 Edwin Rigby, Jack Duggan, Francis Jefferies, Ann Beamson, Margaret Roche, Lilian Shepherd, Harold Watkins, Jack France, Kyle Alvis, Ada Kendall, Elizabeth Latham
- 16/03 Charles Palfrey, Harold Walker, Charles Mansell, Jessie Taylor, Nelson Woodward, Louisa Gwilliam, Robert MCourt, Kathleen Beamson, Clifford Barrow, Reginald Day
- 23/03 Robert Davies, Herbert Marston, Ronald Lucas, Mary Heath, Frederick Weaver, Florence Oldaker, Brenda Bailey
- 30/03 Gertrude Ainslow, George Pugh, Beatrice Cartwright, Evelyn Groom, Kenneth Few, Josephine Coles, Horace Rushton

Wrockwardine Wood

- 02/03 Doris Anderson, Kenneth Walker, Agnes Beetlestone, Annie Carline, Alfred Thompson, Martha Hoggins, Gerald Cartwright, Nick Jackson, Norman D. Lee MM
- 09/03 Percy Nicholls, Eileen Howells, Cecil Price, Nita Gallier, Rosemary Duffy, Ernest Howells, Allen Dunn, Joyce Brown, George Williams, Derek Cooper, Percy Briggs, Nicky Jefferis, Elsie Fellows, Lillian Roberts, William Cotterill
- 16/03 Irene Ball, Leslie Binsley, Kenneth Biddulph, Sidney Pearce, Baby Solana Lucia Morris, Emily Jones, John J. Bothwell, Evelyn Bradley, Walter Ruscoe, Lillian Gregory, Elsie Davies
- 23/03 Robert Joseph Turner, Elizabeth (Betty) Hoare, Arthur Hubert Upton, Edith Iris Brittain, Jane Maloney, Horace Taylor, Edward Reynolds, James Green, James Beard, Rosina (Rose) Kirkwood
- 30/03 Maurice Jones, John Scott, Ivy Taylor, Harriet Molineaux, Margaret (Ann) Jones, Hilary Teale, Susan Kinsey, Joan Johnson, Margaret Stones, Percy (Harry) Dibsall, William Wallace, Michael Lee, Frederick Hindes, Lawson Kirkwood, Patricia Winch

BAPTISMS WEDDINGS & FUNERALS IN CHURCH

We are always excited to be able to celebrate Baptisms, welcome you for your Wedding or help you through a difficult time arranging a Funeral within our Churches. Funerals are welcomed in Church or at the Graveside and Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood are able to livestream funerals. Please telephone Kerry, Benefice Administrator to discuss arrangements.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email regularly please contact newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk requesting you would like to receive it weekly, or can be found on our Website at WWW.Easttelfordbenefice.co.uk

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MINISTER FOR THE EAST TELFORD BENEFICE

The assistant Rural Dean, Revd Dr Tom Atfield, will be helping the churches of East Telford Benefice until March 2026 as interim minister as we look to recruit two permanent clergy for the benefice. Rev Tom can be contacted at revdtom@yahoo.com and 07453 527751.



Contact Details

Interim Minister: Revd Dr Tom Atfield
07453 527751
revdtom@yahoo.com

Licensed Reader: Christopher Harris
07941 961461
cjharrissinging@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor: Christopher Harris
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Administrator: Kerry Debenham
01952 615367 (9.30-12)
admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk

Ecumenical Coordinator and Lay Funeral
Minister: Sue Rawlings
07715173634
Suerawlings12@gmail.com

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLLS – important information!

Under the Church Representation Rules a new Church Electoral Roll is about to be prepared for each of the churches within the Benefice. Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment. Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained/returned from/to your respective Church Electoral Roll Officer. As this year is a complete renewal if not returned you will not be on this year's Roll.

