A message from Bishop Michael

I am delighted to introduce the 2020 Bishop’s Lent Appeal in the Diocese of Lichfield. This year we are looking to support some of the most vulnerable people with whom we come into contact, knowing that all people are precious in God’s sight and that he has a particular care for the needy. Acorns Hospice in the Black Country has been quietly working to support children with life-changing and life-threatening illnesses, and their families, for many years. Their work honours all lives, no matter how short, and provides essential care and respite to families facing serious illness and disability in their children. They are based next door to one of our churches, St Gabriel’s, Walsall, and value support from St Gabriel’s. The Revd Preb Mark McIntyre, the parish priest, has been very active in helping to publicize the appeal to save Acorns hospice, and is grateful to him for first drawing the Appeal to my attention. I would be very sorry indeed to see the hospice forced to close, but with your support and the hard work of the hospice and local people I am optimistic that its future can be safeguarded and its vital work with children and their families can continue.

A very different project which I have chosen to support comes from the Diocese of Mafutsane, our link diocese in South Africa. Those of you who have been to Mafutsane or met anyone from the diocese will know that it is a wonderful place full of Christians with a deep and lively faith. It is also a place that faces many challenges, notably the toll taken by extremes of poverty, by climate change, and by other serious social issues faced in more at lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal-2020

How can you support the Appeal:

- **Gift Aid**: If you can increase the value of your donation at no cost to yourself. You can donate through your parish church, using the form below, online at: lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal-2020
- **Cheque**: Please make your cheque payable to ‘Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal’ and post to: lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal-2020
- **Via JustGiving**

Please return this form with your donation to:

The Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal 2020
Bishop’s House, 22 The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7SG

More about the Appeal:

- **Grief**: by Gift Aid if you can increase the value of your donation at no cost to yourself. You can donate through your parish church, using the form below, online at: lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal-2020
- **Feedback**: The Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal 2020
- **Action**: Look at the website for the Acorns Appeal under ‘getting involved’ and consider some of the suggestions there: acorns.org.uk/get-involved/
- **Ways to give**: The Revd Deacon Mark McIntyre, Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield.

For more information about what you can do to or to invite speakers to churches, house groups, or youth groups, contact:

The Revd Dr Rebecca Lloyd, Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield.
E: rebecca.lloyd@lichfield.anglican.org

www.lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal-2020

...Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you..." (Isaiah 43:4)
Case Studies

Acorns Jacobs story

Jacobs Leukaemia is a battle for life. He faces running around playing football and spending up and down in hospital in his favourite colour, blue.

He is in the midst of active treatment yet as he plays around the treatment room, he never talks about it, he never says there is a problem, he never shows any signs of stress or anxiety which is why we are worried. We are looking to raise money to help him do this.

But mum Karen and dad Dan, make sure Jacobs gets to play as like every other young child. He is so much better than the others he has met in hospital.

"In the end of active treatment we meet everyone in the hospital and I have to say there are not many people who know how we are feeling and what it is like to go through this, but we have a team of nurses who are so responsive towards the children and I am passionate about doing anything to make this better for all the children that go through cancer and come out the other side."

"When those and I met at Acorns I feel at ease. They are so understanding and they are always there for me and my family."}

Acorns: Theo and Leona's story

The Acorn staff are so understanding and it is such a great place to bring the children and the team are so nice to all the children. They are always happy and just generally understanding.

The hospice has been really beneficial from coming to Acorns. Every time they came they are so friendly and make you feel special. It is such a great place to bring them and the children.

Clergy families in Madagascar

The Diocese of Madagascar covers two and half the South West Province of South Africa, an area of 34,432 square miles and 1,455 miles from north to south, and 667 miles from east to west. Its Cathedral in the Cathedral of the Restoration at Targami, near Antananarivo, in the south of the country.

The Diocese has 6 clergy serving 60,000 communions. There are 30 churches in the Diocese.

The Diocese has seen significant growth in recent years and many more clergy have been ordained.