Sunday 1st February 2026

Epiphany 4

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas

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."

Services Sunday 1st February

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Morning Worship

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
No service

St Georges Telford
9.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Baptism

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Holy Communion

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Morning Worship

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
4.00pm Holy Communion

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

Readings	**Epiphany 4**	***Presentation of Christ***
Psalm	111	24.[1-6] 7-end
1st Reading	Deuteronomy 18.15-20	Malachi 3.1-5
2nd Reading	Revelation 12.1-5*a*	Hebrews 2.14-end
Gospel	Mark 1.21-28	Luke 2.22-40

Collect - *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas*

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Services Sunday 8th February

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Holy Communion
11.30am Baptism

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 Morning Worship

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
11.00am Morning Worship

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Services Ash Wednesday 18th February

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Ashing Service

Holy Trinity Oakengates
7.30pm 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 15th February

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Holy Communion
12.30pm Baptism

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
11.00am Morning Worship

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Morning Worship

St Georges Telford
9.30am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
11.00am Holy Communion & Baptism

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Services Sunday 22nd February

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Morning Worship

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
4.00pm Holy Communion

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Holy Communion
12.30pm Baptism

St Georges Telford
9.30am Morning Worship

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
11.00am Morning Worship

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

Services Sunday 1st March

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
No service

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Morning Worship

St Georges Telford
9.30am Holy Communion

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
4.00pm Holy Communion

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 Osborne Morgan, Joan Coomber, Carol Tranter, Stuart Kirkbride, Jean Creighton, 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

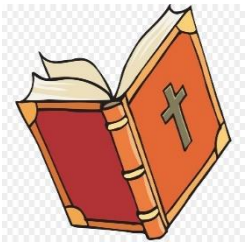
In our prayers we remember the Church, its members and our community. We pray for those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital and those who are adjusting to changes in their lives. We also remember those who can no longer join us physically in our church buildings for worship or fellowship.

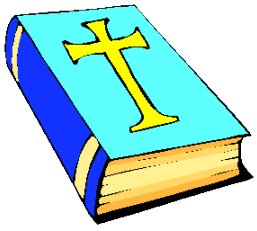
At this time please pray for:

- Our Church PCC's as they plan for the future

You have committed to our care those who live in this Benefice, Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to hear your voice and to follow you that we, and all your disciples, may grow in faith and love. Inspire, equip and enable us to play our part in your mission that your kingdom may come here in this Diocese. We cannot know all the different people around us, but we ask that your Holy Spirit will guide us to those situations where we can minister something of your love and compassion. Help us to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and bring practical solutions to problems we encounter, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

Daily Readings		Morning	Evening
Monday	02/02	Matthew 27.11-26	1 Corinthians 12.12-end
Tuesday	03/02	Matthew 27.27-44	1 Corinthians 13
Wednesday	04/02	Matthew 27.45-56	1 Corinthians 14.1-19
Thursday	05/02	Matthew 27.57-end	1 Corinthians 14.20-end
Friday	06/02	Matthew 28.1-15	1 Corinthians 16.1-9
Saturday	07/02	Matthew 28.16-end	1 Corinthians 16.10-end
Monday	09/02	2 Timothy 4.1-8	John 19.1-16
Tuesday	10/02	2 Timothy 4.9-end	John 19.17-30
Wednesday	11/02	Titus 1	John 19.31-end
Thursday	12/02	Titus 2	John 20.1-10
Friday	13/02	Titus 3	John 20.11-18
Saturday	14/02	Philemon	John 20.19-end
Monday	16/02	Galatians 1	John 3.1-21
Tuesday	17/02	Galatians 2.1-10	John 3.22-end
Wednesday *Ash Wednesday*	18/02	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	19/02	Galatians 2.11-end	John 4.1-26
Friday	20/02	Galatians 3.1-14	John 4.27-42
Saturday	21/02	Galatians 3.15-22	John 4.43-end
Monday	23/02	Galatians 3.23—4.7	John 5.1-18
Tuesday	24/02	Galatians 4.8-20	John 5.19-29
Wednesday	25/02	Galatians 4.21—5.1	John 5.30-end
Thursday	26/02	Galatians 5.2-15	John 6.1-15
Friday	27/02	Galatians 5.16-end	John 6.16-27
Saturday	28/02	Galatians 6	John 6.27-40





