"I am delighted to introduce the 2018 Bishop’s Lent Appeal in the Diocese of Lichfield. As I have travelled around the Diocese over my first year in the role I have been impressed by several projects in and beyond our churches which seek to support families in difficulty or crisis.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, from the simple unit of mother and child to complex networks of kinship and relation. They are the places where we find support and nurture but can also be places of struggle, pain, and brokenness. All relationships of love help bring us closer to the love that is God in Trinity. I believe that we need to support families as a way of helping others into that love that we as Christians have found for ourselves. Please do open your hearts and wallets this Lent to support families in need in this Diocese and beyond."

Michael Lichfield

A message from the Bishop

How can you support the Appeal:

GIVE by Gift Aid if you can to increase the value of your donation at no cost to yourself. You can donate through your local parish church, using the form below, online at lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal_2018 or by text.

PRAY for children and families and those who support them.

ACT by telling us about any other charities and organisations in your community that are supporting families in difficulty.

For more information about what you can do, or to invite speakers to churches, house groups, or youth fellowships, contact:
The Rev’d Dr Rebecca Lloyd,
Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield,
T: 01543 304003
E: rebecca.lloyd@lichfield.anglican.org
lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal_2018

Please return this form with your donation to:
The Bishop’s Lent Appeal, Bishop’s House, 22 The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LG.

More info:
Via cheques...
Please make your cheque payable to “Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal”

Via just giving...
Online: www.justgiving.com/lentappeal2018 Text: Lent54 £ (insert amount) to 70070
(eg. Lent54 £10 then send to 70070
(These messages are free to send on all networks.)

I want the Diocese to treat the enclosed donation of as Gift Aid

Title: ........................................... Forename(s): .............................................................................................
Surname: ........................................................................................................................................
Home Address: ..............................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................................
Postcode: ...................................

I wish Gift Aid to apply to my donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Signature........................................................................................... Date ......................................

For more information at lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal_2018
This year’s Bishop’s Lent Appeal supports families

Safe Families for Children is a national, Christian charity that partners with local churches in the West Midlands to put volunteers around struggling families, providing the support of a ‘trusted friend’ where they don’t have that, helping families in the community stay together.

Sharon’s story: Sharon suffered with poor mental health and was referred when her youngest child was due to be born. With a history of domestic abuse there was little support from her family. Volunteers provided 4 nights hosting for Sharon’s other children while she went into hospital. She was also supported by a family friend in attending a local play and stay session, to build confidence and develop positive relationships. A resource friend helped her to move and furnish her new home too. Sharon felt more confident and able to face life and was so grateful that her family stayed together.

We intend to give small grants to a variety of local projects supporting families in need. These include The Pathway Project in Lichfield, which offers help and support to those escaping domestic abuse.

Bishop Michael is a patron of Pathway. One story illustrates the short- and long-term difference they make to families:

“A young man contacted us, 16 years after being in our refuge as a child with his mother and siblings. He wanted to thank us for looking after them all and said that thanks to our care and support he was a stronger, more confident person, and that he thought he had a young son and wanted to make sure that he was a better father than his had been and was going to make sure that the mistakes of the past would never repeat themselves.”

Current projects in these two houses include a school which includes a facility for adolescent mothers to bring their babies and continue their education, and a choir, Cor Videns, which has enabled many children to escape the street and provided many others with food, accommodation and other support for their families. Singing also helps the children therapeutically. Other children get involved in the sports projects the centres run, or benefit from the educational support, school supplies, or Christmas presents that the charity provides to families in need.

This charity works in Medellin, Columbia’s second-largest city and was founded by Fr Peter Walters who had been moved by the plight of the street children he first met when travelling as a student. He listened to their stories: families displaced by Columbia’s long-running civil and drug wars, parents killed and step-parents who often subjected the children to abuse or turned them out onto the street. Children sent out to work on the street and, worst of all, those who regarded the children as rubbish and called them “the disposable ones.”

Let the Children Live! is a charity of last resort, and there is no other safety-net below it. They work with children living in the street, children working in the street, children with special needs, young mothers and their babies and all the day to day needs that they find in the streets and shanty towns. They run Casa Walsingham where children receive food, advice, support and, if they want it, Christian spiritual formation. Recently a grant from Duncan Bannatyne enabled the opening of a residential centre, llamayane House, where children can participate in activities and stay as a safe place away from the streets.

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