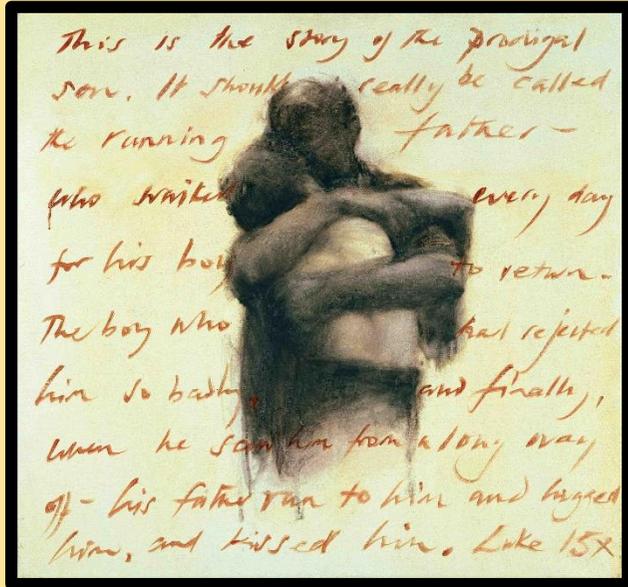




The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

*What the Lord requires of you is to do justice and to love mercy and to walk
humbly with your God*



Our Mission, Approach and Prospectus

***Come Follow Christ
in The Footsteps of Saint Chad***

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others

In your relationships with one another, have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 2)



“The Church is a family expecting guests.”



Whether you have been to our three Churches of St Giles, St Mary or St Bartholomew a long time or this is your first time here, may God's blessing be upon you.

This booklet sets out our ethos and ways of being as church communities. We recognise that we are all guests in God's house and equal before God. This booklet spells out the imperative for us all to worship and encounter God as Christians and also to bring others to know the Lord too. The booklet details opportunities where our three churches offer support for you and others to do this. It also details our priorities for the future and if you can contribute your gifts to support that then please do see Fr Jason or one of the wardens.

Being a Christian is both an individual journey and a collective endeavour. We give thanks to God that you walk with us and are the body of Christ with us at this time.



Who we are and on a journey to be...

We are three inclusive Anglican churches where you are always welcome; we are places for people of all faiths and none to be still, places to come close to God, places to reflect and be peaceful and to be, Christian places to worship together and places to enjoy the company of others.

We dedicate our lives to the love and praise of God and the love and service of our neighbour, seven whole days, not one in seven.

Through our baptism each of us has a ministry in the body of Christ and we encourage each other to find and exercise that ministry.

God accepts each of us as we are and we in turn accept each other and welcome all who come to share in worship. We believe that, in Christ, there are no divisions and we seek to break down barriers between us and to celebrate the richness of the diverse and multi-cultural world-wide Anglican church of which we are part.

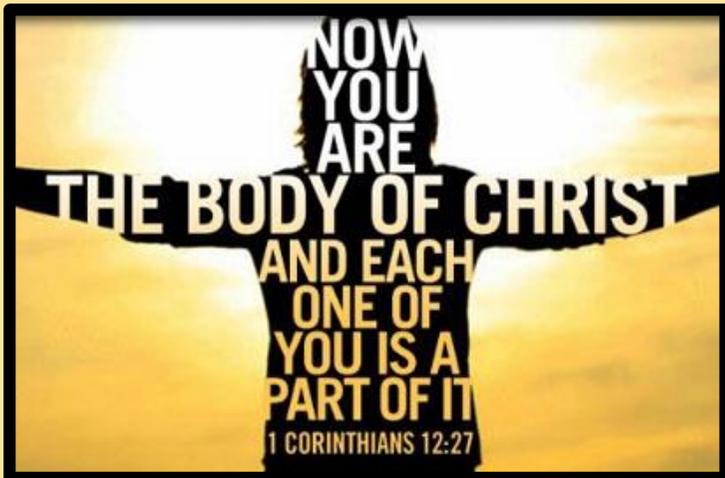
With all our faults and weaknesses, gifts and joys we are a family and a home, offering friendship and support, open to all who live in our parish and beyond.
May God's blessing be upon you.

