

Matthew Gobbett & Catherine Crawley Our First Volunteers From and To Qu'Appelle



The diocese has its first St Chad's Volunteer from Canada and has returned the favour by sending a volunteer in the other direction. The St Chad's Volunteer Programme sees 18-35 year-olds experience placements in one of our link dioceses overseas.

Canadian Matthew Gobbett arrived from Qu'Appelle Diocese in Canada in July and is based at Holy Trinity in Oswestry where he is living with the family of the church's Youth and Families Minister Mark Addison. Matthew said: "I am having a great time. There is a lot going on in the church and I'm enjoying helping out at events at the Quinta Centre in Oswestry." And now Catherine Crawley, from St Bart's Church in Penn, has headed to Qu'Appelle where she will use her administrative skills in the diocesan office there. Catherine said: "I was facing several big life changes and really needed some space to reflect and refocus. When I learned that the Diocese of Qu'Appelle were actually looking for a volunteer with a particular gift in administration I had to explore it. It feels like God's way of taking me out of my comfort zone and to trust Him and to see what His plans are for me. It was good to meet Matthew and it feels like a special time with the first volunteer from Qu'Appelle coming to the diocese and me heading off there."

Before she departed, Catherine also spent time with Archdeacon Peter Boote, formerly from Stafford, who moved to Qu'Appelle several years ago. "My own life and ministry were transformed by taking part in a mission trip from Lichfield to Qu'Appelle in 2000 at Pentecost. This led to my moving to Canada, marriage and training for the priesthood," he said. "We were delighted Bishop Michael visited Qu'Appelle and we are keen to find ways of taking our link forwards, not only through the St Chad's Volunteer Programme but also through exchanges of ordained and lay ministers."

Catherine's arrival coincided with a visit from Bishop Michael who spent a week in Qu'Appelle with his wife Julia and took part in Catherine's commissioning ceremony there. They toured the area with Peter and others, visiting local churches and Bishop Michael preached at St Paul's Cathedral.