



Penn Fields Parish

Wolverhampton



Our Parish Vision:

Reaching Wider with the compassion of Jesus
Reaching Deeper into the heart of God
Rooted in Prayer

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider becoming the next vicar of Penn Fields, Wolverhampton.

We have been praying for you for some time. We believe God is raising up for us and Himself someone who feels called to **Wolverhampton**, to **share in ministry** with us and to **lead, motivate and challenge** us to **deepen our faith** and **reach out more widely** to the **people in our community**.



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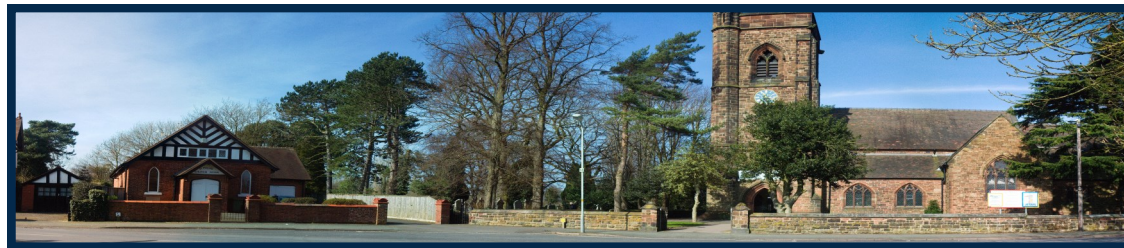
Introduction

We are an evangelical parish, open to God moving among us, teaching and guiding us by His Holy Spirit. The parish consists of three church buildings with a variety of congregations between them ranging from broadly traditional to gently charismatic and fresh expressions. Each congregation is a warm-hearted, open, enthusiastic church family who will encourage and support you with energy and commitment.

We seek a vicar for our parish to lead us in ministry at the beginning of the next chapter in our history and journey. You will be joining our full-time Associate Minister based at St Joseph's, our curate in training, working across the parish, and our Lay Local Mission Leader based at St Aidan's.

Whilst having overall responsibility for the three churches in the parish, you will have particular oversight for St Philip's, the parish church and contribute to and be responsible for the support required at St Aidan's.

Above all we are seeking the individual God wants for our parish.



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Being the People of God for the People of Penn Fields

We are a faithful church community with an average Sunday attendance of about 200 spread across the parish. We are committed to worshipping God, growing in Jesus, being open to the Holy Spirit and reaching the people of Penn Fields by being the people of God.

Each of our services has individual characteristics, styles and flavours but each takes the Bible seriously as God's Word and desires to be increasingly prompted by the Holy Spirit in worship and ministry. We are expectant about God's future plans for us. Many individuals respond to God's call to get involved with community projects such as "The Well," our local food bank.

We value people regardless of age or background and love to have fellowship with them. We are not perfect but striving to be an authentic Christian family presence and witness, shaped by God's Word and Spirit.

We aspire to be generous, gracious and welcoming. Many people come to us because of our relationships with the community or our school contacts. Others join following personal invitations or Alpha, and others simply because we are their local church and they find the way we worship relevant.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans:12 v 4 - 6a

Our parish vision of
Reaching Wider and Deeper
and the individual church action
plans that live this out
align with...

Lichfield Diocese's

[Strategic Framework for Shaping for
Mission](#)

(See Appendix 3)

And its priorities of
[Discipleship, Vocation and
Evangelism](#)



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The Vicar for Us

The parish desires a prayerful, Spirit-filled disciple of Jesus, who has a heart for the community and a passion for the Kingdom. He or she should hold to an orthodox interpretation of God's Word and truth as revealed in scripture.

(See Appendix 4)

The qualities we want our next vicar to have...

- Welcoming & Approachable
- Caring & Empathetic
- Encouraging
- Discerning
- Fun, friendly & down to earth

The skills we want our next vicar to have...

- Experienced visionary leadership
- Ability to co-ordinate and equip
- Clear teaching
- Effective communication
- Ability to listen and hear
- Organisation, efficiency & delegation
- Team building

What do we want our next vicar to do...

- **Lead**
 - Grow and develop the skills, gifts and ministries of our staff team
 - Encourage and further enable the ministry of the wider leadership teams in all three churches
 - Inspire and equip everyone to identify and use their gifts to grow God's Kingdom
 - Identify vibrant, creative ways for us to engage with our local community with a particular focus on children, young people and families
- **Teach**
 - Teach the Bible so we all grow deeper in our faith and discipleship and are challenged to put the teaching into practice
 - Equip and encourage us as disciples of Jesus to pray and share the Good News of the Gospel more effectively
- **Pastor**
 - Get to know each of our worshipping communities and build relationships with them
 - Have a heart for the lost last, least and lonely

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

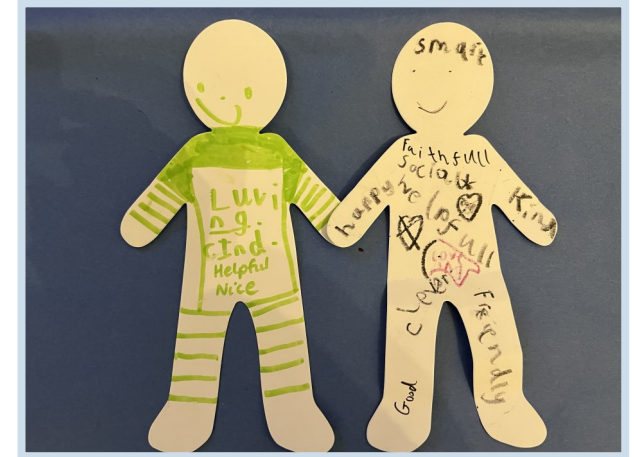
Views from our Children



Be able to pray
and know the
Lord's Prayer

Love
God

Nice,
helpful, funny,
creative, welcoming,
clever, religious,
confident, experienced.
Cool, silly but sensible
when needed.
The right person.



