Dear Friends and Partners in the Gospel,

Greetings in Jesus Name. We rejoice that Jesus is Lord of the Church and that through the St Chad’s Volunteer Programme we have seen lives changed as individuals have served God in different cultural contexts. Of course change does not always come easy – it is frightening how deeply we can hold on to the idea that our way of doing things is the only way and certainly the best! So thank you to all of you who have helped to broaden our horizons and thank you to our Volunteers too for being willing to go through that often painful process of learning that God is bigger than we thought.

It is impossible to be a St Chad’s Volunteer without realising how much Wendy Ford, as Volunteer Coordinator, does in both an administrative and pastoral capacity. And so we are sad that she has decided that the time has come for her to retire from this role. We want to say a big THANK YOU to Wendy for the reliable, efficient, thoughtful, generous and caring way in which she has carried out the many aspects of this job.
We are now left with the challenge of finding a replacement for her. If you know someone who might be interested and suitably gifted, with definite administrative skills, an eye for detail, efficient, pastorally sensitive and preferably with an interest in the formation of young leaders – do please let me know. The amount of time that this job takes will vary depending on how many Volunteers are around, so it can be just a few hours or as much as ten per week. There is no salary for this post but an honorarium is available.

‘Enriching Partnerships’ is the exciting Diocesan Theme for 2016 in West Malaysia. We are delighted that Bishop Moon Hing, such an inspirational and faithful supporter of the SCVP, is to be installed as Archbishop of the Province South East Asia in February and our prayers, as partners in the Gospel, go with him and his family.

David Brown, along with four others who are keen to develop the SCVP, is visiting West Malaysia and Singapore in February, so they will be able to attend the Installation. I am visiting in January with Charlotte to speak at the Diocesan Clergy and Lay Leaders’ Conference so it will be wonderful to re-connect with Volunteers and their families.

We are very pleased that Jeremy Dillon has been able to go as our second Volunteer to take part in the Mission Gateway Programme (Teaching of English in S E Asia), and is based in Hanoi, Vietnam. We continue to break new ground with our other links; Jelena Kasten is our first long term Volunteer to be placed here from Mecklenburg in the Nordkirche, whilst Sarah Partington from Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries is on a placement in Guestrow in Northern Germany. We are hoping too to receive Phillip Kgowe Moleme as our first Volunteer from Matlosane early in 2016.

With thanks for your partnership in the Gospel and prayers that we will all be enriched through our partnership in the Gospel in 2016.

Philip
NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS
IN LICHFIELD DIOCESE AND OUR COMPANION DIOCESES

JEREMY DILLON

Jeremy (34) from All Saints church in Wellington is our first volunteer to be placed in Vietnam, a Deanery of the Diocese of Singapore, as part of that Diocese’s ‘Mission Gateway’ programme. He left the UK in August and his placement in Hanoi is for a year. He is seen here with students eating chim (quail).

Jeremy went initially to Singapore and joined in the Missions Conference where he learnt what is happening in the 6 outreach deaneries of Singapore diocese. Jeremy is now teaching English at the Abba English Language Centre in Hanoi and supporting the growing congregation there.

He writes: "My work here is two-fold. Firstly, I teach English to a number of people throughout the week, both children and adults. This can be both challenging, and rewarding, depending on their age or ability. The second part of my work is supporting the Pastor here, through development of young people through social media and preaching, encouraging the music team, leading worship and daily prayers. Eventually, I will lead my own study group, and have already helped pioneer a youth meeting once a month. The youth here come largely from the countryside, and the challenge of building a City congregation is an interesting task....."
JELENA KASTEN

Jelena (19) from the Cathedral Parish of Schwerin, Germany, is the first volunteer from our companionship link with the Lutheran church of Mecklenburg/Nordkirche. Jelena is based at St Paul’s, Forsbrook, for the year September 2014 – August 2015.

Jelena, who wishes to become a teacher of English and RE, is working particularly with young children and is very involved with Forsbrook Primary School, as well as helping with Youth groups, Sunday School and Tiddlers at church.