Sunday Readings		1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
08 Feb	*2 before Lent*	Genesis 1.1—2.3	Romans 8.18-25	Matthew 6.25-end
15 Feb	*Sunday next before Lent*	Exodus 24.12-end	2 Peter 1.16-end	Matthew 17.1-9
22 Feb	*Lent 1*	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7	Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11
01 Mar	*Lent 2*	Genesis 12.1-4*a*	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17
08 Mar	*Lent 3*	Exodus 17.1-7	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
15 Mar	*Lent 4* *Mothering Sunday*	Exodus 2.1-10	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17	Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27

Regular Dates for Diaries (For participation or prayer)

Mon	8.00pm	Compline via Zoom
Tue	9.00-10.00am	Prayer Group at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
	7.00pm	Whist in aid of Holy Trinity Oakengates (1st Tue of month) at Maddocks Club
Wed	8.45-10.30am	Tea & Toast (Place of Welcome) at HT W/Wood (Term time only)
	9.00-11.00am	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
	11.30am	Bible Chat session 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
	7.00-8.00pm	Prayer Group meeting at St Georges (4th Wed each month)
Thu	1.00-3.00pm	Pray Bake Read at Lantern Academy Ketley Bank (Only during School Term)
	1.00-3.00pm	Place of Welcome at Priorslee Scout HQ
Fri	12.30-2.00pm	First Friday Free Lunch at Wombridge Parish Centre (1st Friday)
	8.00pm	Compline via Zoom
Sat	4.00-5.30pm	Messy Church at HT Wrockwardine Wood (2nd Saturday of month)
	11.00-1.00pm	Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Donnington Wood (3rd Saturday of month)

Additional Dates for Diaries

Tue	03/02	--	Whist at Maddocks Club **Cancelled** due to club unavailable
Fri	06/02	12.30pm	First Friday Free Lunch at Wombridge Church in the Parish Centre
Sat	07/02	10.00am	Burial of Ashes of Dawn and Jonathan Sambrook at St Georges Church
Sat	07/02	11.00am	Burial of Ashes of Roy Sewell at St Peters Priorslee
Tue	10/02	11.00am	Funeral of Osborne Morgan at St Georges Church
Tue	10/02	7.00pm	ETB Leaders Planning Meeting at Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood
Thur	12/02	11.00am	Funeral of Joan Coomber at Wombridge Parish Church
Sat	14/02	4.00pm	Messy Church at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
Thur	19/02	2.30pm	Funeral of Carol Tranter at Telford Crematorium
Fri	20/02	11.00am	Wedding of Brooke & Cole at St Matthew's Donnington wood
Fri	20/02	12.00pm	Funeral of Stuart Kirkbride at St Georges Church
Fri	20/02	7.30pm	60's & 70's Fundraiser for HTO at St Georges Social Club
Sat	21/02	11.00am	Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Church Donnington Wood
Mon	23/02	12.00pm	Funeral of Jean Creighton at St Matthews Donnington Wood
Mon	23/02	1.00pm	Ecumenical Service at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood

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

Those whose years mind we keep

Priorslee

25 Jan George Lowe, Reginald Fieldhouse, Raymond Corbett, Florence Jones, Brenda Wall, Sybil Perry, Kathleen Jones, John Smart, David Palfrey, Ernest Martin, George Ferriday, Justin Beddall

01 Feb Annie (Nancy) Bailey, Irene Leek, Florence Clee, William Thompson, Elise Taylor

08 Feb Emily Simmons, Ethel Cotton, Thomas Ray, Jean Bailey, Jean Ramsden, Barbara Dawes, Paul Ramsden, Cecil Poole, Jean Panter

15 Feb Terrance Wormstone, Brenda Luter, Rhoda Ball, Dora Beddall, Maxine Powell

22 Feb Vanessa Guy, Selina Broadhurst, Anthony Andrews, Florence Howells, Mark Lowe, John Panter, William Jones, Toni Andrews, Alyn Ellis, Leslie Yates, Lily Evans

01 Mar Alice Jackson, Gerald Lewis, Constance Plant, Charles Hoofe, Ronald Withington, Mary Rigby

Oakengates

25 Jan Margaret Smith, Laura Hesbrook, Jacqualine Fenwick, Nigel Warner, James Hope, Sheila Phillips, Emily Taylor, Betty Mullard, Harry Onions, Samantha Bedford, Dot Watkins, Derek Richards