Be smiley
and get to
know us

Like
decorating
biscuits



Our top 3...
- Love the Bible
- Love God
- Love us!

Church would be better if:

- More ice cream
- Evening children's service
- Shorter notices for children
- Ways for us to help out
- Raising money
- More summer events



Polite,
respectful,
helpful,
happy,
faithful,
clever, nice,
loving,
patient,
using
initiative

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

What we can offer you

We will welcome you, love you, pray for you, support you and encourage you and honour your need for time and space for reflection and retreat.



We can offer:

- Parish office & paid part-time administrator
- Large and active ministry team - including a staff team of a parish Curate, an Associate Minister and part-time Children's Worker at St Joseph's, and a Lay Local Mission Leader at St Aidan's
- A large team of Licensed Ministers across the parish, and two retired clergy who support in the parish and beyond
- Enthusiastic volunteers - we don't expect you to do it all
- Warm and friendly congregations willing to participate
- A heart for the community
- A great vicarage

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Penn Fields in Numbers

confirmations

8

in 2022

weddings

1

55

children

11 missionary
partners

clergy

2

baptisms 3

198 average
Sunday
attendance

licensed lay
ministers 10

9

funerals in church or
the crematorium

The Bishops Write



A word of welcome to the Diocese of Lichfield

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from our first bishop St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a variety of contexts - from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions - evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic - as we journey together in mission. As a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a 'spacious and gracious diocese'.

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.



**THE BISHOP
OF LICHFIELD**



Now is a truly exciting time to serve God in the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area!

The Wolverhampton Episcopal Area (WEA) covers a large geographic area, from beautiful, rural Staffordshire and Shropshire, where churches lie at the heart of village communities, to the bustling and diverse urban centres of Wolverhampton, Lichfield, Walsall, Cannock and the Black Country.

The WEA genuinely offers the widest possible range of ministry contexts, including parishes, new worshipping communities, and many chaplaincy contexts - schools, prisons, hospitals, universities, hospices, and the full breadth of Anglican traditions.

The WEA Team and I would love to speak with you about your sense of God's call and help you explore opportunities to join us as we serve together—worshipping God, dwelling in His Word, and praying; seeking to equip and strengthen faithful disciples; and joining in God's mission to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ with all in our communities, making new disciples.

Please read on and be assured that we are praying for those discerning God's call to join the wonderful Wolverhampton Episcopal Area. Feel free to get in touch about this or any other vacancy.

Yours sincerely in Christ
The Rt Revd Dr Tim Wambunya
Bishop of Wolverhampton

Lichfield
Archdeaconry
See of Wolverhampton
Walsall Archdeaconry

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Philip's



How we connect with God and each other

St Philip's is a friendly, loving, evangelical church family, which is blessed with a wide range of age groups across its three congregations. Currently, we have a curate and four licensed Lay Readers who alongside other lay volunteers lead and teach us in our worship. We also have a licensed Pastoral Minister who leads the pastoral ministry.

We have a very gifted church family and many participate in our various services by leading intercessions, assisting at communion, reading, welcoming, stewarding and much more, quietly behind the scenes, in addition to those who preach and lead services.

Sundays:

9am - a more traditional service, following Common Worship with music provided by electronic organ, attended by a slightly older cross section of the church family. Holy Communion is held twice a month. This service is streamed live via the St Philip's Facebook page.

10.30am - a more informal and flexible service, although still based around the simple Service of the Word model of Common Worship. Music is led by our talented and enthusiastic music team of singers and instrumentalists. Our children's groups, '**JAM**' (Jesus and Me), and our youth group, '**Path**', take place during this service. Holy Communion is shared monthly. Prayer ministry is offered during and after the service in an informal and sensitive way.

@Connect - once a term, we host a café style church at 10:30am with breakfast served at 10am, so congregations from both services can have fellowship together.

Rest of the Week:

Oasis - every Wednesday at 11am, we have a quiet, reflective, traditional-style service, with music led by organ. Holy Communion is shared once a month.

Morning Prayer - every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15am, livestreamed on the St Philip's Facebook page.

Prayer Meeting - every Monday at 7pm, where we pray for our church life, our people, and our local community for 30 minutes. Currently, we are praying for our vacancy and for you!

Prayer Chain - operates via our Life Groups and is for urgent prayer needs, and is organised by our Pastoral Ministry Lead.

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St Philip's

Connecting with each other and the community

Busy Bees

We connect weekly with the youngest members of the community at Busy Bees, our Carer & Toddler Group. This is a popular service to the local area and there are 50 children on the register.

Place of Welcome

Meets weekly, serving hot drinks and biscuits, where people can drop in for company and chat.

Numbers are currently low, and it is mainly attended by church members, with just a handful of regular or occasional members of the wider community. Place of Welcome is set to be reviewed at Easter.

The Hub

The Hub café serves refreshments after Oasis each Wednesday. On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (except August) this is followed by Hub lunch. About half of the 25 or so who take lunch attend Oasis and stay on afterwards, while about half come just for lunch and the opportunity for friendship and chat.

Life Groups

Groups meet at various times during the week either in homes or the church lounge.

Currently there are 6 and approximately half of the congregation are members of a Life Group. One of these is a group for our young adults and older youth, and another is a nurture group for new Christians which follows on from our Alpha Course.

Messy Club

Held monthly for young families with children in school years reception to six.

This is a time of fun with games, crafts, God's word and worship during an early evening time slot, reaching out to our non-church contacts, especially those in our local schools in which our clergy regularly lead assemblies and support in other ways.

Schools Work

Support is offered to local primary schools by means of Collective Worship and RE. We put on "Experience Christmas and Easter" events annually. Last year about 180 pupils from our nearest school, attended.



One-off Events

These have included "A Good Friday Adventure", "Light Party" and "Summer Fun Days."

Community events planned for this year include a "Pancake Party," a summer event and "Kickstart Christmas."

