Sunday 11th October 2026

19th Sunday after Trinity

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 11th October

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Holy Communion

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
3.00pm 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

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

**** Please note: Due to availability of Ministers there are some changes to service times and frequency of Holy Communion services within the Benefice**

Collect – *19th Sunday after Trinity*

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; ; 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.

Sunday Readings

Psalm	106.1-6, 19-23
1st Reading	Exodus 32.1-14
2nd Reading	Philippians 4.1-9
Gospel	Matthew 22.1-14

Harvest Readings

Psalm	65
1st Reading	Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or 28.1-14
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 9.6-end
Gospel	Luke 12.16-30 or 17.11-19

Collect – *Harvest*

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wombridge 1st Sunday service has a new time of 3pm
Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood 3rd Sunday service has a new time of 3pm
St Peter's 3rd Sunday – no morning service going forward

To gain access to Holy Trinity Academy, please use the side entrance of the building by the electric car charging points which are to the right-hand side of the main entrance.

Services Sunday 18th October

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
3.00pm Harvest Service & Holy Communion *note time change

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
11.00am Holy Communion & Baptism

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

Services Sunday 25th October

Holy Trinity Oakengates
9.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
11.00am Morning Worship

St Peter's Priorslee at Holy Trinity Academy
3.00pm Holy Communion

St Matthew's Donnington Wood
11.00am Holy Communion

St Georges Telford
9.30am Morning Worship

St Mary & St Leonard's Wombridge
11.00am Family Service

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

Services Sunday 1st November

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
3.00pm Holy Communion *note time change

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

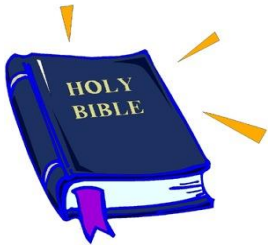
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

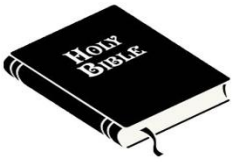
There are some changes to Service times on Remembrance Sunday 8th November.

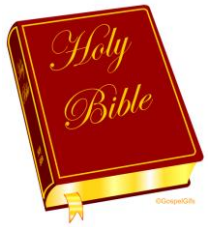
- Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood - 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
- Holy Trinity Oakengates usual time of 9.30am Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance
- St Matthew's Donnington Wood earlier time of 9.30am Holy Communion
- Remembrance at Donnington Parade - 10.45am
- Wombridge Parish Church - No Morning Service in church
- Remembrance at Hartshill Park - 10.45am
- Remembrance at St Georges Memorial Gates – 10.45am continuing Service in Church
- St Peters Priorslee Remembrance Service outside in Churchyard at 10.50am
- Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood 11.00am Remembrance Morning Worship
- St Peters at Holy Trinity Academy 3.00pm Holy Communion
- Annual Memorial Service 3.00pm at Wombridge Church
- Telford & Wrekin Festival of Remembrance at St Georges Church 7.00pm

Sunday Readings		1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
18 Oct	*Trinity 20*	Exodus 33.12-end	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.15-22
25 Oct	*Bible Sunday*	Nehemiah 8.1-4a [5-6] 8-12	Colossians 3.12-17	Matthew 24.30-35