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
Holy Trinity Oakengates
St Peter's Priorslee
Wombridge Parish Church
St George's Parish Church
St Matthew's Donnington Wood

Dai Maddock & Lynn Helyer
Margaret Howells
Chris Harris
Margaret Afford
Alan Talbot
Julie Gardner

TREASURER(S) NEEDED!!!

We are in desperate need of a volunteer(s) with financial skills to step up and become Treasurer for three of our churches: Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood, Holy Trinity Oakengates and St Peter's Priorslee.

If you have any queries or are interested please contact either Kerry Debenham or Sue Rawlings

MAUNDY THURSDAY TRIP TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Would you be interested in a coach trip to Lichfield Cathedral on Maundy Thursday?

On Thursday 17th April there is a Chrism Eucharist at 11.00am and is an opportunity to reflect on the Word of God, witness the blessing of three holy oils for parish use and where licensed Clergy, Readers, Clergy Pto and lay leaders renew corporately and individually their commitment to ministry. If you are interested in Kerry pursuing coach costs then please contact Kerry on 01952 61537 or 07905426045 or email admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk

WHIST AT HOLY TRINITY OAKENGATES

Whist takes place on Tuesday 4th March at Holy Trinity Church Oakengates at 7pm. Beginners are most welcome.

PRAY BAKE READ

PRAY....INTENTIONALLY FOR YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL

BAKE....A CAKE FOR STAFF EVERY HALF TERM

READ....1:1 WITH A STUDENT ONCE A WEEK

Would you like to support children at The Lantern Academy (former Queenswood School) by spending 1-2 hours a week with pupils listening to them read on a 1:1 (Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm, Years 1 & 2 infants).

If you are interested please speak to Julia Ayers, or contact newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk and your details will be passed to the organiser.



Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the “Pancake Bell” and is still rung in places today.

Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. In 2025 Shrove Tuesday will fall on 4th March. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

A pancake is a thin, flat cake, made of batter and fried in a frying pan. A traditional English pancake is very thin and is served immediately. Golden syrup or lemon juice and caster sugar are the usual toppings for pancakes.

The pancake has a very long history and featured in cookery books as far back as 1439. The tradition of tossing or flipping them is almost as old: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.” (Pasquil’s Palin, 1619).

The ingredients for pancakes can be seen to symbolise four points of significance at this time of year:

Eggs ~ Creation

Flour ~ The staff of life

Salt ~ Wholesomeness

Milk ~ Purity

To make 8 or so pancakes you will need 8oz plain flour, 2 large eggs, 1 pint milk, salt.

Mix all together and whisk well. Leave to stand for 30 minutes. Heat a little oil in a frying pan, pour in enough batter to cover the base of the pan and let it cook until the base of the pancake has browned.

Then shake the pan to loosen the pancake and flip the pancake over to brown the other side.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/>



St GEORGES CHURCH

PANCAKE SOCIAL



IN CHURCH

4th March 2025

7.00pm

Everyone Welcome!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March
A service for everyone!

You are invited to join us
International Women-led
Day of Prayer
Friday 7th March at
St George's Church Telford TF29LT
Service starts 1.00pm
parking will be available at
St George's Social Club next to the church
There will be time to sit and chat over refreshments after the service
For more information contact Kerry
admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk





What? Crafts Games Stories
Fun and Food

Where? Holy Trinity Church
Wrockwardine Wood TF27AH

When? Saturdays 4.00-5.30pm

Saturday 8th March
Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
4.00pm - 5.30pm



Ecumenical
Service

The next Ecumenical Service will be on
Monday 10th March at 1.00pm
at St Matthew's Donnington Wood.

All are welcome to come along.

Refreshments will follow a service of readings,
reflection and prayer.



**WELCOME
SATURDAY**

15th MARCH 2025
11.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.
ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH
DONNINGTON WOOD

If you and your children
enjoy crafting in a friendly
and relaxed atmosphere,
then join us for this month's
Welcome Saturday when we
will be making cards and
flowers to show our
appreciation to our mums
and care givers on
Mothering Sunday

Free resources will
be supplied

Complimentary
refreshments will be
available

Memory Menders

Everyone is
welcome
We look forward to
meeting you!