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St Philip's

How we organise ourselves

Our simple but effective structures keep us going on a day by day basis. We have a leadership team of twelve members consisting of clergy, lay readers, wardens and congregation members. Some members of the Leadership Team are also St Philip's representatives on the PCC. We have 5 Ministry Area Teams (MATs), led by members of the Leadership Team and these Teams provide the oversight and support for each ministry leader and their teams.

We have a committed parish warden supported by two assistant wardens (building and admin) who manage and oversee the day by day functioning of the church. Those who are involved in leading and preaching meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement and to plan and set vision for our preaching series.

MAT Team Matrix

Worship	Children & Youth	Evangelism	Prayer & Pastoral & Discipleship	Admin
3 x leadership team	3 x leadership team	3 x leadership team	2 x leadership team	4 x leadership team
Leaders & Preachers Music @Connect Oasis Warden	Jam Youth Busy Bees Messy Club School	Cherished Man Alive Alpha	Prayer Pastoral Care Life Groups The Hub Welcome World Mission Place of Welcome	Office Fabric Comms Admin Finance

**AS ST PHILIP'S FAMILY
WE ARE CALLED TO:
CONNECT WITH JESUS
CONNECT WITH EACH
OTHER, AND
CONNECT WITH OUR
COMMUNITY
SO THAT GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWS.**

Our Vision

Born out of the Parish Vision Statement, our local vision was discerned and created.

The living out of this vision has over the last 12 months been reviewed and a plan entitled "[Aspire 28](#)" was launched in January 2025 offering a prayerfully discerned yet flexible strategy for the continued living out of our vision over the next 3 years with the guiding intentions of "Equip" "Engage" and "Enlarge."



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Philip's

How St Philip's sees itself



Strengths

- Love for God & each other (friendly family feel). Prayerful & a depth of faith.
- Wide age-range in church family
- A congregation that desires to grow more spiritually, missionally and numerically
- Proactive leadership team & extensive lay involvement...not just licensed ministers
- The music group made up of all ages
- Community minded (but...see opportunities)
- A heart for children's and youth ministries
- Young Adults (age 17-25) - their heart for prayer, worship and evangelism.
- A newly-discerned and adopted vision-into-action plan called "Aspire 28" with a focus on equipping, engaging and enlarging
- Links to local schools
- Oasis (mid-week service) growing in numbers, often 25 in the congregation.
- The Hub

Challenges

- Our financial position.
- Attendance has not recovered to pre-Covid levels - so a lot of work is being done by a reduced number of people. We are aware of burnout.
- Attracting new members, particularly families with children aged 0-16
- Nurturing and developing new Christians so they develop sound, deep roots that last and translate into service as disciples.
- Encouraging church members to use their gifts and skills so that we have square pegs in square holes.
- 9am service, congregation numbers down over the last few years.

Opportunities

- Even more people to see the value of being part of a Life Group as part of their discipleship.
- Be more outward looking and make new connections—turning our community-mindedness into action.
- Joining together more regularly, by having a combined Sunday service at least four times a year.
- To encourage more members of the church family to participate in corporate prayer activities and events.
- Whilst the number of young children is down Post-covid, there is a good team of volunteers and weekly groups for children and youth.
- Encouraging those on the fringes (people God has placed in our church via other groups. i.e. Busy Bees, Messy Club, POW and The Hub)
- A proposal for a soft play area to be erected in the church lounge has been made, and work to progress this, including applications for funding, are being made.

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Aidan's

How we worship and pray

St. Aidan's is a small, generous, prayerful and loving church family; welcoming, friendly and caring. We are a faithful and committed older congregation, who are still young at heart. We seek to deepen our relationship with Jesus, and to be effective witnesses for Him as we use our resources to reach out to our local community. We hold a weekly Sunday service at 10.30am, which loosely follows the Common Worship model of a simple Service of the Word.



Our monthly Holy Communion service is led by an Ordained Minister, and we have occasional 'Healing and wholeness', testimony, and café-style services. We are quite flexible and enjoy this variety.

Our main service leaders and preachers are our Lay Local Mission Leader, Readers and the Clergy, supplemented by others from the parish and our own church family.

NIV Bibles are available for all, and we use TV screens for liturgy, songs and sermon slides. We seek to be open to the Holy Spirit in our preparation and during our worship, and often include times of open thanksgiving and prayer.

Our committed worship group currently consists of a guitarist, a keyboard player and two vocalists. Additional musicians support our midweek meetings. Worship songs are mostly chosen from Songs of Fellowship 1, 2, and 3.

Prayer is important to us. In addition to prayer during and after the service, we have a book to write requests in, a faithful WhatsApp and email prayer group, a prayer triplet, and currently hold monthly prayer meetings.



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Aidan's

How we organise ourselves

Our Local Mission Leader and Lay Readers have spiritual oversight of the church, under the supervision of the parish clergy. Our Pro-warden oversees the day to day running and maintenance of the church, and many church members willingly offer their time and talents to keep our building and grounds in good order.

We have a very willing Church Committee who work hard towards enabling and fulfilling our Mission Action Plan.

They include a designated Safeguarding Officer, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary, and Dementia-Friendly Co-ordinator. We hold regular Committee meetings, and use our WhatsApp group effectively for communication between meetings.

Our aim is for every church member to use their God-given gifts in ministry.



How we do Church in the week

Bible Study

We have two well-attended weekly Bible study groups

Light Lunch

Held weekly and provides a meal, short reflection on a Christian theme, and a worship time, and is designed to be accessible both to church attendees and as an outreach to the local community

Little Gems

Our weekly parents and carers group held in the afternoon

Men's Breakfast

A monthly event with a thought for the day and discussion time, attended mainly by Christians.

'From him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.' (Ephesians 4: 16)

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer



Gifts for
The Well

How we connect with the community

We recognise the need to build bridges with our community through regular activities. There is a carer and toddler group (Little Gems) which meets weekly at St. Aidan's, and is run by members of the parish. In addition to Light Lunches and Men's Breakfasts, we hold several low-key outreach events during the year.