Daily Readings		Morning	Evening
Monday	05/10	Acts 26.1-23	Mark 15.1-15
Tuesday	06/10	Acts 26.24-end	Mark 15.16-32
Wednesday	07/10	Acts 27.1-26	Mark 15.33-41
Thursday	08/10	Acts 27.27-end	Mark 15.42-end
Friday	09/10	Acts 28.1-16	Mark 16.1-8
Saturday	10/10	Acts 28.17-end	Mark 16.9-end
Monday	12/10	Philippians 1.1-11	John 13.1-11
Tuesday	13/10	Philippians 1.12-end	John 13.12-20
Wednesday	14/10	Philippians 2.1-13	John 13.21-30
Thursday	15/10	Philippians 2.14-end	John13.31-end
Friday	16/10	Philippians 3.1—4.1	John 14.1-14
Saturday	17/10	Philippians 4.2-end	John 14.15-end
Monday	19/10	1 Timothy 1.1-17	John 15.1-11
Tuesday	20/10	1 Timothy 1.18—end 2	John 15.12-17
Wednesday	21/10	1 Timothy 3	John 15.18-end
Thursday	22/10	1 Timothy 4	John 16.1-15
Friday	23/10	1 Timothy 5.1-16	John 16.16-22
Saturday	24/10	1 Timothy 5.17-end	John 15.1-11
Monday	26/10	1 Timothy 6.1-10	John 17.1-5
Tuesday	27/10	1 Timothy 6.11-end	John 17.6-19
Wednesday	28/10	Luke 6.12-16	Jude 1-4, 17-end
Thursday	29/10	2 Timothy 1.15-2.13	John 18.1-11
Friday	30/10	2 Timothy 2.14-end	John 18.12-27
Saturday	31/10	2 Timothy 3	Revelation 19.6-10
Monday	02/11	Revelation 1	Matthew 1.18-end
Tuesday	03/11	Revelation 2.1-11	Matthew 2.1-15
Wednesday	04/11	Revelation 2.12-end	Matthew 2.16-end
Thursday	05/11	Revelation 3.1-13	Matthew 3
Friday	06/11	Revelation 3.14-end	Matthew 4.1-11
Saturday	07/11	Revelation 4	Matthew 4.12-22







Those in need of our prayers

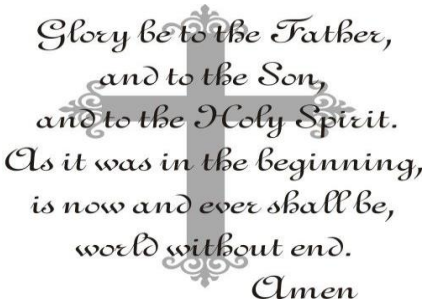
Please pray for the families of Joan Bufton, Christopher Tibbert, and all who are grieving.

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 and 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.

At this time please pray for:

- For all working in the agricultural business and helping to provide us with food.
- All who are seeking educational guidance
- Eco Church and environmental issues
- Those who are struggling with illness, injury or mental health issues
- Pastoral care within the Benefice
- Our Church PCC's as they plan for the future
- Our Bishops Michael & Sarah and Archdeacon Nick



Those whose years mind we keep

Priorslee

11 Oct Donald Cattell, Daniel Robinson, Michael Joyce, Harold Hayward

18 Oct Julia Leeke, Stanley Howells, Dorothy Davies, Doris Murray, Norman Ditchburn

25 Oct George Hosking, Raymond Lowe, Norman Pagett, Neville Whitehead, Mary Houlston

Oakengates

11 Oct Neville Jones, Alan Lovage, George Harris, Gladys Dunks, Roy Caton, T John Edwards, Nora Gatford, Floarie Massey, Victor Bailey, Annie Williams, Arthur Speed, Clifford Ball, Charles Thornton
Victor Griffiths, Frederick Martin, John Harnett

18 Oct Phillip Wright, Christopher Sanders, Jim Green, Edward Meredith, Victor Griffiths, Hilda Muir, Stuart Baker

25 Oct Robert Cadman, Arch Lewis, Raymond Crutchley, Doris Smith, Edward Ingham, John Roberts, Mary Perkin, Edna Talbot, James Boardman, Thomas Bagnall

Wrockwardine Wood

11 Oct Margaret Brayne, Gilbert Eaton, Sally Marsh, Horace (Ginge) Rowley, Michael Pagett, Charles Guy, Edith Mitton

18 Oct Alan Dakin, Graham Perry

25 Oct Sarah Fernley, Shaun O. Cheshire, Terry Wilcox, Doreen Bailey, Albert Hudson, Pauline Corby, Edward Roderick, Geoffrey Taylor

Donnington Wood

11 Oct Noel Molineaux, Arthur Evans, Joyce Biddulph, Margaret Woods, Edward Scaife, Mary Jervis

18 Oct Evelyn Jones "Tommy", Robert Wakeley, Robert (Scottie) Reid, Edna Leach, Enid Chadwick

25 Oct May Davy, Joan Myrons, Sidney Hewson

PRAYING AT HOME

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*

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.

