

Bishop Michael's Trip to Nordkirche

The Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave and his wife Dr Julia Ipgrave 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.

During that time they went to Café Mittenmang in Hamburg, a meeting place for local people and refugees, and visited church projects in Bad Doberan, Rostock and Schwerin that works with refugees and the jobless.

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.

"I pray that churches in the Midlands, in Germany and elsewhere will continue to choose to respond with practical love, care and attention to all who are in need."

Bishop Michael has previously spoken about the importance of building bridges between churches in the Midlands and the rest of Europe in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Revd Christa Hunzinger, who hosted the trip, said: "I am very thankful for Bishop Michael's interest in Nordkirche and the work we are doing, especially with refugees. I totally agree with him that our relations have become even more important after the Referendum for Brexit. We have to work for and live in unity, not hate and separation.



In the cathedral, Bishop Ipgrave (center) was impressed by the Doberan cathedral.