Platinum Jubilee
Celebration



Easter
Extravaganza



Activities have included...

- * Afternoon tea
- * In-house entertainment evening
- * Beetle drive
- * Tabletop sale
- * Summer picnic
- * Canal trip & pub lunch
- * Charity coffee morning

Once a year we organise a bigger community event in our substantial grounds, which is suitable for all ages. These have a theme and offer refreshments, children's crafts and activities, a cake, book or plant stall and lively music. Recent examples have been a Platinum Jubilee celebration, an Easter Extravaganza and an Olympic fun day.

We generously support The Well foodbank, The Haven for abused wives and their families, the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal, and the Alzheimer's Society with gifts and finance. We are a dementia-friendly church and raise awareness by supporting Dementia Action Week and running suitable events. We also lead informal services in local Care Homes for special occasions like Christmas.

St Aidan's

How St Aidan's sees itself

Strengths

Love One Another (John 13: 34-35)

- We love God, each other and 'our neighbour', are prayerful, welcoming, and encouraging
- We have a wealth of Christian experience to share
- We have a small but willing work force, and are generous with our time and money
- We particularly suit older people and those who live alone

Challenges

The spirit is willing but the body is weak (Matthew 26:41)

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest-field
(Matthew 9:38)

As an older congregation we face three key issues:

- How can we grow the church younger?
- Who will support our current leaders and workers, and take up the baton from them when the time comes?
- How do we reach our ethnically diverse community?

Opportunities

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6: 9)

- To build on the success of our "Light Lunches" and Increase our ministry to the elderly, bereaved and lonely
- To develop "Little Gems" and expand our children's work
- To offer ministry opportunities to trainees in the parish

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Joseph's

How we worship and pray

St Joseph's is an evangelical church with a Resident Minister supported by a Parish Curate and a Lay Ministry team plus two retired Clergy

Sunday services consist of a 9:00am Common Worship Morning Prayer or traditional Holy Communion attended by a more mature in age congregation, with music provided by organ or electric piano. This is followed by a 10:30 am service which is lively and family-friendly and is supported by singers and musicians accompanied by keyboard, guitars and occasionally drums. Family services are programmed in throughout the year, where the young people are encouraged to participate.

Approximately 15 children meet on a Sunday morning in the church hall to learn about Jesus and have fun.

St Joe's is blessed with a baptistry which is used by the parish and made available to local churches.



How we organise ourselves

St Joe's is blessed with two Church Wardens who oversee the day to day running of the church and its fabric, currently supported by two assistant wardens to share the load. They organise church members who willingly offer their time and talents by keeping the church tidy and in good order. We also have two paid part-time church cleaners and a bookings manager who takes outside bookings for church/hall use, which brings in a welcome income. We have teams with specific responsibilities.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • DCC | • "Kids' Church" leaders | • Music/Worship Co-ordinator | • Focus Groups |
| • Leadership Team | • Open the Book Team | • Worship Teams | • Pastoral Care Co-ordinator |
| • Treasurer | | • Audio/Visual Team | • Mission Team |

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Joseph's

How we do church in the week

Focus Groups

Established groups meet during the week, with a new group started catering for those who have never attended a group before.

Prayer Chain

A proactive prayer chain is in existence, together with a WhatsApp messaging group of approximately 49 members sharing pictures and offering prayer support to each other.

Schools

There is a healthy relationship with two local primary schools who are visited every month by the 'Open the Book' Team

In addition...

There is opportunity to meet for prayer and communion during the week.

Communion is provided in Care Homes and homes of individuals who are housebound.

St Joe's also supports mission partners in the UK, Asia and South Africa.



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Joseph's

How we connect with the community

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28: 19-20



Indoor Kurling

A flourishing indoor kurling club of approximately 20 members meets weekly, with people from the church and community attending.

Playgroup

Meets twice a week, catering for approximately 8 pre-school children

Place of Welcome

Meeting every Tuesday afternoon to reach out and offer an opportunity for a hot drink, some cake and fellowship to the local community, catering for up to 30 people.

Adventurers

Our after school club meets every Wednesday and is run by our Children and Families Worker. It offers Christian teaching as well as fun and caters for approximately 15 children not regularly attending church. It is an excellent outreach.

Stay and Play

Runs on a Wednesday morning and attracts up to 22 pre-school children, together with their parents or carers.

In addition...

The Church Hall is used by several groups and is home to Guides and Brownies. Members of the congregation are involved with the local food bank.



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

St Joseph's

How St Joseph's sees itself

Strengths

- Talented musicians and singers
- Vibrant Focus Groups/strong fellowship/excellent team-work
- Supportive Lay Ministers and retired clergy
- Family-orientated
- Connection with local Primary schools through the ministry work of the enthusiastic 'Open the Book' Team
- Well-used-premises
- Open to change

Opportunities

- To engage more widely with the local community to draw in more families
- To re-energise ministry amongst our men
- To encourage more members of the congregation to be involved in outreach
- To serve the community in a way that brings more people through the door for activities
- To sustain and develop the groups we offer
- To lead assemblies in our local schools
- To support our minister to bring out our spiritual gifts and breathe life into our church family

Challenges

- Increase the number of Youth /Children involved in church life by reaching out in new ways to our community
- Encourage more members of the congregation to be involved in Children's/ Youth Ministry
- Increase Sunday attendance by helping those who visit us for community activities to become disciples
- Improve communication and transparency

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Parish Life

How our parish sees itself...

Strength in diversity and a tradition of significant lay ministry.

A united parish which acknowledges and celebrates us being 3 different churches which have unique ministries.

We connect with a wide range of people, including the elderly, families, the vulnerable and those with additional needs, in a safe and caring environment.

A training parish — over many years we have sent many people off for ordination and lay ministry training and we have trained curates in their first years of ministry.

What we do Together...

