



Sharing in God's Mission Today

Newsletter Issue 8 - Spring 2018

Welcome to our latest edition packed full of features from around the world!



Bishop Michael's Trip to Matlosane

In February the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave and a Diocesan team spent a week as guests of Bishop Stephen Molopi Diseko and the Matlosane Diocese in South Africa. They arrived in time for the Ash Wednesday service at St Peter's Church, Klerksdorp and were able to visit a drug rehabilitation centre and a hospice. The Lichfield group also included Director of World Mission Philip Swan, Archdeacon Sue Weller, Bishop's Chaplain Rebecca Lloyd, Director of Communications Pete Bate, Revd Ben Whitmore, and the Revd Cathy Mark. Three local Mothers Union (MU) representatives, Liz and Mike Binsley and Helen Palfrey, also came to build links with their Matlosane MU counterparts. Bishop Michael said "We enjoy and value enormously our companionship of prayer, friendship and shared mission through this diocesan link with Matlosane." Read more about the trip in a blog by the Revd Cathy Mark, from All Saints, Streetly, [here](#).



John Edlin is currently visiting Malaysia and Batam, Indonesia as an "ambassador" for the St Chad's Trust, working to encourage young adults to go out to Sabah or Batam in order to teach English in a missional context. John is doing this by building links between churches. Through his knowledge and experience of the contexts he will be able to help shape the placements. The St Chad's Volunteer Programme has been running from 2000 but very few young adults have gone from this Diocese to our Companion Dioceses and John is helping to address this. He has been a guest of Bishop John Yeo based at St Patrick's Church, Tawau and is now linked to the Church of the Good Shepherd, Batam, Indonesia.

Catherine Crawley – a St Chad's Volunteer in Qu'Appelle, Canada writes: *"My main roles here are doing administration work for the Diocesan Office and helping at St Luke's Kid's Club. Some of the things I've been involved in are preparation for Diocesan Synod, production of the Diocesan Newsletter (let me know if you want to be added to the mailing list), database for contact details, a lending library database, and currently I'm helping with the communication plan for the Bishop's bike ride. For me the experience of being a St Chad's volunteer is more about the spiritual journey than what is achieved in the day to day. I repeatedly find myself being challenged and having to think about aspects of faith that I'd never really considered before."*





Some twenty members of the Nordkirche will be joining a similar number from this Diocese as they set out on Pilgrimage (26 May-2 June) to discover something of St Chad's Irish background. Bishop Michael is going as Chaplain. Pray that it will not only be an exciting time of discovering 'our Celtic Heritage' but that it will build up our partnership in Christ.

Working parties are being set up to oversee all four of our Companion Links. Already a group of nine people from Lichfield Diocese has met to discuss future possibilities with the Nordkirche. Areas we have looked at include our response to asylum seekers and refugees, promoting theological conversations together as well as plans for the annual exchange visit known as Anticipating Advent 2018 (Nov 30-Dec 3) which is to be based this year in Lichfield.

BOOK THE DATES NOW

Intentional Discipleship

Lichfield Diocese in Partnership
with our Link Dioceses in S E Asia

July 11-15 2018

- Deeper Steps in Discipleship
- Practical workshops in different contexts
- Advanced Intentional Discipleship
- Teaching and Learning together
- Lunch events with Bible Study and Teaching
- Celebration services in each Episcopal Area
- Renewing our Partnership Agreements for 5 years





"Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." Matt 11:28

World Mission



DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

This event will provide opportunities to go deeper in discipleship. Bishop Michael is keen for clergy and laity alike to participate in this timely initiative as we focus as a Diocese on the whole, area of Discipleship. We will be joined from and with representatives from S E Asia who will be coming over for this event. The

first three days will be organised in Episcopal areas: Wednesday July 11th Wolverhampton and Lichfield ; Thursday July 12th Shrewsbury; Friday 13th Stafford and Stoke. Events are planned for clergy and laity alike and more details will be available within Episcopal Areas. On Saturday 14th July Archbishop Moon Hing will lead a day on Advanced Intentional Discipleship at Shallowford for those who are already experienced in and familiar with Intentional Discipleship. Churches and individuals through the St Chad's Volunteer Programme and with existing links to S E Asia are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to invite individuals and groups over to participate in this. More details from sally.churchill@lichfield.anglican.org and for more information [details:](#)



Historic New Diocesan Centre Opened in Klerksdorp

During a momentous week in the history of South Africa the Lichfield Diocesan team were able to share in the service for the dedication of the new diocesan centre in Klerksdorp which was bought by the mostly-black diocese from the Dutch Reformed Church, which historically supported the former Apartheid regime.

