

Enabling.....Bishop's Lent Appeal 2014

(To accompany the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2014 leaflet; to be used alongside the Lent Course on the Five Rhythms of Grace or as a 'one-off')

The Community of Saint Chad has identified 5 aspirational statements known as *Rhythms of Grace*, which when embraced, will nurture spiritual growth and foster Christian discipleship (see the Community of Saint Chad Booklet). The three causes identified by Bishop Jonathan for this year's Lent Appeal connect particularly to Rhythms 4 & 5:



Enabling Church..... Churches for All



Rhythm 4 *By God's Grace I will endeavour to be a gracious presence in the world serving others and working for justice in human relationships and social structures*

1. Churches for All is an umbrella organisation bringing together nine Christian charities working with those with disabilities, including Livability, Prospects, Through the Roof and Torch Trust. On Tuesday 3rd June, they are organising a regional Enabling Church day conference in West Bromwich on Disability, Wholeness and Christian Theology to support the ministry that churches around the West Midlands share with those with disabilities. For further details, and to book, visit www.churchesforall.org.uk/EnablingChurch. Who, from your church, will be attending this conference? Can you be there?
2. In Jesus's time, men were prioritised ahead of women, adults ahead of children, and the healthy ahead of those with physical and mental illnesses. Throughout his ministry, Jesus challenged such injustices. In our community, who is excluded from a fair share of the resources we enjoy, who is left isolated on the margins of our society? How can we form relationships with those who suffer discrimination, and stand in solidarity with them? How can your church be involved now?
3. In October we had a Harvest Celebration for those with learning difficulties from around the diocese. The worship was inspirational and spontaneous, as you can see from the five minute video on the diocesan website www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourdiocese/videos. In what way has our faith been challenged by those who may have less in eyes of the world, but much more in the heart of God?
4. Last year, 25 parishes committed to become dementia-friendly churches, and another seven have already joined this year. There are resources to help us all reflect on how, in our church building, our worship, our pastoral care and our community engagement, we can share in ministry with those who suffer from dementia and with their carers. Watch the seven minute video on the diocesan website (as above) and contact David Primrose, our Diocesan Director of Transforming Communities to discuss how your church can be dementia-friendly.

Enabling Disciples.....AsiaCMS and Rooted in Jesus

Rhythm 5 *By God's grace I will sensitively share my faith with others and support God's mission both locally and globally*

1. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) with the call to 'Go' has inspired generations of Christians to go from Europe and America to Africa and Asia. However increasingly we are seeing all that God is doing in the world and rather than suggesting that mission is 'from here to there' we are seeing it more as a movement of God's Spirit 'from everywhere to everywhere'. *How does AsiaCMS illustrate this?*



2. The Diocese of Singapore, with whom we are linked, has shown great vision in forming 6 Mission Deaneries which includes Indonesia, Vietnam and Laos! We have been invited to send teachers of English for short term assistance under their Mission Gateways initiative to assist in mission. So far only one person from this diocese has been able to serve in this way. *Might you be able to respond or has God called you to stay where you are?*

3. The Church of Christ the King in Radbrook Green, Meole Brace has recently begun to support two mission partners working with AsiaCMS in Kuala Lumpur. This is a good way of being informed for prayer and support and through a personal link taking an interest in what God is doing far away from our immediate context. *Does your church support any mission partners? Would you like to?*

4. **Rooted in Jesus** is a fast growing group course in Christian discipleship written for use throughout Africa. It is currently in use in 57 dioceses or denominations in 15 African countries, where it has been translated into 35 languages. An estimated 75,000 people are meeting in *Rooted in Jesus* groups in these countries, and the number is growing all the time. There is also a companion *Rooted in Jesus Junior* course for use in Sunday Schools. *What has been your experience of Christian discipleship?*



5. Tim Carter from this Diocese has recently been to the Democratic Republic of Congo to be part of a team teaching the Rooted in Jesus Course alongside a number of local African leaders. See 2 Tim 2:2 and discuss the importance of the passing on our faith to others. *How can we sensitively share our faith locally and globally?*