01 Feb Horace Jacks, Beatrice Cadman, Violet Lewis, Violet Rowley, Eric Cooper, Joseph Elliot, Jessie Hardy, Annie Deakin, Fanny Wright, Barbara Ghost, Arthur Davies, William Dolphin, Annie Smith

08 Feb Ray Stevens , Dorothy Edwards, Clive Deakin, Susan Moyden, David Eakin , Joyce Hart, Fanny Wright, Simon Gonko, Amy Yeomans, Joseph Farrington, Florence Forrester

15 Feb Elsie Taylor, Edith Smith, Harry Tranter, Alfred Wynne, Beatrice Hancocks, Maggie Bebbington, Victor Randall, John Lancaster, Pauline Hodgkinson, Leman Fletcher

22 Feb Eunice Lewis, James Dyson, Joe Ghost, Sheila Latham, Amy Talbot , Tom Millward, Mary Mansell , Jim Hopwood, Edward Ghost, Thomas Hoggins

01 Mar 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

Wrockwardine Wood

25 Jan George Bancroft, Joseph Gavin, Jean Wilkinson, Lilian (Mary) Bray, Walter Leonard Edwards, Florence Taylor, Gwyn Williams, Josephine (Jose`) Downing, Muriel Walters, Jeanette Beddoes, Eileen Courtnell, Blanche Fryer, Keith Benting, Cyril "son" Bray

01 Feb John Latham, Florence Leek, Rosina Greenfield, Ray Johnson, Alice Buttery, Nellie Smith, George Jones, Joan Skinner, Annie (Nancy) Craig, Harold Johnson, James Albert Smith, Nigel Binsley, Colin Pearce, Brian Tong, Irene Harding, Keith Drury

08 Feb Nancy Biddulph, Dorothy Beddall, Douglas Powell, Julie (June) Trim, Gwendoline White, William Martin, Isobel Whiteley, Christopher Price, Herbert Thorpe, Lilian Western, Stanley Hollis, Sylvia Thomson, Elsie Gillam

15 Feb Edgar Lane, Reginald Woodward, Wendy Heenan, Ken Brothwood, Audrey Turner, Josephine Davies, Anthony (Tony) Richards

22 Feb Edith Martin, Gladies Binsley, Anthony (Tony) Birkinshaw, Rita Shirley, Frederick Owen, Constance Price, David Thomson, Mavis Shephard, Edward Roderick, Linda Patricia Walker-Hill, Elsie Wake, Colin Eardley, Doreen Pearce

01 Mar Herbert Fernley, Jean Shaper, Doris Anderson, Kenneth Walker, Agnes Beetlestone, Annie Carline, Alfred Thompson

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.
Our Ministers are also available for Services at the Crematorium, please speak with your Funeral Directors to make arrangements.

SAFEGUARDING

For all the churches in our benefice, the safeguarding, safety and security of each person is of the upmost 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 one of the Coordinators, Churchwardens or the Benefice Admin office 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.
For more information:
https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards
https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding.php

To report a Benefice concern please contact *admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk* and Kerry will direct you to the relevant safeguarding officer.

IMPORTANT…..BE AWARE!!! **Please be careful!**

We have received reports that there have been scam phone calls and emails being sent to people seeking to extract money with a highly plausible and well-informed story from clergy and others with positions of responsibility in parishes.
At this time of year, such scams are rife. It is likely that churches and their congregations will be targeted again. It bears repeating that the stories are highly plausible: please beware and make others aware.

PRAYING AT HOME

As we get older our involvement in local church life changes, and we find we have less time for physical activity but more time for prayer! We are a community of prayer – at home and in church. As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (extremely easy to join on a mobile phone with internet access) at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Nigel at *Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com* Come, pray with us!

BIBLE CHAT GROUP

The Bible Chat Group meet weekly at St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood on Wednesdays at 11.30am. The group uses the themes from the Everyday Faith App as a basis of their weekly discussion. If you would like to join these discussions please do attend as new friends are always welcome.