Prayer

Weekly prayer times are held across the parish and are open to all. Half nights of prayer take place in the parish on a termly basis. Prayer and Praise evenings take place across the parish during the year. The parish engages annually with “Thy Kingdom Come” from Ascension to Pentecost.

Alpha

At regular intervals the parish runs Alpha. Each church takes it in turn to host and various members of the 3 churches have taken part in leading and supporting. Opportunities for attendees to go on exploring have been provided in different ways by each church.

Life Exhibition

A multi-media experience which focuses on the life of Jesus. The parish has hosted the exhibition numerous times now at St Phil’s and through it we have each time been able to share the life of Jesus with over a 1000 children plus other visitors from our community. We have booked to host the Life Exhibition again for 2026.

In addition...

Annually a Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving is held for bereaved families



Penn Fields PCC 2024

A committed group from across the parish, who last year discussed:

- Youth Ministry & potentially appointing a Youth Worker
- iKnow Church
- Parish evangelism learning hubs
- Shaping for Mission Diocesan Strategy
- Leadership & Parish Vision, preparing for vacancy

The PCC continue to acknowledge that God is good, all the time.

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Parish Life



Cherished (Women's Ministry)

Cherished was launched in January 2024 by a group of ladies from each of the three churches who are passionate about women's ministry.

Our aim is ...

To meet with each other in worship, teaching and friendship – cherished by God and cherishing one another.

Our desire is that ...

Women will grow in faith, in the knowledge that they are cherished, known and loved by God.



During 2024 we held 4 events all including prayer worship teaching and fellowship. Plans are well underway for 2025



Young Adults



Young Adults is the parish group for those between the ages of 15-22. The group provides a space for community and growing in faith together. To date, we have run Youth Alpha, The Bible Course, a prayer course and we have hosted a number of prayer and praise nights across the parish.

Some of our socials have included visiting Wolf Mountain - a local climbing centre; pancake & pizza making and going out for meals. Limitless Festival was attended last year by the group, along with prayer and praise nights for youth across the Black Country and 'The Send' conference encouraging Christians to spread the gospel.

A usual evening at young adults consists of good snacks, games and then a group discussion. The group is really on fire for God and are all so passionate to make Jesus known!

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

The Church Buildings

St Aidan's

The main church area provides a flexible space for services, socials and the toddler group. The Lounge is suitable for refreshments, Light Lunches, and smaller meetings. We have a small room for prayer ministry. Our kitchen is adequate for what we do. The toilets include facilities for the disabled and babies and toddlers. Our grounds are extensive, and maintained by volunteers from the congregation.

We are currently following up on items highlighted in the Quinquennial report, in particular, concerns about a small portion of the roof which needs investigation.



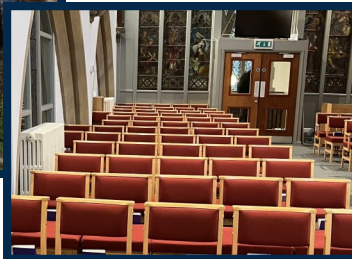
St Philip's

St Philip's Church is a mid-Victorian grade 2 listed church. The building was re-ordered in 1997 by having an upper floor installed, creating a hall, kitchen, toilets, lounge, parish office and youth room downstairs, and a worship area upstairs.

Extensive repairs to the roof and external walls were undertaken some years ago, followed by additional work to address problems arising from water damage in a couple of areas.

During 2020-21 extensive refurbishment took place including re-carpeting the worship area and creating a moveable platform, re-flooring the hall and improvements to the hall heating, installing secondary glazing downstairs and refurbishing the kitchen.

Future plans include refurbishing the toilets, and addressing minor issues arising from the 2024 Quinquennial inspection - still the roof!



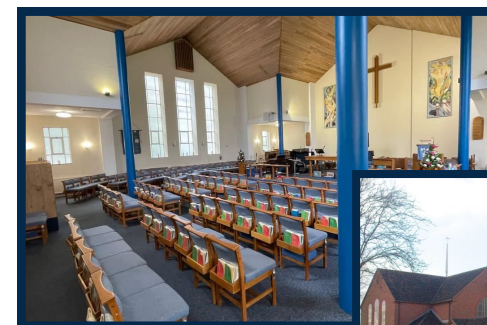
St Joseph's

A proactive DCC and congregational support has seen the church being professionally re-decorated and carpeted within the last seven years and is in reasonable order. Four years ago the church hall was redecorated by a group of church volunteers led by a warden. A new central heating boiler and radiators were also fitted. Two new screens have been fitted at the front of the church to enhance worship.

A Quinquennial inspection was carried out in October 2022 and repairs were made to the roof and guttering. The church boiler will need replacing within the next five years.

The Children's play area has been refurbished with a new soft play area and new outside play equipment.

St Joseph's has a baptistry used by all the churches in the parish and those of other denominations.

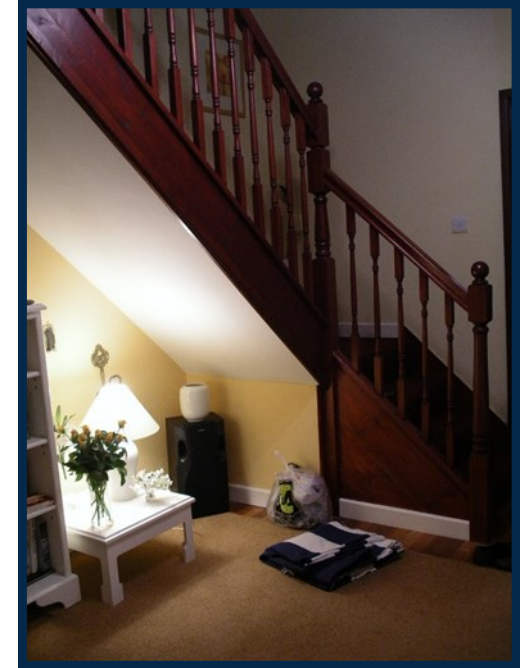


Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Your New Home



The vicarage consists of four bedrooms, a bathroom with separate WC and shower room, downstairs shower room and WC, two reception rooms, large study, and kitchen with utility room. There is a garage and parking for at least three cars.



