

The latest news from the World Mission Department of Lichfield Diocese.

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Sharing in God's Mission Today

Newsletter Issue 6 - Summer 2017

Welcome to our latest edition packed full of features from around the world! It is an exciting season and we ask for you to please pray for the forthcoming visits to our Companion Diocese by Bishop Michael:

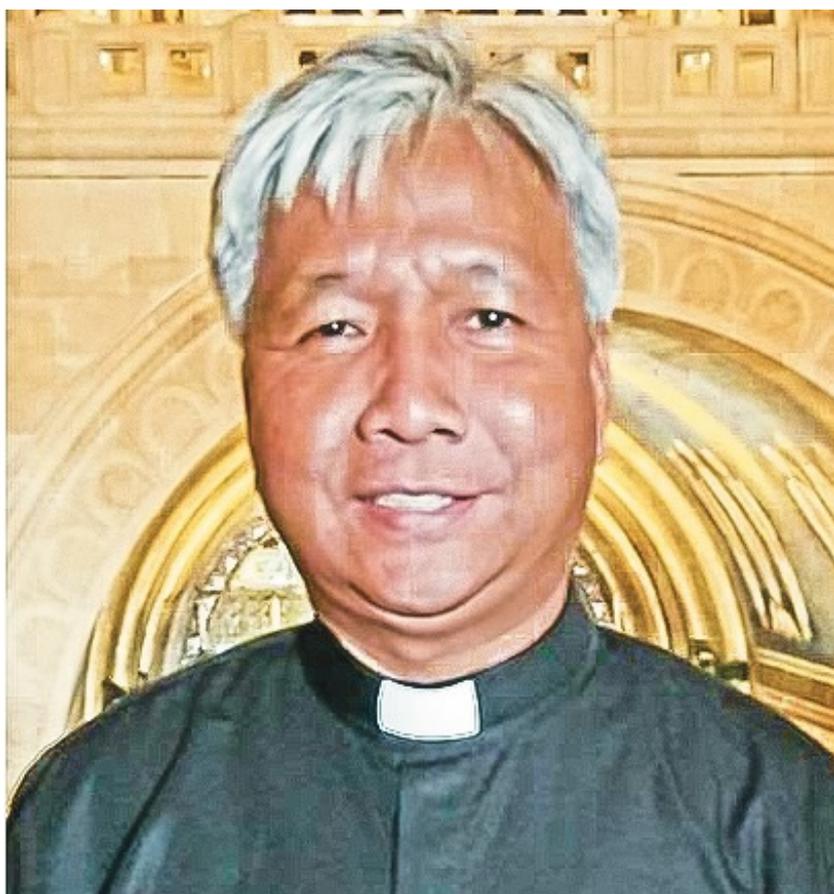
- Qu'Appelle Diocese in Canada in August
- Singapore, West Malaysia, Kuching and Sabah in the Province of South East Asia in October
- Matlosane in South Africa in February 2018

Representatives from the Lichfield Diocese will accompany him to South East Asia and to Matlosane.



Bishop Michael's Trip to Nordkirche

In the spring the Right Revd Dr Michael Igrave and his wife Dr Julia Igrave spent five days as a guest of the Nordkirche Lutheran Church in northern Germany, visiting all three episcopal areas and sharing in worship, prayer and discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people. Bishop Michael said: *"We were so thankful for the warm welcome we received from so many people on our first visit to Nordkirche. We are part of a worldwide family of Christians and the challenges we face are shared in different ways across the world. To see churches responding in practical and loving ways to the needs of refugees and others in their communities was heart-warming and encouraging."* [Read more here:](#)



Congratulations to Revd Donald Jute who has been appointed as the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Kuching. The date for the Consecration and Enthronement Service has been scheduled on Sunday, 13th August, 2017 at St Thomas' Cathedral, Kuching. Philip Swan will be representing Lichfield Diocese, along with Tony and Anne Barnard who have had long term links with Kuching. They are particularly close friends of Bishop Bolly Lapok whose retirement is being honoured on the previous day. We give thanks for Bishop Bolly's erudite, wise and compassionate leadership and for his particular appreciation of the wider Anglican Communion and the Lichfield Diocesan Link. [Further information here:](#)



Revd Cathy Mark is a curate at All Saints Streetly and she has just been priested. Just before this she went with the West Midlands Leaders' LinkforLife trip to South Africa and included a week in our Link Diocese of Matlosane. She writes *"I had my first experience of my sermon being translated from English to Setswana. Kgowe did brilliantly in translating (his first gig too, Lol!). God truly carried us, and the sermon was well received by the congregation gathered at St Andrews. What a new experience to be preaching in the African context. And, thankfully, my nerves held and God took over. It was such a joyful and Christ-filled occasion... at times the singing seemed to reverberate to heaven and back again. What a blessing!"* Also *"Today I had the opportunity to visit the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg..... As a black African, it felt important to acknowledge all that happened during the apartheid era to fellow black Africans who were subjected to much human indignity and humiliation (and, sadly, this is not just a South African problem, but very much a human problem, where we fail to see the 'other' in ourselves)."* [Read more:](#)



We were pleased to welcome two pastors from the **Nordkirche** to help celebrate the ordination of deacons at Lichfield on 1st and 2nd of July. Our Partnership Agreement with the Nordkirche expresses a bilateral commitment to support each other's ordinations and licensing's to key ministry positions. OKR Matthias and his wife Pastorin Irene de Boor were accommodated by Bishop Michael and Julia during their brief stay with us. The de Boors brought a greeting from our brothers and sisters of the Nordkirche to the gathered cathedral congregations and the epistle at both services was read in German to emphasise the fact that it is God's Word which brings us together. Whilst Matthias works in the administrative offices of the Nordkirche, Irene serves rural parishes around Schwerin, a city well-known to many visitors of the Nordkirche from Lichfield.