EVERYDAY FAITH APP

Everyday Faith is a Church of England app offering daily readings, reflections, responses and prayers under various themes; recent themes have included: Journeying with others, Days of small things, Glimpses of Glory, and Generous Words, with each theme looking at where and how we meet God as we go about our lives. Faith is found in our joys and cares, in our challenges and conflicts as we lean into God's presence and guidance. Faith informs our thinking and our actions as we discern how God might be using us in his work. Faith is an ongoing encounter with God - an **Everyday Faith,** an everyday existence with the God who holds all things together. You can download Everyday Faith from your app store.

Contact Details

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07449 770111
revdtom@yahoo.com

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Administrator: Kerry Debenham
01952 615367 (9.30am-12.00pm)
admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk

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

EASY FUNDRAISING

For those who shop online it is possible to help fundraise for your Benefice Church, by using the easy fundraising website to make your purchases from many of the well-known retailers. Why not use this website at no cost to yourself but a money earner for the church!

For more info:
http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterspriorslee
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holytrinitywrockwardinewood
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holytrinityoakengates

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**

Messy Church needs your help!

Our Messy Church takes place for the benefice on the 2nd Saturday of the Month at Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood. Fiona and Kerry are looking to draw up a rota of helpers who would be able to help and oversee a craft table and talk about God/Jesus to those who attend.

Next Messy is 14th February 2026

Our aim is to build a team so we can continue to run this as a monthly service, rather than taking it to a quarterly event.

New for lent: short course based on N T Wright resources:
Faith Working Through Love.
Discover the wisdom of St Paul in directing early church communities to be models of Christian living. What can they teach us today, as we seek to live more fully, to serve others.

Meet Christians from North East Telford:
4 Mondays in March: starts 2nd March: 1.30pm – concludes by 3pm.
Wrockwardine Wood Church, Church Road, TF2 7AH
This online course will be delivered in person: for further details please contact Kerry 01952 615367 admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk If you're not available in the day but are interested in evening sessions, please ask for information.

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 2026 Shrove Tuesday will fall on 17th February. 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 GEORGE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month between 7pm & 8pm at St George's Church.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 25th February and is open for all to attend. During the time together there may be a brief discussion about issues of the day and/or individual concerns and then there is a time of prayer. Sometimes a bible passage is read and following a brief discussion may be used as a focus for additional prayers.

Compline via Zoom

As a Benefice we are grateful to Nigel who hosts Compline via Zoom at 8pm on Monday and Friday evenings.
For more information please contact Nigel at *Nigelcollins8561@gmail.com*

TOMBOLA STALLS

Each of the churches in the Benefice are always in need of small quality items suitable for use on Tombola Stalls.

If you can offer items for these stalls then please pass them to churchwardens who will forward them to the events coordinators for each of the churches. *Thank You.*

Ecumenical Service

During the winter months the Ecumenical Service has moved to daylight hours.
The next Service will be on Monday 23rd February at 1.00pm at Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood
All are welcome to come along.

For more information about Ecumenical events please contact Sue Rawlings.

Free Community Lunch

On the first Friday of each month

12.30pm to 2.00pm

Wombridge Parish Centre

Thanks to sponsorship by the co-op

All welcome to join us for a light lunch, dessert and hot drink – followed by a short game – pop in or stay for as long as you wish - everyone welcome ☺

Advance notice……

An Evening of 60's & 70's Music

Music by Silversurfer DJ Entertainment
In aid of Holy Trinity Church Oakengates
Friday 20th February at 7.30pm
St Georges Sports & Social Club
£10 a ticket available from Margaret
07882 510124

SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Snowdrops Winter Walk on Sunday 15th February 12.30pm – 4.00pm at Eyton Hall, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, nr Wellington TF6 6ET
Snowdrops blanket the woodlands which feature mature specimen trees. The Victorian era landscape also features a walled garden, parkland and lake with folly.
£5 entry, cash only.
Refreshments, No Dogs (except Guide Dogs)
Toilets available.
Garden unsuitable for wheelchair users.
For more information: www.shropshirehct.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

this year's service is based on resources produced by Nigerian women.
All are welcome.