"God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are. Not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility...this is for God the ground of unfathomable love."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Our three churches are Inclusive Churches. We affirm that the Church's mission, in obedience to Holy Scripture, is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every generation. We acknowledge that this is Good News for people regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation. We believe that, in order to strengthen the Gospel's proclamation of justice to the world, and for the greater glory of God, the Church's own common life must be justly ordered. To that end we call on our Churches to live out the promise of the Gospel; to celebrate the diverse gifts of all members of the body of Christ; and in the ordering of our common life to open the ministries of deacon, priest and bishop to those so called to serve by God, regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation.





We are churches in the Diocese of Lichfield exercising our ministry under the authority and direction of The Bishop of Lichfield. The diocesan mission statement is:

Come follow Christ...in the footsteps of Saint Chad

Through which the diocese has five clear mission themes reflecting the world-wide Anglican five marks of mission:

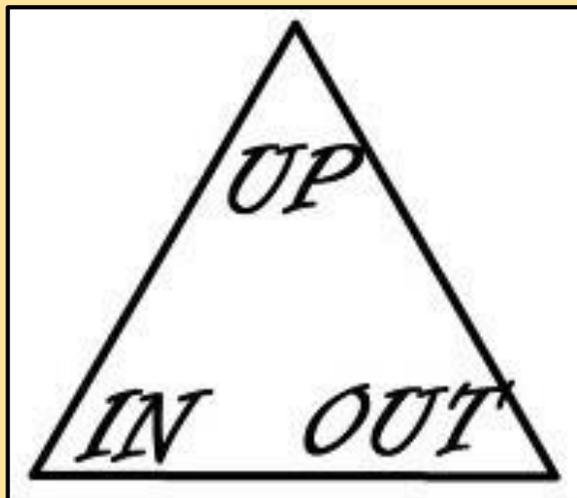
- Discovering the Heart of God,
- Growing Disciples,
- Reaching New Generations,
- Transforming Communities
- Practising Generosity.

In our three parishes we exercise the mission of the diocese by making God's love real/evident in our:

- Love for God
- Love for each other
- Love for our communities



At St Giles', St Mary's and St Bartholomew's, we believe in connecting to God, to each other and to the world. We remember this using a triangle, which reminds us that all three must be held together in balance. We appreciate that to focus too much on one aspect, or neglect one aspect, then church falls apart – we cease to be the loving churches we work hard to be.



UP is about connecting to God...

- And so we recognise that worship of God is our core reason for being and a lot of our time and resourcing is directed towards worship, prayer, praise, the Eucharist, listening to God's voice through the Bible, silence and our daily experiences and Sunday worship.
- *being God-focussed and prayerful and receiving blessings and encounter through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.*
- connecting to God was something Jesus never went a day without. And it's what he expects of his people: the greatest commandment (part 1) is to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength' and the Prophet Micah reminds us we are called 'to walk humbly with our God.'
- *the divine command 'to love you neighbour as yourself', commands us to build up ourselves spiritually and to care for ourselves physically and emotionally so that we have a better capacity to love others and flourish as children of God.*
- before his departure, Jesus' final commission to his disciples (at the end of Matthew 28) is to 'Go into the world...teaching, making disciples(learners/explorers) and baptising...in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,' Everyone has a part to play in this 'Great Commission' by extending the lavish hospitality of God to all people.

The perfect church service, would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God.— C.S. Lewis



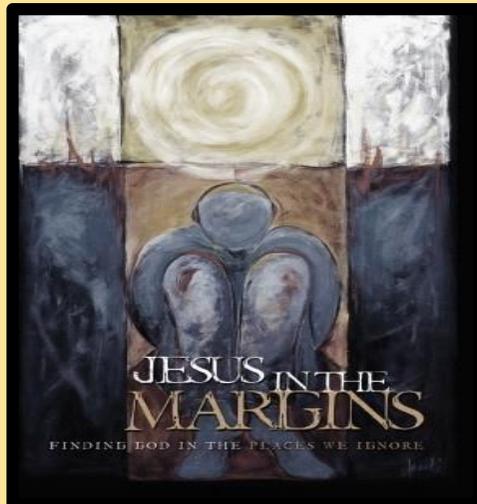
IN is about connecting to each other...