She says “Two days a week I spend in Forsbrook Primary School with Year 5. My class is just amazing and I always look forward to spend my day with them. Tuesdays I am with Tiddlers and it is really good fun to laugh, jump and play with the little ones. The evenings of Thursday and Friday I spend with different youth groups……..What I like most about my placement is that I could always bring in my own ideas, act partly independent and the diversity of my tasks”.

SARAH PARTINGTON

Sarah (18) from Vitalise, Wolverhampton, is our first volunteer to be placed with the Lutheran church in Mecklenburg/Nordkirche. She left for Germany, where she is based at Guestrow Cathedral, on 1st October and will return after Easter 2016.

Sarah works closely with the youth worker and has already been involved planning a large event in January when all the young people come together and live for a week in the cathedral. Lego Day, painting an ornate bible stand and trips out and away feature high on her agenda.

She also adds: “I’ve just got back from a youth weekend away to Berlin. We stayed in the sports hall at Lobetal (a little village just outside of Berlin) and it was really great to get to know the young people from here a little better. They just don’t stop singing, it’s brilliant! To celebrate the official reunification of Germany, a few of the youth went to the Baltic sea for the day which was great (see photo above)...... I’ve also joined the Cathedral choir which is something new for me but actually a lot of fun! It’s going really well here and I’m excited to get even more involved with the children and young people’s work.”
Christopher Soe
Dovedale House 2014 – 2015

Christopher was our first volunteer to serve at Dovedale House – the Diocesan Youth Centre – in Ilam, Derbyshire, right on the outer fringes of the Diocese. He finished in March, returned to Malaysia and is studying English Law at University – ready to return to the UK?

He writes in his own inimitable way: “Hey there! To those who are reading, how are you? I am doing good here back in Malaysia! I started my degree at the end of March and also working (part-time) during my free time. Life here is busy, compare to Dovedale, and is also noisy, compare to Ilam. I am missing everyone back there and I hope to see you guys in the future!”

Stephanie Yong
All Saints, Wellington, Telford 2014 – 2015

Stephanie was based at All Saints, Wellington, Telford. All Saints parish and Vitalise, Wolverhampton, vie for the largest number of volunteer placements since the beginning of the programme. All Saints: 2 out & 1 in – all Malaysia linked. Vitalise: 3 out – to Canada, West Malaysia and Germany.

Stephanie returned to Malaysia in August having completed a very full and fulfilling placement. She writes: “I have been attending HTBB church in Kuala Lumpur. I am working as a tutor now and will continue my studies in January.”
Ching Li (35) was our first Deaconess volunteer and was based at the Peel Parishes, near Tamworth in Staffordshire. She is seen here with the Ministry Team of the parishes.

Chingli finished her year’s placement at the end of August and has recently updated us: “I have just finished my one year volunteer at Peel parishes. I am posted to the diocesan office as Secretary for Anglican Mission School Board. As for my weekend posting, I am temporarily at All Saints’ Church KL until year end….when All Saints’ will have their new priest.” We have just learnt that Ching Li will then be posted to Life Sanctuary, Petaling Jaya.

We have received the good news - Anthony graduated this year from STM and was ordained Deacon by Bishop Moon Hing on 30th October at All Saints Church, Taiping.

Wai Theng moved jobs but is now ‘animating’ in Kuala Lumpur as well as ‘doodling’ under the non-de-plume Charis Doodling – often puns or song titles, as here “You are the apple of my heart”.

We have just learnt that Ching Li will then be posted to Life Sanctuary, Petaling Jaya.
Wai Theng updates us: “I have been busy since September and will be getting much busier until next January. Currently I am working on my first illustration book. Will be printed in small amount of copies for sale…… and nett profit will donate to NGO organisation.” Wai Theng is also looking forward to her first trip away in December.