There is also a free Parish lunch in the adjacent Parish Centre from 12.30pm that day. Attendees are very welcome to come along but numbers will be appreciated in advance.
If you're intending to come to lunch - please let Pauline Heffernan know:-
paulineheffernan60@gmail.com
or 07721 785224

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, Ketley Bank by spending 1-2 hours a week with pupils listening to them read on a 1:1 (Thursday afternoons 1-3pm, Years 1 & 2 infants).
Why do we want to do this?
As Christians, the Bible teaches us to love our neighbour. Our church and the many schools in our Benefice are close neighbours in our community and we want to show God's love to them by serving them in a practical way. It really is that simple.
If you are interested please speak to Julia Ayers, or contact *newsletter@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk* and your details will be passed to the organiser.

PLACES of WELCOME at HTO, HTWW & St PETERS

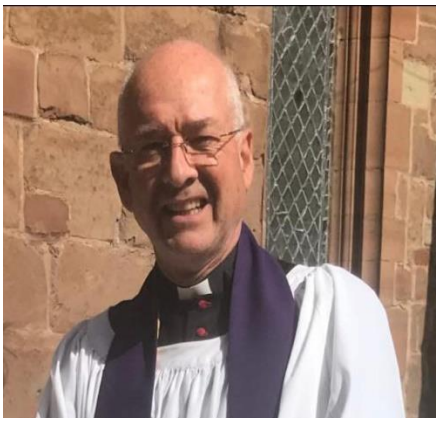
This outreach is something which has helped bring our community together and we are always pleased when new people attend. The format is simple – a short service, a shared breakfast/lunch (toast, soup and roll or sandwiches), chat/board games/puzzles/craft etc.

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

From the Deanery & Lichfield Diocese

Rev Chris Thorpe



Rev Chris made the following announcement across all three churches of the Benefice. (Shifnal, Sheriffhales and Tong).
Nearly 18 years ago, when our family first arrived in Shifnal, we knew that one day we would have to leave this place. We couldn't have known how deeply we would belong in this community and so how hard it would be to announce that time is now coming. I am going to be retiring as the vicar of Shifnal, Sheriffhales and Tong in July, with my final service on Sunday 12 July. We are so fortunate to have such a strong team in place and such a clear sense of direction, "reaching out together to share God's amazing faith, hope and love". This will carry us all forward, through the next six months and beyond.

Deanery Synod dates for 2026 are as follows:

Thursday 23rd April 7pm for a 7.30 Start
Wednesday 15th July (1st meeting of the new Triennium) social 6pm for 6.30 start
Tuesday 13th October. 7pm for 7.30 start

This year will see us start a new triennium and each Church will be looking to have Deanery Synod Representatives. Please see the letter below explaining a little more about this role and if you feel called please speak to either Kerry, Chris, Sue, Rev Tom or Rev Richard who will explain how you can become a rep.

A Prayer for Those Considering Service as Deanery Synod Representatives
God of wisdom and calling,
you gather your Church in many places
and you raise up people to serve in many ways.
We thank you for those who are discerning a call
to represent their churches within the Deanery as members of synod.
Grant them clarity of mind and openness of heart.
Give them courage to step forward, a willingness to listen deeply,
and a desire to seek the good of your whole Church.
May they bring the gifts you have entrusted to them
their insight, their compassion, their questions, their longing for justice and renewal.
Strengthen them to speak with grace,
to act with integrity, and to work with others for the flourishing of every community.
As they consider this ministry, surround them with your peace.
Guide them by your Spirit, and assure them that you walk with all who answer your call.
In the name of Christ, who calls us to serve.
Amen.

All Incumbents/Priests in Charge/Team Vicars & Sequestrators

Copy to: All PCC/DCC & Deanery Synod Secretaries

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

December 2025

Diocesan Secretary

DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS 2026

You will be aware that triennial elections to Deanery Synods are due in 2026.

Diocesan Synod has agreed has approved the following (unchanged) basis of lay representation by parishes to Deanery Synods, i.e.

(a) 1 representative for parishes under 26 names on the electoral roll;
(b) 3 representatives for parishes with 26 - 200 names on the electoral roll;
(c) 1 additional representative for each further 100 names or part of 100;
(d) 1 additional representative from each authorised District Council

These representatives should be elected at the Annual Parochial Meeting and they will hold office for a period of three years from **1st July 2026.** They must be 16 years of age or upwards and fulfil the requirements of Rule M8 of the Church Representation Rules as set out on the reverse of this letter.

Details of the names and addresses of those elected should in due course be sent to the Secretary of your Deanery Synod and to this office marked for the attention of the Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer (email jo.durber@lichfield.anglican.org). The deadline for the receipt of this information at the Diocesan Office is **1st July 2026**, though it would be very helpful if you could let us have the information as soon as the elections have been completed.