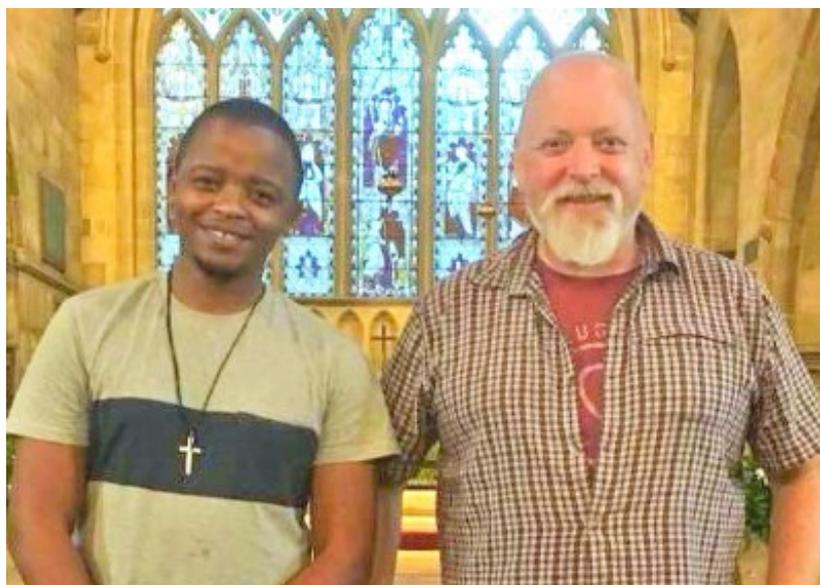
Abbigail Liew – a **St Chad's Volunteer from Malaysia** serving in Shropshire writes: "I

have the opportunity to work with youth and children in my time here at Holy Trinity Meole Brace. I am inspired and encouraged in my faith in seeing the church meeting the need of discipleship in this group. In May, I also had the opportunity to be involved in a school's experience in the Lichfield Cathedral. I was able to share to the children what it is like being a christian in a predominantly Muslim country."

(Above picture: Abbigail working at the church cafe in Radbrook)



The **Kirchentag 2017** fell on the year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and was one of the main events in Germany celebrating the jubilee. It gathered over 100,000 participants of all ages in Berlin; including more than 6,000 foreign participants from 105 countries. It brought together figures from church, political, economic and national life and provided a forum for debates on current social and political challenges, as well as offering opportunities for worship, workshops, music and culture. Read Terry Bloor's fascinating report [here](#):



Steve Deall a recently installed Curate in Abbots Bromley writes about a visit from

Simon Keobakile Seteso from Matlosane "Our friendship is somewhat unusual, we couldn't be more different in our outlooks, our race, our age, or our geographical position, but what is so encouraging is that we have one thing in common, the knowledge that we have both been saved by our Lord Jesus Christ....and that is enough!". [More:](#)

Bushbury Parish Visit to Indonesia Java Peninsula and West Timor



Once more at the invitation of our friends the Dean of Indonesia, Rev Timothy Chong and the Assistant Dean of Indonesia, Rev Yopie Buyung, a Team of 5 likely lads traveled from Bushbury Parish to the Java Peninsula. We were only in South East Asia for 8 days in February. However, we were able to pack in a lot of travelling and ministry. Detailed report [here](#).

St Chad's Volunteer News

- Welcome to *Matthew Gobbett* from Moose Jaw, Qu'Appelle Diocese who has just arrived and comes as our first Canadian Volunteer. He will be based at Holy Trinity, Oswestry.
- In September we will welcome another volunteer from West Malaysia; *Peter Ooi* who will participate in the 'First Steps' Rural Youth Initiative and be linked to Christ Church, Bayston Hill in Shrewsbury.
- 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.



GPS GLOBAL POSITIONING SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone in the Diocese who celebrated **GPS Global Positioning Sunday**. If you see an opportunity during the summer to raise awareness about and to engage with God's world-wide church do use the resources [here](#).

Fr Tommy Merry, Team Vicar in Stoke-on –Trent and Fenton, describes his GPS experience at Christ Church, Fenton: *"The children prayed about the world and used some of the really helpful resources in our session. We then brought a map of the world up during the offertory and lit candles for the places they chose to pray for and all our link dioceses. The final blessing had everyone standing up and waving their arms north and south (after we eventually worked out which way was which!) We had a few alternative world snacks following the service too!"* Fr Tommy is also taking forward their new Parish to Parish Link with Fr Pule Lekoko and the congregation of St Monica's, Kanana, Okney in the Matlosane Diocese. He is visiting the congregation in August.

Book Anticipating Advent Now! This year it is our turn to go over to visit our Companion Link in Northern Germany and be guests of the Nordkirche for a long weekend. We will be based in the attractive city of Rostock and everyone is welcome to take part in this expression of our partnership. We will fly from Manchester on Thursday November 30th and return on Monday December 4th. German speaking is not required! Early booking means the tickets will be cheaper so please book the dates now and let [Terry Bloor](#) know that you would like to participate.

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



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad



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