Holy Trinity Church Oakengates

Presents A



Musical Dessert



Afternoon



9th March 2025 AT 2-30

Various musicians

supply the entertainment.

And accompanied by a choice of
wonderful Desserts.



Tea and Coffee also included.



Cost is £5-00



Tickets from Church members



Holy Trinity Church Oakengates

Presents a popular

Fashion Show and Shopping Event

8th April 7-00pm

At Maddocks Sports and Social Club
Oakengates



Your favourite brands at up to 75% off

Marks & Spencer – White Stuff – Wallis

Evans – Planet – Topshop – Next

Monsoon – Hobbs – Warehouse

& Many more

Plus French & Italian Designer Wear

Sizes 6 to 30



Proceeds to Holy Trinity Church

Tickets £5-00 from Gill on

07964954912



Raffle on the evening

Saturday 15th March 2025



Concert at Wombridge Parish Church

2.00pm – 4.30pm

Proceeds in aid of church funds for
Wombridge Parish Church & St Peter's Priorslee

Tickets £12.00

Available from: Chris – 07930 245773 Fiona – 07873 343008
Chris – 07941 961461

Wombridge Parish Church, Wombridge Road, Telford, TF2 6HT

BGT SEMI-FINALIST IN CONCERT

We are excited to announce the forthcoming concert at Wombridge Church on Saturday 15th March where we will be welcoming Jean Martyn who made her appearance on Britain's Got Talent in 2011. She was a finalist and toured and performed in all major arenas in the UK, Wales and Scotland. Following this Jean has played organ and piano at Royal events, theatres and venues all over the world and include 7 states of America, Berlin, Germany, Switzerland, United Emirates, India, as well as Ronnie Scott's London and many theatres in the UK.

Jean plays many styles and genres on different types of organ such as Hammond, Yamaha, Korg and pipe organs in cathedrals and churches – she even owns two Steinway grand pianos! .

Jean is proud to be the only lady to have recorded a CD on the famous Wurlitzer organ in the Blackpool Tower ballroom.

To sum Jean up, she is an International acclaimed artist and a wonderful entertainer who never fails to deliver the goods in her own professional way.

Come and experience this wonderful performer in concert!!

Tickets now available! Contact Chris 07930 245773, Fiona 07873 343008, Chris 07941 961461

Email stpeterspriorslee@btinternet.com

Are you looking to further your education?

....then take a look at **Telford College!**

Attend the next open event Wednesday 12th March 2025 - 5pm-730pm

Visit the outstanding facilities and find out about the different course options A Levels, T Levels, Hands-on Vocational Courses, Apprenticeships, University level courses, Online Courses, Short Courses, Adult Maths & English.

Whether you are a school leaver or looking to upskill, let Telford College help you reach your potential and unlock a world of possibilities.

Apply now.....Take a look at the website at www.telfordcollege.ac.uk for more information.

Proud to be named among the top 25% of providers nationally, with 96% of students receiving offers from their 1st choice university.

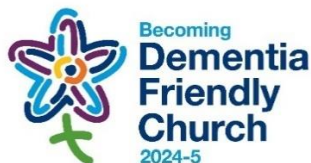


OFSTED rated 'GOOD'

SAFEGUARDING

For all the churches in our benefice, the safeguarding, safety and security of each person is of the utmost importance. We have across all our churches committed to safeguarding and have adopted the national and diocesan safeguarding policies. Please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator for your church (name on notice board) if you have any questions and concerns and understand that everyone has a role to play to ensure we achieve our aim of being a benefice who cares and protects all who visit.

PLACES of WELCOME at HTO, HTWW & St PETERS



This outreach is something which has helped bring our community together and we are always pleased when new people attend. The format is simple – a short service, a shared lunch (soup and roll or sandwiches), chat/board games/puzzles/craft etc.