NICOLE PUA  WROCKWARDINE WOOD DEANERY, SHROPSHIRE, 2009 – 2010

Nicolette got in touch while she was visiting the UK and gave this update “I am now working as a freelance marketing representative for a cosmetics company, dealing especially with their internet publicity…… also venturing into voiceover jobs for advertisements and corporate materials. I still enjoy the piano and practising the violin, which I have recently returned to playing.” While in the UK Nicole spent some time with friends from her placement area and was fortunate to be able to attend Bishop Jonathan’s farewell service in Lichfield Cathedral.

MELISSA LAI  St MARK’S, SHELFIELD 2008 – 2009

Melissa writes: “Last July, I was appointed the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) chairman for a term of 4 years. The DYC takes care of those aged 12-35 in the Diocese and it is a great privilege to be able to serve them. My first project is to organise the 63rd annual Diocesan English Youth Camp – a tall order! This also meant my participation at SYNOD this year – my very first! It’s reminiscent of my time as a St Chad’s Volunteer when, with Revd. Jenny Hill (then vicar of St Mark’s, Sheffield and Rural Dean of Walsall) we would visit many churches in the Deanery and I would get to know who’s who. I am looking forward to working alongside the various Archdeaconries and churches in the Diocese in reaching out to this younger generation. Please do pray for our work, that it will continue to establish the youth and young adults in the knowledge of Christ, and bring glory to God”.

Melissa is seen here, on the left of Bishop Moon Hing, being introduced at her first Diocesan Synod. On the Bishop’s right is HELINA SOLOMON - LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL 2008 - 2009.
However Julie has recently written: “Since late May this year I have been less active and unwell at times. I was diagnosed with dengue and my blood platelet was very low then. Thank God I got better after a week of hospitalization. I was told that recovery for dengue is slow and may take half a year or so. I get very tired (physically) quickly. Other than that, I am still happy doing/selling my home baking cakes and sugarpaste work but at a much slower pace for now.” We wish Julie a complete and speedy recovery.

Reggie’s sister now lives in Australia and Reggie was able to visit her while she was between jobs. She writes: “………..It was very refreshing as I didn’t have to worry about work or deadlines and had a completely relaxing time catching up with relatives, friends and with God. As I mentioned, I just began a new job - it is similar to Uber - but we provide both taxi and private cars. The job is very much an answered prayer. I can now walk to work (pending the haze) and lunch is provided. On top of that, I get a certain amount of free taxi rides a month - which means I can save a significant amount now, especially considering the cost of living in KL has increased……. in a nutshell, we are blessed and doing well.”

Many more of the Volunteers can be followed on Facebook. Try the St Chad’s page at Facebook. http://on.fb.me/16wa8WK or search for the individual volunteers you know.

It was on Facebook that Bishop Moon Hing posted the following news earlier this year, concerning the very first St. Chad’s Volunteer:
We wish Marie, Gerrad and their daughter much joy and remember too the other returned volunteers in Malaysia who are also proud parents –

PADMINI RAJARATNAM  BETLEY AND MADELEY 2005 and RAY HUDSON  UTTOXETER YOUTH MINISTRY 2007 - 2008

RETURNED VOLUNTEERS

BACK IN THE UK

This time last year the “Hot off the press” news was of our first volunteer hoping to serve at St Mary’s Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur. He is now home having completed his placement........

JOSEPH POOLE  KUALA LUMPER, DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA 2015

Joe Poole (19) from St James, Bushbury (where his father is vicar) and Vitalise, Wolverhampton, was based at St Mary’s Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur, from March – August.
While there, Joe assisted in organising and installing a new sound system for the cathedral. He also worked with Kid’s Church (3 – 5 year olds) and was very involved in Bible Study groups. Joe particularly wished to thank all his friends, colleagues and mentors in Malaysia for their care, guidance and encouragement about living a life of Christian faith. On his return to England, Joe admitted that it felt rather surreal: “like I’m on holiday in England and returning to Malaysia, whereas I’ve actually come home to stay for the foreseeable future…….. I’m trying to find a job whilst occupying myself with other tasks (sorry that’s not too interesting).”