May I thank you for your continued help in processes such as this.

Yours sincerely

Sam Rushton
Diocesan Secretary

CRR M8. (1) A person is qualified for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod or the PCC under Rule M6(1)(a) or (b) if-
(a) the person is aged 16 or over
(b) he or she is an actual communicant, and
(c) his or her name is on the roll of the parish and, unless he or she is aged under 18 at the date of the election, has been on the roll for at least the preceding six months.
(2) But if the person has his or her name on the roll of more than one parish, he or she must choose one of the parishes concerned for the purpose of qualifying for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod.

(3) A person may not be nominated for election under Rule M6(1)(a) or (b) unless-
(a) The person has indicated his or her consent to serve, or
(b) There is, in the opinion of the meeting, sufficient evidence of his or her willingness to serve.

Sam Rushton, St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD
Email: sam.rushton@lichfield.anglican.org

Week Beginning 1st February 2026

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 302

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', 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 for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 1st February: *(Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525)*

A prayer from Rugeley Deanery, but for all of our relationships;

Lord, we pray for your blessing on all our relationships, both personal and professional; teach us to welcome your love and light into them. Jesus, help us to remember that you came to give us life in all its fullness and that you will never leave or forsake us. Grant us the wisdom to turn to you for guidance whenever we need it. Amen.

Monday 2nd: *(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas))*

A collect from Common Worship for Candlemas;

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Tuesday 3rd: *(Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865)*

We pray for the Dementia-Friendly Churches Local session, taking place today supporting churches in Shropshire and Telford. Lord, please bless and guide all our churches in this area and beyond, and show us how they may do more to love those around us who may now need a little more support.

We also pray for this evening's first of two sessions this on 'Effective Conversations', and that you may guide each us to effectively and lovingly use the quality time that we have with people.

On St Werburgh's day, we pray for the three churches in the diocese dedicated to her, at Burslem in Stoke, Hanbury near Burton, and Kingsley in the Staffordshire Moorlands. So too we pray for Trentham Parish Church, sitting alongside the ruins of St Werburgh's Abbey. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of these churches and the communities they serve.

Wednesday 4th: *(Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189)*

Lord, we pray for today's session on 'Spirituality, Justice, and Responsibility', and especially those working in schools to create cultures of Justice and Responsibility. Please help each one of us, in our schools, churches, or other settings, be advocates for proper responsibility to be taken and justice to be done, starting first in our own lives.

Thursday 5th:

Today we pray for the SIAMS session for Church School Leaders, for the Education Team as they lead it together, and for all those with the privilege and responsibility of leading one of our church schools.

We pray for wisdom tonight as Bishop's Council meets, for Godly inspiration, creative thinking, and sound reasoning.

Finally, on St Agatha's day, we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to her, at Llanymynech in Oswestry Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on of this church, its sister ones in Llanyblodwel, Morton, and Trefonen; and the communities they serve.

Friday 6th: *(The Martyrs of Japan, 1597)*

A final prayer from Rugeley Deanery, as contributed by the Revd Jules Smith;

Lord, help us to be brave and courageous when stepping into new communities and enable us to remain open to your missional activity, remembering that you are already in that place and with those people. Guide us with gentleness, boldness, wisdom and love.

Saturday 7th:

Lord, we lift before you today's gathering of the diocesan Community of Evangelists at St Matthew's Wolverhampton. Looking at 'Welcoming worship with a Wow, a Why, and a Who', we thank you for the opportunity of being able to worship you, and ask that we may always look for more to be able to enjoy that opportunity. Please let us never forget who it is that we worship and why.

To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android click here

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx

Week Beginning 8th February 2026

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 303

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', 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 for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 8th February:

A Collect from Common Worship for Racial Justice Sunday;

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Monday 9th:

Lord, we bring before you today's Quiet Day at Shallowford House with Revd Evelyn Bone. We pray for Evelyn and all those taking part, that they may indeed benefit from 'a gentle day of devotion, quiet time and worship' that draws them closer to you. So too we pray for Shallowford and its ministry, and thank you for all those that put in so much time in recent months, practically and prayerfully, to help the house become an ever better resource to serve the diocese.