Please do let your friends and neighbours know about these Places of Welcome especially those who live alone or those who are looking for a place to meet new people. You will find a warm welcome at each of these Places of Welcome. We look forward to meeting you!

Please note St Peters meets at:
Priorslee Scout HQ, Snedshill Way, TF2 9QQ



Hot drinks and light refreshments available

Tea/coffee or cold drinks
Cake and biscuits

Gluten free and dairy alternatives available

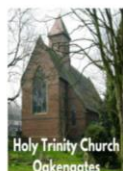
MORE INFO:

Kerry Debenham
Admin@eastlfordbenefice.co.uk
01952 815367

Holy Trinity Church
Church Road
Wrockwardine Wood
TF27AH



Supported by Lichfield & Wrekin Diocese



Wednesday
12 - 2 pm

12.00 Midweek Service
12.30 Lunch
13.00 Games and chat with a cuppa

Join us for all or some
Everyone Welcome
Free for all

St. Peter's Priorslee Community
Every Thursday
at Priorslee Scout HQ, Snedshill Way, TF2 9QQ
1.00pm - 3.00pm

- Informal Service
- Light Lunch
- Craft & Chat with a cuppa & cake

Join us for all or some of the time
Everyone Welcome
Free to attend

Do you know someone who might like to meet up with others?
Invite them to Place of Welcome.....
More information email: stpeterspriorslee@btinternet.com

From the Diocese

Diocese's new CEO is 'inspired appointment', bringing banking and church wisdom

The next Chief Executive Officer of Lichfield Diocese is to be Mrs Sam Rushton, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave, Bishop of Lichfield, has announced.

After a career in retail banking and most recently, in the leadership team of the Diocese of York, she brings to Lichfield the skills that will help maintain and develop the culture of teamworking and collaboration among diocesan staff and structures. This will support parishes in their role as local places of encounter with Christian faith as the whole diocese engages with making real the diocese's soon to be launched strategy for 2025-2030 in 421 parishes in The Black Country, Staffordshire and North Shropshire.

Mrs Rushton who will be based at St Mary's House next to the cathedral, is returning to Lichfield, having grown up on a local farm, now partly under the M6 Toll road. She went to school in Lichfield, holding the distinction of being The Friary School's first female Head Prefect, before going to Oxford University. Ordained in 2005 after studying at Trinity Theological College, Bristol, she served her curacy in Bristol, then became Diocesan Adviser for Licensed Ministry. In 2015, she became an Archdeacon in York Diocese, serving in Cleveland and then York as well as spending a year as Director of Strategic Transformation.

She will take up her post at the end of April 2025.

The full report can be read at:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/dioceses-new-ceo-is-inspired-appointment-bringing-banking-and-church-wisdom.php>



A brewing sense of purpose

I searched the internet for the word 'vocation'. The first result was Vocation Brewery (other breweries are available!) It's a business that I had never heard of but it immediately piqued my interest as I have been known to sample a few real ales in my time: in particular, the company's tag line - Craftsmanship, Innovation & Patience Combine to Create Masterpieces. Further intrigued, I then discovered that the brewery came into being when its founder 'left his job to follow his calling – to brew the big, flavourful beers he loves'.



Vocation is a word used often to describe a call for those who work in what we might describe as the caring professions – medicine and teaching amongst them, and in the church we use it often for those who follow a call to ordination. At its heart though, vocation is doing the thing that God wants us to do, which brings us joy and means that we might have something of life in all its fullness (John 10:10). In my work in supporting lay and ordained vocations I often describe it as the divine niggles, the thing that you just can't let go of, however much you might try.