- community, friendships, discipleship, fellowship, teaching, Sundays worship, sharing meals, tea and cake, home groups, Lent courses, Sunbeams, whist, coffee stop, church outings and retreats, Messy Church, choir, bell-ringing and social events.
- being welcoming and hospitable to one another.
- *connecting to each other was a part of daily life for Jesus' disciples. He invested in close friendships and expects it of his people: the greatest commandment (part 2) is to 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*
- the great commission – 'Go into all the world!' Doing what – teaching, making disciples and baptising! This is the responsibility of all Christians.



OUT is about connecting to the world...

- mission, evangelism, justice, the villages, people hearing Good News and finding faith, faith courses, Sunbeams, Lent lunches, hospice Eucharist, pastoral team, whist for pleasure, Fairtrade, Council for Christian and Jews, supporting Good neighbours scheme, supporting for *Lichfield foodbank*, weddings, baptisms, funerals, civic service., positive relations with DMS Whittington, HMPYOI Swinfen, Elswick House and local businesses.
- being welcoming, hospitable and outward-looking.
- when Jesus said 'Love your neighbour as yourself', someone asked 'and who is my neighbour?'. And how did Jesus answer them? With a story about a Samaritan – the 'others, the people 'out there' are your neighbours
- in his great commission, Jesus said 'Go'! Where – into all the world!



Our Parishes support the Armed Forces Covenant with our friends at DMS Whittington

The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government, our churches and the armed forces. It recognizes that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the armed forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated.



The Covenant's two principles are that:

- the armed forces community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services
- special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most, such as the injured and bereaved

The Covenant exists to redress the disadvantages that the armed forces community may face in comparison to other citizens, and to recognise sacrifices made.

The Armed Forces Covenant is supported by the Community Covenant and the Corporate Covenant. The Community Covenant encourages local communities to support the armed forces community in their area and promote public understanding and awareness. DMS, or Defence Medical Services, is our local 'community' based around Whittington barracks.



“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, there a church of God exists, even if it swarms with many faults.”- John Calvin



How our Churches can support you Spiritually

Day after day declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place.

Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

1 Chronicles 16: 23-32

"We are first and foremost here to worship God and to be in his presence."

***The Rt Reverend Gulnar Francis-Dehqani
Bishop of Loughborough***

At the heart of what we do is worshipping God and responding to the lavish invitation and hospitality of God in the Eucharist. All people are equal before God. All are children of God. All are welcome. Christian people are worshipping people.

We offer a range of worship opportunities across our three churches:

- *Sunday Eucharist in both contemporary and traditional forms. Wednesday Eucharist.*
- *Occasional Eucharist in a Celtic inspired style.*
- *Evening worship in a variety of forms and regularly traditional evensong.*
- *Eucharist and worship to mark festivals and special times e.g. Corpus Christi, Ascension Day and Remembrance Day. We keep to rural rhythms of greening of the church and Rogation Sunday We aim to make worship part of the rhythm of life and not just a Sunday activity.*
- *A keeping of the cumulative traditions of Holy Week in which everyone is encouraged to participate fully and deeply at this most holy and special time for our faith.*
- *Services to mark the passage of life- Baptisms (Christenings), godparents Sunday, weddings, blessings, funerals, reconciliation and healing.*



Quiet Space 8 p.m. Last Tuesday each month

30 mins of reflective readings, silence or music. A time to pause in the presence of God.

Soul Space- A Little Prayer Experiment- 2nd Tuesdays

A special time to engage in differing styles of prayer to deeper our walk with God.

Healing Space

WRAP Services – Wholeness, Rest and Peace

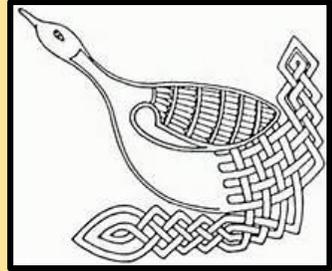
Be wrapped in the love of God as we pray for healing of body, mind or soul for you or for others. An intimate encounter with the divine.

