

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

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Sharing in God's Mission Today

Newsletter Issue 7 - Christmas 2017

"A very Happy Christmas and God's Blessings as we partner together in God's World Wide Mission throughout the coming year"– from Philip Swan (Director of World Mission) and Susanna Somerville (World Mission PA).

Welcome to our latest edition with news from around the world! It is an exciting season and we ask for you to please pray for the forthcoming visit to our Companion Diocese of Matlosane in South Africa by Bishop Michael and representatives of the Lichfield Diocese in February 2018.

Rev Dr Albert Walters was welcomed to Lichfield Cathedral in November as he prepared to go from the Diocese of West Malaysia to be Vicar General in Iran. The picture shows (right to left) Rev Dr Albert Walters in the company of Bishop Michael Igrave, Bishop Iraj Mottahedeh Assistant Bishop of this Diocese and former Bishop of Iran, and his wife Minoo. Holy ground....



Just back from Northern Germany!

A group of 11 from Lichfield Diocese had a wonderful visit to Rostock, in the Nordkirche, participating in the annual Anticipating Advent experience.



“These link visits matter so much because they open up our views of our churches and our countries. They remind us, as we actually meet together and make connections, that we are one in Christ wherever we are in the whole world. From my perspective in the Nordkirche I feel we have so much in common and face so many of the same challenges. We are enriched by this sharing of experiences and being able to ask questions together.” Änne Lange Global Partnerships and Ecumenical Relationships, Rostock. For more on this story click [here](#):



Bishop Michael's Trip to Malaysia

A team from across the Diocese spent a wonderful fortnight in SE Asia in October supporting Bishop Michael in strengthening the links with our companion dioceses there. The visit included time in all the dioceses of the Province of SE Asia - Singapore, West Malaysia, Kuching and Sabah meeting old friends and making new ones. The team made up of Philip Swan, Carl Ramsay, Hannah Moor, Steven Deal, Gill Carding, Michael Carding and Simon Jones had an amazing time. [More:](#)

**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



This event will provide opportunities to go deeper in discipleship. 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. On Saturday 14th July Archbishop Moon Hing will lead a day on Advanced Intentional Discipleship for those who are already well experienced in and familiar with Intentional Discipleship. Churches and individuals through the St Chad's Volunteer Programme with 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](#):



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. Canadian Matthew Gobbett arrived from Qu'Appelle Diocese in Canada in July and is based at Holy Trinity in Oswestry. 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 Pollard, from St Bart's Church in Penn, has headed to Qu'Appelle where she will use her administrative skills in the diocesan office there. More [here](#):



Peter Ooi, 24, a St Chad's Volunteer from Penang in Malaysia was commissioned in Lichfield Cathedral in November as the latest young person to come to the Diocese as part of the St Chad's Volunteer Programme.

Michael Carding, Coordinator of the St Chad's Volunteer Programme, enthused: *"We're very delighted today to have commissioned our latest St Chad's Volunteer. Peter is going to use skills he has working with young people at Christ Church, Bayston Hill (near Shrewsbury) and to work in partnership with the 4 Rural Youth project in the Wrockwardine Deanery."*



The Dioceses of Lichfield and Sabah have formally renewed their partnership

The Bishops of Sabah and Lichfield signed the accord while a group from Lichfield were visiting the Malaysian state in October. Rt Revd Melter Tais Bishop of Sabah said *"Personally and as a*

Diocese, this visit is very helpful because it helps us to re-establish our friendship and fellowship with the Diocese of Lichfield." More [here](#):

St Chad's Volunteer News

St Chad's Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator Michael Carding said: *"These are exciting days – we've got nine volunteers ready to come to the diocese and two heading out. We're always looking for parishes who can host oversee volunteers and we're keen to hear from people aged 18-35 who'd like to be based in one of our link dioceses in Canada, South Africa, Malaysia or Germany. It's an opportunity to discern vocation, use existing gifts, discover new ones and experience the richness and diversity of God's worldwide church."*

Find out more about the programme, which is supported financially by St Chad's Trust, at https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/world_mission/scv/

Thank you to everyone who welcomed a group of 30 visitors from Kuching Diocese in S E Asia who were here on an Anglican Heritage Tour.

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

Philip Swan

Director of World Mission

Lichfield Diocese



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