Tuesday 10th:

(Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543)

Lord, we commence a series of prayers for Telford Deanery by lifting before you all of its church schools; for each of Dawley Primary, Donnington Wood Junior, Holy Trinity Academy, St George's Primary, St Matthew's Primary, and Wrockwardine Wood Junior. Please rest your hand upon the staff and volunteers who work in each of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Wednesday 11th:

Lord, we pray for different events taking place around the diocese today. We pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee as it meets this afternoon, for wisdom and discernment over any difficult decisions they may face. So too we pray for the first of two evening sessions this week on Unconscious Bias, that all those taking part may leave better informed. Lord, please challenge each one of us on our own unconscious biases, and our conscious ones just the same.

Thursday 12th:

We continue our prayers for Telford by praying for Stuart Howes in his role as rural dean of Telford and in his role as interim rural dean for Edgmond and Shifnal deanery, and for all churches in both deaneries that are in vacancy; for Bolas Magna, Edgmond, Kynnersley, Preston Wealdmoors, Tibberton, and Waters Upton; for Chetwynd and Newport; for Church Aston; for Forton; for Lilleshall and Muxton, and for Tong. We thank you that the period of vacancy for the churches in Badger, Beckbury, Kemberton, Ryton, Stockton, and Sutton Maddock is due to come to an end next week.

Friday 13th:

We continue to pray for Telford Deanery by praying for each of the churches in the forming benefice of East Telford, especially as they look to fill both stipendiary clergy this year. Lord, we pray you may guide people towards the town that you want to serve there. In the meantime and beyond, we pray for the churches and communities of Donnington Wood, Oakengates, Priorslee, St Georges, Wombridge, and Wrockwardine Wood.

Saturday 14th:

(Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885. Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269)

A Collect from Common Worship for St Valentine's Day;

God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you, and you alone are the source of life and love. Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.

Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, that we may worship you now with thankful hearts and serve you always with willing minds; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android click here

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE

NOTICE OF MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011: PROPOSED PASTORAL SCHEME - OAKENGATES, PRIORSLEE, WROCKWARDINE WOOD; ST GEORGES'; WOMBRIDGE; DONNINGTON WOOD

Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

Chairman: The Bishop of Lichfield

Diocesan Pastoral Officer and Secretary to the Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

10 January 2026

Notice
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Draft Pastoral Scheme

The Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme for:
the union of the benefice of Oakengates, Priors Lee and Wrockwardine Wood, the benefice of St Georges', the benefice of Wombridge and the benefice of Donnington Wood (their constituent parishes to remain distinct) in the diocese of Lichfield and for the establishment of a team ministry for the new benefice of East Telford. It also provides for the cure of souls in the new benefice to be shared by a team rector and one team vicar, for the housing arrangements for the team and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice.

The draft Scheme is on the Commissioners' website www.churchofengland.org/consultation or you may obtain a copy from me. **Large print and/or audio copies are available on request.**

- Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) by post or, preferably, by email to reach the Commissioners no later than midnight on **Monday 16 February 2026. Please send your representation to rex.andrew@churchofengland.org or letter marked for the attention of Rex Andrew, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3AZ.**

- If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please call 020 7898 1743 or email them to ensure it has been received. For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single representation and the Commissioners will only correspond with the sender of the petition, if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom they can identify an address – "the primary petitioner".

- When making a representation, please indicate the nature of your interest in the proposals (e.g. parishioner, member of parochial church council, etc) and whether you would like an opportunity to speak to their Committee regarding your representation if the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held regarding the case. Please ensure you provide contact information so that they can be in touch with you regarding later stages of the process.

- If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and will be told whether a hearing is to be held. They and individual petitioners may comment further to the Commissioners. Copies of all of the representations received and associated correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners' website if the matter needs to be considered by them.

- If a hearing is held, anyone may attend the meeting of the Commissioners that considers the case and representors may have an opportunity to speak to their Committee. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

- When they acknowledge representations the Commissioners will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date if a hearing is to be held nearer the time.

- The Commissioners' will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the Commissioners' staff and any points raised at the meeting.

- The Commissioners will notify all representors of their decision and give a statement of the reasons for it.

- If they so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.

- Please see the Commissioners' website www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the procedure.

Yours sincerely

Clare Beavon

Mrs Clare Beavon
Diocesan Pastoral Officer and Secretary to the Lichfield Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

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