As part of the reordering of the church in 1997 the former church hall, which is adjacent to St Philip's church, was converted into the vicarage...this will be your unique new home.

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Our Parish

The parish of Penn Fields was carved out of the parish of Penn in 1858 by the first vicar, the Rev William Dalton, who stepped out in faith to build a church - St Philip's - in what was then just fields, to bring the gospel to the expanding suburbs of Wolverhampton.

A later vicar, the Rev W Kipling Cox, stepped out in faith by planting a mission church on the western side of the parish in 1902, which was dedicated as St Joseph's district church in 1978, and another mission church on the eastern side of the parish in 1903, which was dedicated as the daughter church of St Aidan's in 1962.

The parish is about 2½ miles south west of Wolverhampton city centre on the edge of the Staffordshire countryside, and is spread across parts of Penn Fields, Bradmore, Finchfield, Merry Hill, Warstones, Penn and Goldthorn Hill. Overall it can be described by the phrase “leafy suburbs”, being largely residential. Housing is a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced, and there are three high-rise and some low-rise blocks of flats.

Much of the parish, and the east and north in particular has a markedly higher proportion of residents in managerial and professional occupations than the Wolverhampton average, and a higher proportion of owner-occupiers. By contrast the south west has a high proportion of people in social accommodation, and a much lower proportion in managerial/professional occupations. This area has significant income deprivation. The east end of the parish has a high proportion of retirees compared to the rest of the parish



St Philip's Church



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Our Parish



The religious mix across the parish reflects Wolverhampton as a whole, but the east has a much higher proportion of Sikhs than the Wolverhampton average while the south west has a much lower proportion.

(Sikhs form the largest religious minority in Wolverhampton after Christians and those not professing any religion).



There are five primary schools within the parish, two secondary schools outside but adjacent to the parish boundary, a community centre in Bradmore, and local libraries in Penn and Warstones. There are a number of small but busy shopping centres across the parish, and several care homes and nursing homes. Other churches in the parish include Beckminster Methodist and St Michael's Catholic. Bantock House and park are on the edge of the parish and within easy walking distance of the vicarage.

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Wolverhampton



Forget all you thought you knew about Wolverhampton and the Black Country. It's not a grim industrial landscape merging seamlessly into other grim industrial landscapes all the way to Birmingham and beyond.



Instead, consider a green leafy city with views of the Shropshire hills, where 5 minutes after closing the door of St Philip's vicarage...



...you can be in the Staffordshire countryside with the Welsh border only an hour's drive away. Wolverhampton will surprise you!

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton city centre is dominated by the 15th century St Peter's Church, and Queen Square with its statue of Prince Albert on horseback.

Wolverhampton Art gallery, adjacent to St Peter's, has a cafe serving the best cakes in town (and some nice pictures).

The main shopping street and adjacent indoor shopping centres have a range of shops including a Frasers department store, Waterstones and a range of High Street stores. There is an outdoor market close by.

Outside the city centre, there are Tesco's and Sainsbury's superstores, both just a short drive from the vicarage.

The Grand Theatre hosts many of the national touring productions of west end shows, while The Halls (Civic Hall and Wulfrun Hall) host touring bands (original and tribute) and stand-up comedy. The Arena Theatre hosts a few small-scale touring productions and occasional performances streamed from the National Theatre.



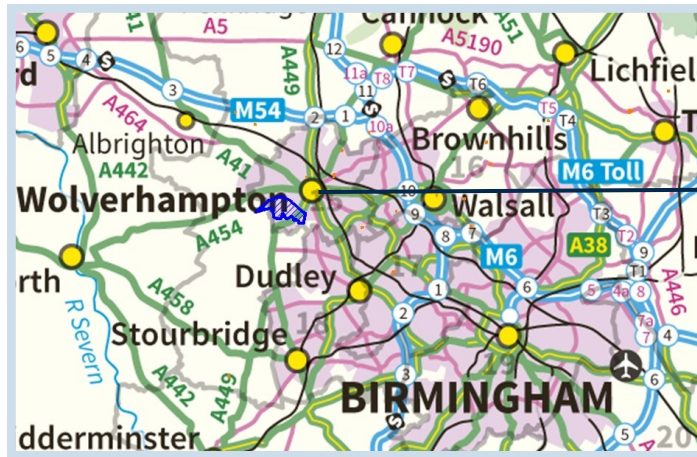
Wolverhampton offers plenty of opportunities for sport, whether as a spectator watching the Wolves at the Molineux (will they still be in the premiership next season?) or horseracing at the all-weather racecourse at Dunstall Park, or as a player for one of the many local sports clubs. Wolverhampton also boasts a fine athletics stadium, Aldersley Stadium, home to Wolverhampton and Bilston AC.

Wolverhampton's excellent rail and tram links make Birmingham's cultural highlights readily accessible, from its world class orchestra, the CBSO, in residence at Symphony Hall (a concert hall that London can only dream of) and its world class ballet company, Birmingham Royal Ballet, to regular visits from Welsh National Opera. Stratford-upon-Avon, home to the Royal Shakespeare Company, is only 1¼ hour's drive away.

