

## **Appointing a new Rector - Update**

On 12 November the members of the PCCs of the four parishes met with the Rt Rev'd Sarah Bullock, Area Bishop of Shrewsbury. The meeting was an opportunity to review progress with the appointment of a new Rector and clarify what would happen next.

The parishes and Benefice had completed the writing of the Profile, a document intended for clergy interested in finding out about what the post here would entail. Bishop Sarah described it as telling a clear story, of where we have been and want to be, and outlining the challenges we face in a positive way. Indeed, surprisingly, in particular for rural parishes, it showed the churches at work.

We can now proceed to the posting of an advert, in the Lichfield Diocese and in the Church Times. It was thought that the probable deadline for applications would be the beginning of January. This would be followed by shortlisting and each parish has named a representative to be involved in this process and on the interview panel. These people are not delegates; they are tasked with using their wisdom and discernment to make decisions and should not be questioned or lobbied!

Before interview, shortlisted candidates are invited to the Benefice for a Familiarisation Day, an opportunity to look round the churches and the area. The interview day starts with Holy Communion in one of the churches, a service which is open to all and at which candidates preach. Everyone then leaves the panel to get on with the job.

There will be a period of silence following the interviews. No decision can be reported until the selected person has DBS clearance and the day and time of the announcement has been agreed. We shall probably be well into 2025 before we reach this day!

K Kimber – on behalf of the Border Benefice  
14 November 2024