Regular Dates for Diaries (For participation or prayer)

Mon	8.00pm	Compline via Zoom
Tue	9.00am	Weekly 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 Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
	9.00-11.00am	Food Bank & Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
	9.15am	Morning Prayer at Wombridge Church
	10.00am	Midweek Service at St Matthew's Donnington Wood (Eucharist 1st Wednesday)
	11.00am	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	10-11.00am	St Georges Church open for chat & refreshments (Closed Fri 02/10 Funeral)
	12.30-2.00pm	First Friday Free Lunch at Wombridge Parish Centre (1st Friday)
	8.00pm	Compline via Zoom
Sat	11.00-1.00pm	Welcome Saturday at St Matthews Donnington Wood (3rd Saturday of month)

Additional Dates for Diaries

Tue	13/10	TBC	Wombridge Church Outing to Tong Church & Lunch
Fri	16/10	11.00am	Burial of Ashes of Sidney Rutherford at Holy Trinity Wrockwardine Wood
Sat	17/10	6.00pm	Wombridge Church Harvest Supper & Hadley & District MVC Concert
Mon	19/10	1130am	Funeral of Joan Bufton at Telford Crematorium
Wed	21/10	10.30am	Funeral of Christopher Tibbert at Wombridge Church
Sat	24/10	10.00am	Burial of Ashes of Sandra Francis at St Matthews Donnington Wood
Sat	24/10	1.00pm	Wedding of Cathy & Richard at St Matthews Donnington Wood
Mon	26/10	3.00pm	Funeral of Cashara Maiden at Aston House St Georges

Future dates for the Year

Wombridge Church: 2026 Plan

Sat 14th Nov	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beetle and Fish 'n' chips
Sat 28th Nov	Times tbc	Oakengates Christmas Lights
Sat 5th Dec	8.30am – 11.00am	Christmas Breakfast Bazaar
Sat 19th Dec	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Christmas party
During Advent		Tree of Light in Church

St Peters Priorslee: 2026 Plan

Sat 28th Nov	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Christmas Craft Fair at Priorslee Scout HQ
Thu 24th Dec	1.00pm - 2.00pm	Christmas Bring & Share Lunch at Place of Welcome
	2.30pm – 3.30pm	followed by Christmas Eve Service at Priorslee Scout HQ

Holy Trinity Oakengates: 2026 Plan

Sun 13th Dec	Concert by the Ronnies

Remembrance Day Wednesday 11th November

There will be a Community Service of Remembrance at 10.45am on Wednesday 11th November at the Clock Tower on Priorslee Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The weekly Newsletter is produced and edited by Christopher Harris and if you would like to receive this newsletter via email regularly please contact newsletter4etb@outlook.com requesting you would like to receive it.

LATEST UPDATE FROM HOLY TRINITY WROCKWARDINE WOOD

Prayer group at Wrockwardine Wood is paused for now, praying continues please do email or call the office admin@easttelfordbenefice.co.uk 01952 615367 if you have a prayer request this will be sent to the churches for inclusion in the prayers groups which are happening elsewhere across the benefice and of course in our Sunday services.

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, contact your Funeral Directors for arrangements.

NEW BENEFICE ADMIN EMAIL ADDRESS

Kerry can be contacted on the new email – *easttelfordbenefice@outlook.com* (The old email address will cease on 21st September 2026) and her phone number – 01952 615367. She will respond to you promptly. The hours where Kerry can be contacted in the office are 9.00am – 2.00pm Monday and Tuesday. Should you require printing or office help just give her a call or email and she will arrange to meet you at the office during these times.

NEW BENEFICE NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS

By the 21st September 2026 the newsletter email address will change due to a different service provider. The new email address will be: *newsletter4etb@btinternet.com*
Please save this new address into your contacts to help stop the newsletter going into your junk/spam folder.