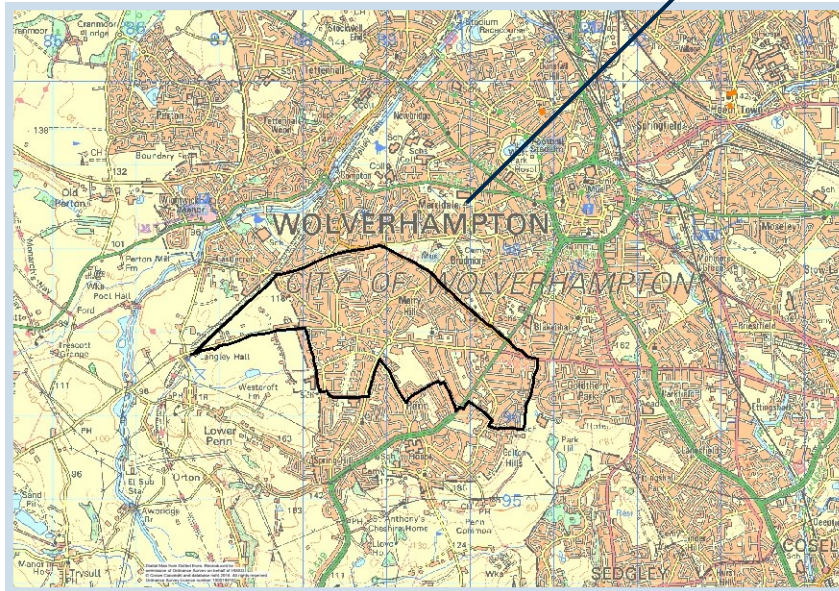


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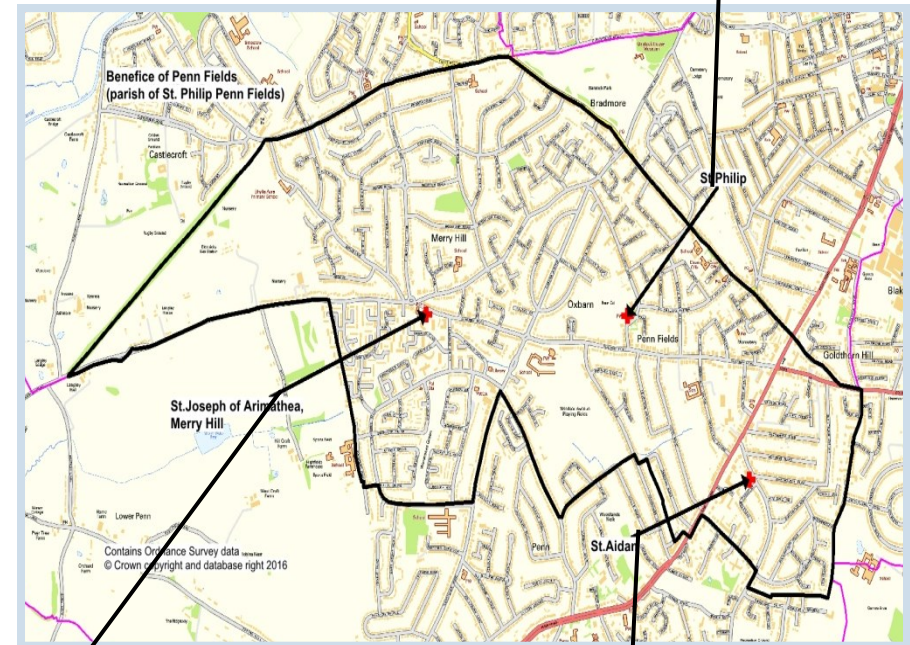
Appendix 1- Maps



Wolverhampton



St Philip's



St Joseph's

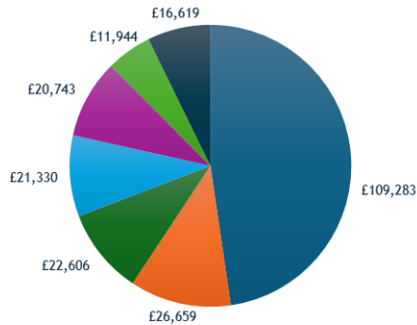


St Aidan's

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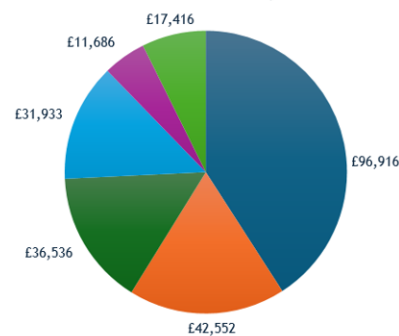
Appendix 2 - Finance

Parish Income 2024
Total: £229,184



■ Regular Giving
■ Grants and Legacies
■ Open Collections and Donations
■ All Other Income
■ Reclaimed Tax
■ Youth Projects and Development Funds
■ Hall Hire

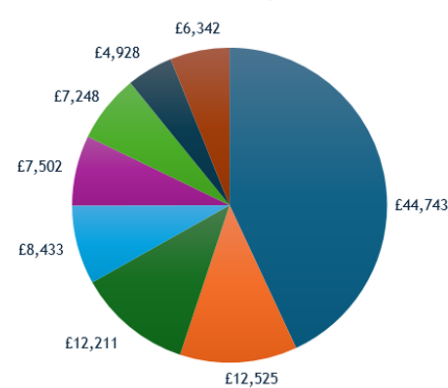
Parish Expenditure 2024
Total: £237,039



■ Parish Share
■ Running Costs
■ Utilities and Insurance
■ Wages
■ Missionary Giving
■ All Other Expenditure

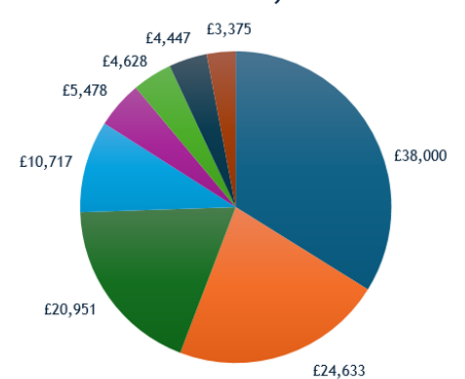
- St Joseph's has the necessary financial backing in place to fund a Children and Families Worker for four hours a week to organise and lead their mid-week children's after-school and holiday activities.
- St Aidan's has an underlying surplus, but will have to pay for necessary investigative work on their roof, and possible significant costs for repairs.