Vigil Space- Prayer for Persecuted Christians and Jews

A time of quiet and reflections as we hold in prayer and solidarity Christians and Jews persecuted for their faith. Both faiths persecuted now more than ever before.



Prayer Groups and Bible Studies to nurture and deepen our faith and relationship with other Christians.



Prison fellowship Prayer Group

The HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall Prison Fellowship Prayer Group upholds and supports in prayer the chaplaincy team, the staff and the residents of our local prison. We meet at 9.30am for one hour on the last Thursday of each month at 7 Falcon Drive, Whittington, WS14 9PF. Contact angelovell@aol.com

Wren Cottage, Darnford Lane, Whittington

Tuesdays 1430-1600 (weeks 1 and 3)

Main Street Whittington

Tuesdays (every week) 1930-2100. A mixture of people from different traditions attend. Leadership rotates week by week under the overall guidance of Rowena Broome

2 Falcon Drive, Whittington Led by Gill Hollis

Mondays 1930-2100 (weeks 1 and 3)

Also confirmation preparation.

~ Seek the LORD while He may be found; (Isiah 55:6) Call upon Him while He is near. Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Opportunities offered by Fr Jason to expand your spiritual experience. Please contact if Interested:

- *Take This Bread- Eight Week Bible Study.*
- *Eight Weeks with Coldplay Bible Study.*
- *This Girl is on Fire- Eight Week Bible Study.*
- *One year six books- a whole year for the group to explore a range of books both religious and non-religious.*
- *Faith in the Fool –eight weeks focussed on Christ.*
- *The Spirituals and The Blues- Eight weeks with God, Protest, Resistance and Hope.*

- *Retreat Days- an opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to engage with the Lord through teaching, music and silence. A must for any Christian wanting to deepen their faith and broaden their spiritual journey with God.*
- *A retreat in everyday life- a one-month online retreat around your ordinary (working) life on line.*
- *A day with the Northern Monks and Saints Pilgrimage to Ampleforth, Lastingham and Riveaulx.*

- *The F-word- a six week course suitable for all people but has an academic element within as designed for pathways to ministry course that focusses on forgiveness and compassion.*
- *Theology of the Body- a six week course suitable for all people but has an academic element within as designed for pathways to ministry course that focusses on the body as sacred, the sacredness of sexuality and the body and identity.*
- *The Amish- Foot-washing and Forgiveness- a day study.*

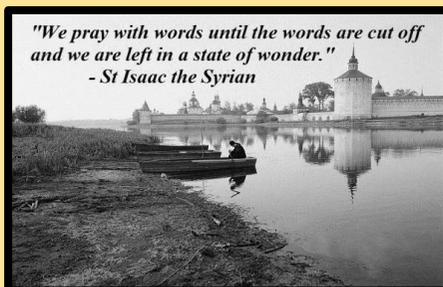
- *Eucharist day- a day to explore the Eucharist that is central to the Christian faith.*
- *Baptism Day- A day to explore what baptism means for our ongoing Christian journey.*

Creativity is the mark of spirituality and humanity

- *Releasing the creativity of words- a none religious day on poetry writing- for absolute beginners or old hands.*
- *Releasing the creativity of words- a none religious day on creative writing- for absolute beginners or old hands.*
- *Vocations advice and exploration*

If you love truth, be a lover of silence. Silence, like the sunlight, will illuminate you in God, and will unite you to God. Love silence: it brings you a fruit that tongue cannot describe. In the beginning we have to force ourselves to be silent. But then there is born something that draws us to silence. May God give you an expression of this "something" that is born of silence. After a while, a certain sweetness is born in the heart, and you are drawn almost by force to remain in silence.

~ from TRUE PRAYER by Fr Kenneth Leech



For Children



Sunbeams- the treasure of our parishes A long tradition in Whittington and Weeford

What: A gentle introduction to the themes of our Christian faith through songs, stories, fun activities, play, crafts, drinks and biscuits.