Contact Details

Interim Minister: Revd Dr Tom Atfield
07449 770111
revdtom@yahoo.com

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

Newsletter Editor: Christopher Harris
07941 961461
newsletter4etb@btinternet.com

Licensed Reader: Kerry Debenham
01952 615367 (9.30am-12.00pm)
easttelfordbenefice@outlook.com

Administrator: Kerry Debenham
01952 615367 (9.00am-2.00pm Monday & Tuesday)
easttelfordbenefice@outlook.com

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

A Special Gift for St Matthew's Church

Our Patronal Festival began on Friday, 18 September, when children from Donnington Wood CE Junior School and St Matthew's CE (Aided) Primary School gathered at St Matthew's Church.
As part of their annual Patronal Pilgrimage, the children of St Matthew's School processed from school to church, led by Rev Dr Tom Atfield and proudly carrying their hand-sewn school banner.
The collage incorporates the children's handwritten prayers, making it a particularly meaningful gift to the church and a wonderful expression of their faith and creativity.

EVERYDAY FAITH APP

Everyday Faith is a Church of England app offering daily readings, reflections, responses and prayers under various themes; 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. You can download Everyday Faith from your app store.

the next Service will be announced soon!

For more information about Ecumenical events please contact Sue Rawlings.

07715173634*suerawlings12@gmail.com*

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 28th Oct 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.

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.*

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*

AUTUMN OUTING TO TONG CHURCH

followed by

LUNCH

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

COST OF GUIDED TOUR £10

LIFTS ARE AVAILABLE

- This Grade 1 listed building was called the Westminster Abbey of the Midlands by John Betjeman.
- It has a Golden Chapel built in 1510.
- A monument with an inscription believed to have been written by William Shakespeare.
- Charles Dickens chose Tong Church as the final resting place for Little Nell.

If you would like to join us,
CONTACT CHRIS ON
07930245773

EVERYONE WELCOME TO COME ALONG!

WOMBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH HARVEST Supper

WITH CONCERT BY THE
HADLEY & DISTRICT
ORPHEUS
MALE VOICE CHOIR

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

6PM TO 8PM

SUPPER OF
Jacket Potato
WITH A CHOICE OF FILLINGS,
FOLLOWED BY
Coffee & Cake

TICKETS £8 £4 FOR CHILDREN

CONTACT CHRIS ON
07930245773

St Matthew's Church Donnington

Sausage Saturday

Join us for our autumn Charity fundraiser in aid of The Alzheimer's Society and Christian Aid

Saturday, 17th October
11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Sausage sandwich and first drink £2.00, Complimentary additional drinks & biscuits.GF & meat free options available

Free craft activities for children & adults

Adult & children's raffles and 50/50 100 square.

Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood

Harvest Service with Holy Communion

& afternoon Tea

18TH OF OCTOBER 3PM

£5 per person
Children free
dontations welcomed for the foodbank

email kerry
easttelfordbenefice@outlook.com
01952 615367 to book

WOMBRIDGE PARISH CENTRE COMMUNITY LUNCH

ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12.30PM TO 2PM

UPCOMING DATES

- FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER
- FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
- FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER
- FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY
- FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

LUNCH IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE
THANKS TO SPONSORSHIP BY
Our Coop

BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

All welcome to join us for a LIGHT LUNCH, DESSERT and HOT DRINK – FOLLOWED BY A QUIZ –

POP IN OR STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU WISH

everyone welcome

Annual Memorial Forget me not Service

Sunday 1st of November 3pm

A chance to come and remember those we love but see no longer

Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood

Looking ahead…..

ECUMENICAL QUIET MORNING

The ecumenical group will be holding a uiet Morning on Friday 6th November 9am-12noon at St. Mary's Church, Red Lake. Theme will be the changing nature of gifts through life's seasons.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2027:

Friday 5th March. A planning meeting will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary on Monday 28th September at 7.00pm. Women's World Day of Prayer was established in 1927: 2027 celebrates 100 years of prayerful action. If you'd like to be involved or find out more but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Sue Rawlings on *suerawlings12@gmail.com*

PLACES of WELCOME at HTO, HTWW & St PETERS

PLACE OF WELCOME

Becoming Dementia Friendly Church 2024-5

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

Shallowford House Retreat & Conf...
25m ·

The Call Home: God's Promise of Eternal Life is a reflective retreat day at Shallowtord House, led by Sue Rawlings and Pauline Heffernan.