Bishop Michael was joined by the Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba, who oversees the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; the Bishop of Botswana Metlha Beleme and Bishop Stephen Molopi Diseko, who oversees Matlosane Diocese, for the event in the summer sun.

Archbishop Thabo, who had been at the state opening address by new South African president Cyril Ramaphosa the night before, said: *"We have never in the history of the African church bought a Dutch Reformed church. So this is historic transformation. This is historic healing."*

Lichfield Diocese contributed to purchasing the new building through a donation from the Bishop's Lent Appeal. A new altar at the centre was also provided thanks to a gift from St

Bartholomew's Church in Penn, whose vicar, the Revd Preb Ben Whitmore, was personally thanked during the service.



Kenneth Bau Yi Wen from Our Saviour's Church, Salek South, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the latest St Chad's Volunteer to come to the Diocese.

He will be spending a year with St Matthew's Church, Walsall, as part of the [St Chad's Volunteer Programme](#) which gives young people age 18-35 the chance to explore ministry in one of our companion dioceses.

St Matthew's is one of only two parishes in the Diocese with an ongoing internship programme for young people exploring ministry. St Matthew's School of Ministry currently has three people gaining practical experience and biblical training.



Kenneth was welcomed to Lichfield in January at a gathering hosted by the Bishop of Lichfield attended by other St Chad's Volunteers currently in this Diocese, representatives from St Matthew's and SCVP trustees; (centre) Peter Ooi from Penang, West Malaysia, who has been at Christ

Church, Bayston Hill, since September and (right) Matthew Gobbett, from Maple Creek, Qu'Appelle, Canada, who has been at Holy Trinity Oswestry since June.



Photo 1 Receiving knitwear from Eileen and Bill Robertson at Chetwyn Ason. Photo 2 Handing knitwear over to Abraham Leeuw in Matlosane Diocese.

Eileen Robertson and a group of knitters largely from St John's, Lawley near Telford, have been busy making children's clothing and blankets. Over a number of years following a request from the Social Action Committee of St Anne's, Stilfontein in our link Diocese of Matlosane they have sent bundles of items over. The photos show the items being collected from Eileen and then subsequently handed over to Abraham Leeuw, churchwarden at St Anne's, Stilfontein during the recent visit by a group from Lichfield Diocese. We are thankful for this parish to parish link which is expressed through regular prayer for one another and the exchange of news, as well as these practical demonstration of support though knitting. Thank you to the knitters and for this faithful and generous contribution. It feels like a case of 'Knitted with Prayer and Care!'

St Chad's Volunteer News

- Welcome to *Kenneth Bau Yi Wen* from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Diocese who has just arrived. He will be based at St Matthew's Church, Walsall.
- Farewell to *Abby Liew* who has just returned to Malaysia after a wonderful year at Meole Brace, Shropshire.
- Please pray for a resolution of the difficulties we are having with the UKVI which has led to

two Volunteers from Malaysia not being granted visas.

- Please continue to look out for other people in the 18-35 year age range from this Diocese who might go to any of our Link Dioceses as Volunteers for between 6-12 months. It provides opportunities for vocational development, training in discipleship and experience of evangelism.

Other news:

- General Synod discussed a motion to encourage Dioceses to develop their Companion Diocesan links and in particular to prepare a programme of hospitality for visiting Bishops in advance of Lambeth 2020. Bishop Michael in his speech spoke of the way in which through the Intentional Discipleship Event in July we are learning from and with our partners in S E Asia as we take forwards our Diocesan focus on Discipleship.
- We welcome shortly **Revd Joshua Ong** and his wife **Woon Ying Peng**, an honorary Deaconess, who are coming over for a three month Sabbatical. They will be starting their programme by attending the Clergy Diocesan Conference at Swanwick.
- Well done to the **Lichfield Cathedral Fairtrade Stall** – since November 2010 they have donated £8420 to Matlosane. Thank you so much – Bishop Steve Diseko is most grateful.
- Congratulations to two new Deans: of St Thomas' Cathedral in Kuching, the **Very Revd Kho Thong Meng** who takes over from the Very Revd Michael Buma Galamai. And of All Saint's Cathedral, Sabah, the **Very Revd Musa Ambai** who takes over from the Very Revd Chak Sen Fen. We also give thanks for the ministry of the Assistant Bishop of Kuching, the Rt Revd Aeries Sumping Jingan who has just retired.

We are always pleased to hear about your links with our companion Diocese, do get in touch.

Philip Swan

Director of World Mission

Lichfield Diocese





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