

GPS Sunday 2017 Longer Version (text for ppt)

Slide 1 This is the second year in which we are encouraging churches to hold a special GPS Global Positioning Sunday. This is a chance to focus on God's worldwide mission. This powerpoint gives some background to world mission in the Lichfield Diocese. It introduces our four established Companion Links overseas and also suggests a number of other ways in which we can engage with world mission. Full resources for GPS Sunday are available on the World Mission Web https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/world_mission/

Slide 2 World Mission is not only concerned with mission in far away countries but also to do with the world that has come here. It is so important to remember that all over the world God's Spirit is moving and the centres of world mission are increasingly in Africa and Asia. It is important too to engage with different faith traditions in our context as well as building bridges of understanding and fellowship with the many global churches which flourish in the UK.

Slide 3 A phrase which encapsulates the importance of the global dimension in mission and the way in which our understanding of Christ is enriched and enlarged through insights from the world wide church. Are we willing to learn?

Slide 4 Bishop Michael's Installation. Bishops from South Africa, Singapore, Sabah, Qu'Appelle, Canada.....

Slide 5 Historically the 'Great Commission' from Matthew 28:19-20 has inspired many to go as missionaries and mission partners to the four corners of the earth. In fact in our time world mission has been described as a movement 'from everywhere to everywhere', which recognises that Europe is in need of missionaries from Africa and Asia.

Slide 6 This year's Lent appeal coordinated by the Anglican Mission Agency USPG.

Slide 7 Sanctus in Stoke on Trent – where there is a great sense of being blessed by people of different cultures and faiths. We see inspiring expressions of global Christianity in Stoke as well as seeing many turn to Christ for the first time.

Slide 8 Part of the annual Community of Saint Chad pilgrimage along a stretch of the Two Saints Way in Stoke. Participants included members of Sanctus. Heaven will be multi-cultural so it is good to find ways of experiencing this here and now.

Slide 9 The Anglican Communion, of which the Church of England is a part, has more than 85 million members from over 165 countries. It faces challenges and brings joy – like our own congregations?

Slide 10 See the good news, the bad news and the challenge...

Slide 11 The Anglican Communion, of which the Church of England is a part, has more than 85 million members from over 165 countries. See the four Companion Diocesan links which follow a North, South, East West spread. In the North, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Northern Germany, The Nordkirche; in the South the Diocese of Matlosane in South Africa; in the East the four Dioceses making up the Province of South East Asia: West Malaysia, Singapore, Kuching and Sabah and finally in the West the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in Canada. We have formal covenant agreements with all of these Dioceses and are committed to working together and following Christ in partnership with each other. Whilst the Diocese links with all four of these it may be that particular parishes and benefices are drawn to one in particular.

Slide 12 Our only ecumenical link. Formally with Mecklenburg but now including churches from what was formerly West Germany for instance Hamburg. In post Brexit Britain these European links take on a special new significance.

Slide 13 Matlosane; we see inspiring examples of resilience and joy filled service and worship in post apartheid South Africa and see the challenges of poverty and scarce physical resources.

Slide 14 The Anglican church in South East Asia is vibrant and experiencing the challenges of living as a minority under Islamic dominated leadership. Many of the churches have a deep commitment to evangelism and discipleship. Singapore has developed a ministry to six missionary deaneries including Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam where they use the teaching of English to pioneer missional openings and the planting of churches. There are many openings for volunteers to assist with this.

Slide 15 Much of Qu'Appelle Diocese is rural and many of the challenges being faced are similar to those facing the Church of England. Interestingly 'Truth and Reconciliation' features strongly in the life of the Diocese as the church seeks to build bridges with the First Nation Peoples following a history of abuse and exploitation.

Slide 16 What does Christ look like to you? Whilst we may forget that he was Jewish and came from the Middle East and did not have blue eyes and a blond beard, we can also seek to identify with the enriching ways in which Jesus can be seen in different cultural contexts. This is taken from the excellent 'The Christ We Share' resources which include some 30 depictions of Christ in different cultures. Here in this African setting we are reminded of the importance of breaking bread and sharing food together.

Slide 17 Here are some suggestions as to how we can respond. Try to identify ways which work in your context.

Slide 18 A number of churches throughout the Diocese have developed Parish to Parish Links. These are very much an expression of partnership and need not cost anything in financial terms! The real cost is of time and love as we share together and keep informed on a regular basis. A sheet is available giving guidance as to how this can progressed.

Slide 19 Prayer is at the heart of world mission. The Prayer Mate App makes it so easy to access the Diocesan 'feed' for daily prayer.

Slide 20 This Diocesan based initiative gives an inspiring example of how links can be made with your local school. LinkforLife connects the church with a local school and community with a focus on South Africa.

Slide 21 Let us remember the persecuted suffering church. There are many ways of focusing on this – here are a few suggestions.

Slide 22 Mission Agencies such as these have some excellent resources and also speakers who would happily come to your church to preach and share.

Slide 23 The St Chad's Volunteer Programme is one of the most exciting ways in which the Diocese connects with World Mission particularly amongst young adults. It enables 18-35 year olds to visit any of our Companion Links for between 6-12 months and for young adults to this Diocese to come to serve in different ways based in a church setting often in the capacity of a lay assistant, children or youth worker or worship leader.

Slide 24 St Chad's Volunteers: Kgowe from Matlosane who was based at All Saints Streetly; Jelena from Nordkirche who was based at Forsbrook, Stoke; Christine based at Aldridge Parish Church and Andrew Soon based with the Central Telford Team

Slide 25 Bishop Michael is visiting all of our Companion Dioceses in the first 18 months of his ministry. On the 21st October he will be at a big Missionary Conference on Singapore and the Diocesan Synod will link with him digitally and use the opportunity to focus on world mission.

Slide 26 GPS Prayer – closing slide