Together, we'll gently explore what the Christian hope of eternal lite means for how we live today; there will be space to reflect on life's journey, the legacy we leave and the promise of God's enduring love.

Friday 20th November
9.30am-3.30pm
£28 per person, including refreshments and a two-course lunch.

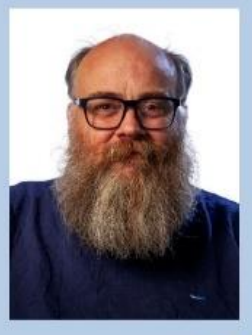
Find out more at shallowfordhouse.org/events

This day may particularly appeal to those reflecting on their own life, accompanying someone towards the end of life, or wanting to explore the how themes of hope and eternity in thoughtful company.

Lichfield Diocese Community of Evangelists
Presents

"Ponderings on Prayer and Pilgrimage"

Presented by Richard Barrett
Supported by Laura Lenander



Monday 12th October 2026

12:00 noon – 3:30 pm
followed by
a walk for the more energetic!

Telford Minster

Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford, TF3 4HS

Telford Minster is located centrally with several car parks in close vicinity
Meeting Point House, 61 Southwater Way, Telford TF3 4LN Google Maps
Nearest railway station: Telford Central station, Euston Way, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4LZ
Telford Central Station | National Rail

To book your place contact Warden, Lynne Mills, at lynne@fpe-network.org

Free refreshments are provided – please state your specific dietary requirements

If you are not a member of the Community of Evangelists, you can still come to 'try us out' - all welcome!

Richard Barrett

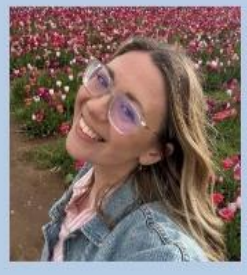
Richard Barrett first started working for the diocese in January 2008, but after 18½ years he still questions whether he's a grown-up yet! Until earlier this year he was part of the Mission Team and is now part of the Programme Team. He often forgets what his job title is (currently Programme Office Data Support Officer, apparently), but since late 2024 he's often described himself as the diocese's 'Stats and Prayer guy' – while much of his time continues to be spent in collecting and trying to make use of our attendance figures and other nerdy numbers, since at that point he had the pleasure of taking on coordinating the diocese's weekly prayer diary and biannual days of prayer.

If Richard's love for nerdy numbers and using spreadsheets for more tasks than are strictly practicable goes back a long way, then his love for maps and gawping over them to plot interesting routes between places goes back to when he was a small child. In recent years he has had the privilege of doing much the same as part of his job, in trying to plot the route of various pilgrimages and prayer walks around the diocese and beyond – only some of which have come to fruition! Another thing he's been doing since before his time working for the diocese was creating prayer stations and especially prayer labyrinths, something he's found a positive way of gently encouraging people towards ways of creative prayer.

In talking about Prayer and Pilgrimage, Richard will try to restrain himself from talking too much about the practicalities and instead more about the opportunities. Who may this be for, either planned or otherwise? How might this become a Jesus encounter?

But also – how might we be able to do similar in our own settings?

Laura Lenander



Laura Lenander has now been at Telford Minster for over 5 years, first as Curate, then as Interim Leader, and now with a richly deserved removal of the 'Interim'. As well as many other qualities, Laura is a fantastically gifted artist and regularly uses that skill for setting up Creative Prayer Stations of which Richard is deeply envious! We hope the day will include some interactive prayer stations from both Richard, Laura, and more – we hope you enjoy the chance of using them while at the Gathering – and don't try to compare them too closely!

As well as Richard and Laura, Richard has promised at least a couple of other special guests to share their experiences of pilgrimage, creative prayer – or both!

Mirth and tears as Bishop Michael leaves diocese

Farewells were said at two services in Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday 27 September as Bishop Michael presided and preached for the last time before handing over the Crozier to the Dean of Lichfield for safe keeping.

He led and presided at the 10.30 Eucharist, at the end of which his card was marked: 10/10 in all categories* according to the head steward, Dr Richard Stephenson.