St Philip's Income 2024
Total: £103,932



■ Regular Giving
■ Donations and Gift Day
■ Collection
■ Wedding and Funeral Fees
■ Reclaimed Tax
■ Legacies
■ Investment Income
■ All Other Income

St Philip's Expenditure 2024
Total: £112,229



■ Parish Share
■ Utilities and Insurance
■ Clergy and Office Expenses
■ Services, Teaching & Related Activities
■ Wages (Office & Children's Worker)
■ Maintenance and Cleaning
■ Audit, CCLI & Diocesan Fees
■ Missionary Giving

- Each of the three churches within the Parish has its own treasurer. St Philip's treasurer is also responsible for diocesan fees.
- The Common Fund (CF) is split between the three churches based on attendance.
- 2024's CF was paid by the end of January 2025—settling the CF since the pandemic has been more of a challenge as a result of lower income arising from lower attendance and this has been the case despite a significant deduction in the CF request.
- For many years individual churches and the parish have benefited from the generosity of the congregation in supporting specific projects.
- St Philip's faces a very significant projected deficit in 2025. A number of fundraising ideas are being pursued as well as teaching on giving.

- A large legacy ring-fenced for children's ministry at St Philip's has been invested in diocesan-approved funds, and currently generates about £7,000 p/a in interest. For several years this part-funded a Children's and Families worker/enabler.
- A part-time Youth Missioner and Enabler was employed between St Philip's and St Joe's for some years, partly supported by grants.

Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Appendix 3 - Diocese Strategy



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD
Developing Discipleship,
Encouraging Vocations
Inspiring Evangelism
since 669

Shaping
for Mission
Strategic
Framework
2024 -2030

growing younger



Reaching Wider, Reaching Deeper, Rooted in Prayer

Appendix 4 - Policy and Practice

Safeguarding

In all our work, safeguarding is a big priority for us. We have provided safeguarding training and management for all our leaders and their teams and we are continually looking for more ways to make sure that all children and vulnerable adults coming into our churches are protected from all harm.

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer and each church has their own Safeguarding Officer.

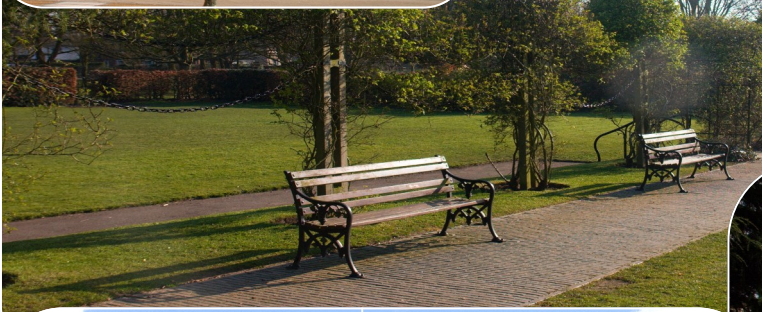
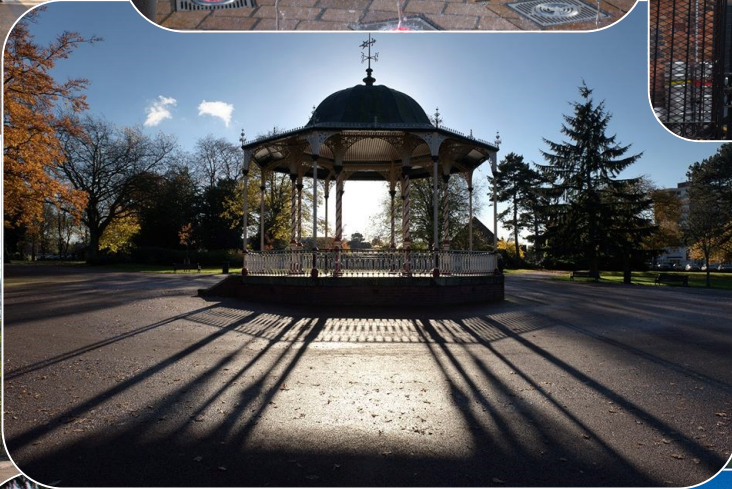
We are also beginning to use a Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.

Our new vicar will make sure that our [policy](#) and processes evolve and continue to improve to keep everyone as safe as possible in all we do.



PCC Policy on Human Sexuality

1. God is Love, and He offers His love out of His free gift of grace available to everyone, whoever they may be. Therefore, we as the community of His people, should offer an unconditional welcome of love to ALL who come to us.
2. God loves us so much that He does not leave us to wallow in sin, but gives Himself for us, in Jesus' death on the Cross, that we might be forgiven. He calls us to repent and believe this 'good news'. All aspects of human nature are tainted by the consequences of the fall, and nothing remains perfect except Jesus himself. We all need to repent with humility and live in this reality, becoming more like Jesus in this life, whilst only reaching that goal of perfection in the life to come through His gift of grace. In this life everything will have a mixture of 'flesh and spirit', and will be tainted in some ways, though we are commanded to seek after holiness by the power of the Spirit.
3. The Bible puts the highest possible value upon love and respect for other people. This may be expressed in different ways, for example: within families; in marriage - a covenant relationship between a man & a woman; and in other appropriate non-sexual relationships. There are different, appropriate ways of expressing love within these relationships. Within the created 'natural' order, sexual intimacy is designed to be shared only by a man and a woman within the covenant relationship of marriage. This marriage is the only context in which sexual intimacy is an appropriate way of expressing love.
4. Recognising Jesus' affirmation of the two great commandments, the church should value all people.
5. We value committed friendship and believe that commitment and self-sacrifice can be expressed in close/spiritual friendship without sexual intimacy and that God's love can be revealed in such friendships. Jesus himself must be the most fulfilled human that has ever lived, yet was single and celibate.



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www.saintjosephs.co.uk/

www.facebook.com/St-Philips-Church-Wolverhampton-
www.facebook.com/SaintJosephsWV3

<http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/>

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/penn-fields-st-philip/>