Who: Children under five years of age, along with an adult; parent, grandparent or child-minder – all are welcome!

Where: Starting in St Giles' Church and moving to the Church Hall

When: Every other Wednesday, 1030-1200 in term time

Contact: Megan Barr– 432605 or Sue – 319613

Megan is also our baptism family liaison officer

Messy Church

What: Messy Church is an additional way of being St Giles Church for families in a practical way. It is a church that helps people encounter Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It is not just a craft club but a creative way to be Church. The Christian story is clearly at the heart of what we do and what we are about.

Where: Thomas Spencer Church Hall, St Giles' Church, Whittington

When: Second Saturday of the month, 1530-1730, including a light meal

We know the excitement of getting a present - we love to unwrap it to see what is inside. So it is with our children they are gifts we unwrap for years as we discover the unique characters God has made them. - **Cornelius Plantinga**

Our website and facebook pages are wonderful resources to keep up to date and for supports in many areas including

<http://ourvillagechurch.org.uk>

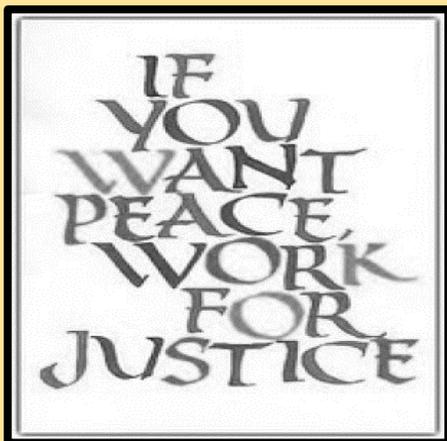
- *Prayer request page*
- *Supports for prayer*
- *Introduction to aspects of the bible*
- *Links to spiritual resources*
- *Support booklets for weddings, baptisms and funerals*
- *News and events*
- *Historical information*
- *External links to wider Anglican resources*
- *Details of Retreat venues*
- *Safeguarding*
- *Calendar*
- *Parish magazine*
- *Regular notice sheets*

Why not explore?!

Our weekly notice detail a whole range of retreats, lectures, pilgrimages, events, festivals, local, national and international- any of these will help your spiritual growth and widen your Christian experience. Why not try one?! Join with Christians from many places and feel part of the worldwide family of God.

*Our Churches Support a Range of Charities
and social justice ventures.*

*Is there one you can associate with and
promote?*



The Gospel is a very dangerous idea. We have to see how much of that dangerous idea we can perform in our own lives.

There is nothing innocuous or safe about the Gospel. Jesus did not get crucified because he was a nice man.

Walter Brueggemann

You cannot claim to worship Jesus in the tabernacle if you do not pity Jesus in the slum.... It is folly, it is madness, to suppose that you can worship Jesus in the sacrament and Jesus on the throne of glory, when you are sweating Him in the bodies and souls of His children.... You have your Mass, you have your altars, you have begun to use your tabernacles.

Now go out into the highways and hedges, and look for Jesus in the ragged and naked, in the oppressed and the sweated, in those who have lost hope, and in those who are struggling to make good. Look for Jesus in them; and when you have found him, gird yourself with His towel of fellowship and wash His feet in the person of His brethren."

Fr Kenneth Leech

Council of Christians and Jews

Christians AWARE

Christians Against Poverty

Practical Action

Livability

The Fairtrade Foundation

The Mothers' Union

Jen and Andy Saunders working in Nepal

Pax Christi

Medecins sans frontieres

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

Church Housing Trust

Feed the Minds

Church Army

Lichfield Christian Schools Work Trust

Bible Society and USPG

Lichfield foodbank

Pathway Project

Leprosy Mission

SSAFA – the Armed Forces Charity

Little Troopers

The Royal British Legion

Christian Aid

Toilet Twinning

St Giles Hospice and HMPYOI Swinfen Hall



Moving Forward



Along with the national church, we are using the ideas of The Revd Dr Samuel Wells as a structure to support our mission and development as a church.