I don't know if the founder of Vocation Brewery has a faith, but it seems he understands vocation. In the Christian tradition the Craftsmanship that we have is given to us by God as a gift and honed and shaped by learning and practice as we develop. Being open to the ways that God might be working in our lives and the lives of others brings about new ways of seeing the world and new ways of being (innovation), and patience means that we work at God's pace rather than our own, which can at times be hugely frustrating! These things combined mean that we might become or create 'masterpieces' within our own spheres of work, whether within the church or beyond. Each of us has a vocation, and our vocations are used in God's service and for the good of our communities. Again, perhaps the website sums it up well: in the 'About us' section there is a tale of overcoming obstacles to create the business, and the final sentence reads 'we pride ourselves on working together with shared purpose, on shared triumphs over adversities, born out of a love of what we do'.

There is real joy in doing what we love and so often people think that God is going to ask us to do the thing that we really dread or feel totally unqualified to do. It can take a huge leap of faith to follow a call and fulfil our vocation. One of the great joys of my role is seeing people grow and flourish in their vocations so if you or someone you know has a divine niggles then be encouraged and encourage one another – who knows where it might lead!

Revd Preb Jeanette Hatwell leads Lichfield Diocese's Vocations & Training Team.

Contact her at jeanette.hartwell@lichfield.anglican.org or visit her team's website at lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training.

Article taken from: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/a-brewing-sense-of-purpose.php>

THE DIOCESAN DIGEST

The Diocesan Digest was founded in 1989. It is the Sound Magazine for our Cathedral at Lichfield and the Diocese. It is produced and run by volunteers and is a registered charity - number 702995.

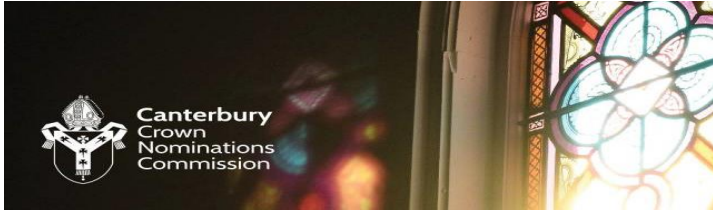
Over this period the volunteers have produced a full magazine every month. This sound magazine has given news and conversation for blind and partially sighted people, as well as anyone else who is interested. The magazine is produced monthly, and the recordings are kindly provided through The British Wireless for the Blind, who provide a many Talking Newspaper access through their system.

If you would like to receive the Diocesan Digest, please contact:

Tel: 01543 306030 | 07986 954 859

Email: soundmag@lichfield-cathedral.org www.facebook.com/diocesandigest

From the Church of England



The appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury is a deeply significant process of discernment within the Church of England, overseen by the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). This commission works prayerfully and collaboratively to discern and nominate the next spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion.

How the appointment process works

Discover the steps and criteria involved in appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury. [Read more about the process.](#)

Consultation for the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

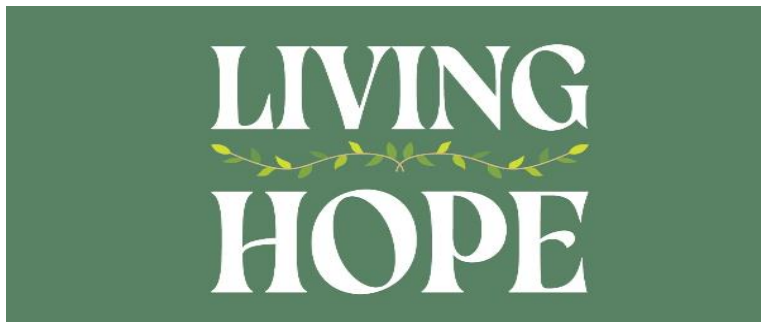
Share your thoughts on what qualities, values, and vision the future Archbishop should embody. [Be part of the consultation.](#)

Meet the members of the Crown Nominations Commission

Learn about the individuals who comprise the CNC and their vital role in guiding the appointment process. [Meet the Commission members.](#)

Article taken from:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/archbishops/canterbury-crown-nominations-commission>



Living Hope - Lent reflections

This Lent we are encouraged to put down deep roots of hope by connecting with God who is with us at all times. Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world.

Our award-winning Church of England campaign app for both iOS and Android – including daily audio – is now available to download.