**it was strongly suggested that 10/10 for hospitality should be shared 5+5 with his wife, Julia.*

A large congregation attended Evensong, with the Deputy Lieutenant for Staffordshire and Lord Lieutenants of West Midlands and Shropshire all present; Jeremy Cotton DL, Dr Derrick Anderson CBE and Mrs Anna Turner JP respectively. Many former staff and clergy were also present, including The Rt Revd Mark Rylands, former Bishop of Shrewsbury, Mandy Rylands and Romita Srisunder (former Directors of Ordinands), Simon Baker (Archdeacon of Lichfield), Julian Francis (Archdeacon of Walsall), Adrian Dorber (Dean of Lichfield) and Julie Jones (CEO/Diocesan Secretary).

In his sermon, Bishop Michael profusely thanked the many people he had encountered and worked with in his time here before he drew on the evening's gospel, the Road to Emmaus, picking four items to focus on and a final theme.

Continue reading the article at: https://lichfield.anglican.org/news/mirth-and-tears-as-bishop-michael-leaves-diocese.php

Week Beginning 11th October 2026

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 338

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, Iran and the wider Middle East.

Seeking the Kingdom

Sunday 11th October:

(Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675. James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century)

Lord, we pray for today's Vision Event for the Community of St Chad at Shallowford House. We thank you for this Community and everything they have brought to the diocese over the last few years. We pray for discernment for its Leaders as they look to the future, and for members new and old that this may be a means to continuing their adventure with you.

Monday 12th: *(Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709. Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845. Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915)*

Lord, we bring before you today's 'Ponderings on Prayer and Pilgrimage' gathering from the Community of Evangelists taking place at Telford Minster this afternoon. We thank you for all the different ways that you've given us to share our journeys and conversations with you - and that we never need journey alone or have one-sided conversations. Please bless all those in Telford today with inspiration and encouragement of your presence in our lives.

Tuesday 13th: *(Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066)*

Please bless today's Gathering for New School Leaders taking place in Lichfield; we thank you for everyone stepping into such an important and influential role. Please let today be a day where they feel equipped, encouraged, and inspired; and as they move forward, please let them ever feel your loving presence in their lives as they serve you in their contexts and settings. And today we pray for the two churches in the diocese dedicated to St Edward the Confessor; in the town of Leek and the nearby village of Cheddleton. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on each of these churches and the communities they serve.

Wednesday 14th:

Lord, we pray for this morning's workshop at Shallowford House on Leading Worship with Confidence. We thank you for all those who serve in this role, and pray you will indeed grant them the confidence they need to do this to the best of their ability, to help each of us to give you the worship that you are richly due.
We also pray for this evening's Online Gathering with the Archbishop's and Prime Minister's Advisers to further the discernment process to finding the 100th Bishop of Lichfield. Lord, we pray that you will guide all the relevant people so that the person eventually appointed is the person that you want.

Thursday 15th: *(Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582)*

We pray for today's Space Makers Training at Shallowford House, and especially lift before you the initiative to champion the five daily practises into our schools of 'Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending, and Blessings'. Lord, please help each of us to find more reflective space to be with you. Today we also 'Pray for the 34,000' with the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship, that we will indeed see many new people wanting to start their journeys with you - and for many others to want to take their own journeys a little bit further.

Friday 16th: *(Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Reformation Martyrs, 1555)*

Lord, we pray for this afternoon's drop-in session for new users on the Buildings Management Portal, for a constructive time together. We pray for all those that will be using this new platform instead of the OFS. It has been designed to make applying for church Permissions simpler, and we ask that Users will find this to be true. We thank you for all of those that will be learning how to navigate this as they work to maintain their buildings for your service and glory. Please guide all those that will be offering support to make this happen.

Saturday 17th: *(Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107)*

Lord, today we lift before you the Quiet Morning at St Andrew's Shifnal; as they explore the story of the Prodigal Son and pray through the colours of the rainbow, we pray you may leave all those attending today feeling they have learnt more and spent some quality time with you. We also pray for Pippa White as later on today she will be licensed at St Nicholas' Newport to serve there and at St Michael's Chetwynd. Please bless growing relationships between her and her new churches, as they get to know each other better and work together to serve the local community.

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