Congregation: Inclusive approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life. The church is there for worship-its beating heart.

Compassion: Models of outreach serving local need and addressing social justice local and beyond.

Culture: Art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment, to develop people spiritually and to be salt and light by enabling the creative arts in communities.

Commerce: Commercial activity and social enterprise generating finance, creatively extending and enhancing mission and ministry.

Key developmental priorities of our three churches

- *To deepen our Christian spirituality in a wide variety of ways and enrich our worship expressions, using the riches of the Anglican Tradition.*
- *To enable all baptised Christians to be missional and invitational in respect of the Christian faith and drawing others to it.*
- *To develop our understanding of our faith and how it may be lived out.*
- *To develop our buildings and grounds as hospitable centres of worship, artistic expression and where appropriate community use.*
- *To extend our pastoral ministry to our community and to promote social justice.*
- *Extend our baptism, wedding and funeral ministries.*
- *To work towards increasing regular attenders to support the spiritual life of a greater number of people including under 16's.*
- *To engage people both within and without the church to achieve the above.*

*Our Churches offer other opportunities to
be church together*

*Coffee Stop- Thursday mornings- Coffee,
Cake and Chat!*

*Bell ringing- Beginner or experienced- why
not join?*

*Flicks in the sticks on the church big screen-
Free films and popcorn
Last Fridays of the month.*

*Whist for pleasure and bridge with friends
A great opportunity to be with others.*

*Church Choir- Praise God in song. Every
Thursday evening.*



Our Bishop



The Right Reverend Dr Michael Igrave, 99th Bishop of Lichfield, grew up in a small village in Northamptonshire. He studied mathematics at Oriel College, Oxford, and, after a year spent as a labourer in a factory in Birmingham, trained for the ministry at England's leading theological college – Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford.

He was ordained Deacon in 1982 and Priest in 1983 in the Diocese of Peterborough. After more than twenty years of ministry in Leicestershire and Japan, he became Archdeacon of Southwark in 2004. He was Canon



Missioner at Southwark Cathedral from 2010 to 2012, chair of the Southwark and London Housing Association, and Anglican Borough Dean of Southwark. Prior to this he had been Inter-Faith Relations Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and Secretary of the Churches' Commission on Inter-Faith Relations.

Bishop Michael was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours list in 2011 for services to inter-faith relations in London. From 2012 he was Area Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark and also the Diocesan Warden of Readers.

He chairs the Council of Christians and Jews, is co-chair of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and the Church of England's Mission Theology Advisory Group. Bishop Michael has written extensively on inter-faith issues and on questions of religion and human rights. He has edited six volumes on Christian-Muslim relations, is the author of 'Trinity and Inter-Faith Dialogue' (Peter Lang 2003), and has contributed thirty journal articles and book chapters. Read an article by the bishop on our website in *Rucah Journal* Michaelmas 2017.

Look out for and be part of periodic Inter-faith lectures at St Giles- We are all God's Children.

Rabbi and The Bishop in conversation 2017 and 2018 for example.

Bishop Michael is married to Dr Julia Ipgrave, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Humanities at Roehampton University. Michael and Julia have three grown-up sons, one of whom is married to a German and another to a Russian. They have a grand-child in Germany. Michael and Julia are keen on all-things Japanese, and also enjoy walking and exploring Staffordshire and Shropshire on foot. This includes pilgrimages around the Diocese.

Come follow Christ...in the footsteps of Saint Chad

St Chad was the first Bishop of Lichfield. St Chad's Day is 2nd March and the prayer appointed for that day is:

From the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ, you called your servant Chad to be an evangelist and bishop of his own people: give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life, that we may truly commend to others the faith which we ourselves profess...



“The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.”

Bishop N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian*

‘So there is a movement from the soul to God, from God to the soul, and from the soul to society and the world. The contemplative life can never be one of self-indulgent absorption, even of a purely personal absorption in and enjoyment of God. Rather there must be an active expression of the inward union and love in relation to the world.’

Fr Kenneth Leech





We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to

wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, staring artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the Somerset Countryside and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...

and you!

(Bath and Coventry Cathedrals)