[Download for Apple devices](#)

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Email reflections

Sign up to the free daily Lent reflection emails (except Sundays) straight to your inbox from Ash Wednesday (5 March) to Easter Day (20 April).

The readings and reflections explore how we can have hope in times of frustration or uncertainty; the hope found in joining with others; the invitation to notice signs of hope around us; the courage to face reality and pursue a hopeful future; and the ways God transforms death into life at Easter.

The reflections have been written by **Cathrine Fungai Ngangira** and **Belle Tindall** – both contributors to [Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025 \(SPCK\)](#) – together with **Victoria Mason**, Everyday Faith Editor for the Church of England.

Further info can be found:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-lent-reflections>

Week Beginning 9th March 2025

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 255

We pray for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the [Shaping for Mission](#) process, and the resulting Strategic Framework 2024-2030, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and that the ceasefire holds in full and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 9th March:

Lord, today we lift before you and thank you for St Thomas and St Andrew's Church Doxey as Bishop Matthew joins them to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary. We thank you for their heart for service with the amount of groups in the diocese they have hosted and supported over the years. Finally, we pray that the right person may soon be found to conclude the Vacancy for Doxey and their sister church of St Paul's in Stafford.

Monday 10th:

We begin a series of prayers for Cheadle Deanery, and start with the Benefice of Werrington and Wetley Rocks and their churches of St Philip's and St John the Baptist respectively. We pray for opportunities for them to engage further with their local schools, St Johns CofE Primary, Cicely Houghton Primary, Werrington Primary and Moorside High School. We pray for the Chaplaincy Team at Werrington Youth Offenders Institute and especially their team leader Canon Vanda Perrett, as they minister to the young people there.

Tuesday 11th:

We pray for the 2-day '[Working with Change](#)' course starting today in Pershore Abbey with a number of our clergy. May the hearts of those attending, and our own, be open to the inevitability of change, and guided on how to meet it positively. We also pray for the [Individual Quiet Day](#) taking place at St Chad's House, that those taking part and we ourselves may find the refreshment we need.

Wednesday 12th:

Today we pray for the benefice of Caverswall, Dilhorne and Weston Coyney. We lift before you Caverswall, and its church and school both dedicated to St Peter. We remember All Saints Church in Dilhorne and its own school. Finally Lord, we pray for St Andrew's and the regular Alpha courses taking place in Weston Coyney.

Thursday 13th:

Lord, today we pray Mid-Churnet Valley Benefice, its school dedicated to St Werburgh in Kingsley, and all the communities served by it and the 5 churches of Holy Trinity Oakamoor, St Mark's Foxt, St John's Cotton, St Mildred's Whiston, and St Werburgh's Kingsley. With those churches currently in vacancy and recruiting a priest in charge, we pray for suitable candidates and the right person to be appointed.

Friday 14th:

We pray for the parishes of Draycott-le-Moors and Forsbrook (and Blythe Bridge) and their respective churches of St Margaret's and St Peter's. We pray for Draycott's Community Café providing a much-needed community space for welcome and meeting, many of the people coming who are not part of the church family. We pray for all those who organise and lead, those who bake, and everyone who attends.

We pray for Forsbrook's CofE Primary School and its relationship with its nearby churches. We pray for the Open House Cookery Course at Blythe Bridge High School with volunteers from St Peter's, and that the direct beneficial impact on the young people on the course may continue: equipping them with valuable life skills and the opportunity to get to know Jesus. We also give thanks for our partnership with Blythe Bridge Methodist Church, as we continue to serve the young people of the area together.

Saturday 15th:

Lord God, today we lift before you two important gatherings. Firstly we thank you for the opportunity of the [Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast](#) in Stoke, for constructive conversations and positive witness, and for the ongoing ministry of both Saltbox and the Beacon House of Prayer. We also pray for [Diocesan Synod](#) taking place later in the day, for positive and respectful discussions, pertinent questions and wise decisions.