**MATT TEATHER**  
*ST NICHOLAS HOME, PENANG, WEST MALAYSIA  2007 – 2008*

Matt has recently written: “I continue to work as Associate Director of Development at the Woolf Institute in Cambridge. We have now secured planning permission, and will begin construction of our permanent new home in the grounds of Westminster College, Cambridge …..We are due to complete the project and move in Sept 2017.  

Founded in 1998, The Woolf Institute strives towards a world where people of all religions and none treat one another with tolerance, respect and dignity. With a core focus on the Abrahamic religions, the Institute was borne of a simple and yet hopeful premise: that through robust academic study of the historical encounter between Jews, Christians and Muslims, we can better understand our society at present, and thus inform and shape a more tolerant, respectful and collective future together.”  

“Amen” to that.

**JOHN SHEARD**  
*KUCHING, EAST MALAYSIA  2006*

A welcome update from an earlier volunteer: “I am still living and working in Wolverhampton. I am starting a new job in September as assistant head of a local primary school. Looking forward to the challenge and working alongside a new group of people.”

**TIM MAYO**  
*DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA 2005*

Another update from one of our early volunteers: “I’ve just completed two years working in the communications office at the Church of England’s National office in Westminster. I’m now working with the parts of the church looking after the historic assets and who are involved in supporting the mission and ministry of the church across the country.  

Kate, Ethan (who is now two) and I are still in Reading. We’re stuck into church life (I’m still involved in the worship!) and spending lots of time with our Christian brothers and sisters doing life together…….. our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the church family across the globe.”
And finally, news of another early volunteer and her baby’s birth. Michael and Jane Sheard wrote in April with news of their niece:

HANNAH SHEARD  DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA 2005

“…………though her name is now Hannah Scothern. She married about a year ago and has just given birth to a daughter, Matilda…….They are living in Peterborough and she is teaching (not at the moment, of course).”

Maybe our volunteers’ children will become the St Chad’s Volunteers of the future?!

NEW VOLUNTEERS
IN THE UK

“Hot off the press” this year is the news that two new volunteers from West Malaysia and one from our companion diocese of Matlosane in South Africa have been recommended as St Chad’s Volunteers. They are in the process of applying for Visas. Please pray for these volunteers and that their visas will be granted without difficulty.

CHRISTINE CH’NG  (25) from St. Paul’s Church, Penang, will serve at Aldridge Parish Church (where MIRIAM SAMUEL was based last year).

ANDREW SOON  (24) and also from St. Paul’s Church, Penang, has just applied and a placement is being sought for him.

KGOWE PHILLIP MOLEME  (31) is from St Michaels and All Angels church, Coligny, in the Diocese of Matlosane. Work is ongoing to formulate a placement for him at All Saints, Streetly.
PRAYER FOCUS

We give thanks to God for.....
• All that Wendy Ford has contributed as Volunteer Coordinator
• The continuing wisdom, oversight and stewardship provided by the Trustees.
• All that God is doing in the lives of previous Volunteers and their families.

Please pray for.....
• Someone to take over from Wendy Ford!
• For Bishop Moon Hing as he prepares to become Archbishop of the Province of S E Asia
• Visas and arrangements connecting with the arrival of new Volunteers

How to use this Newsletter:
• Please use the information to pray for St Chad’s Volunteers, the Programme and the Trust
• This material is for limited circulation. If you wish to reproduce any of the information please contact the Editor: Wendy Ford: 01743-246352 or at rgwa4569@talktalk.net
• To support St Chad’s Trust financially, please contact the Chair of the Trustees, Captain David Brown: 01889-500232 or at cdsb@neovista.net
• To contribute on-line to our appeal please visit The Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/scvp and it is also possible to donate by text: - you just need to put SCVP99 and the amount of the gift in a text message and send it to 70070
• For further information about the St Chad’s Volunteer Programme please contact Revd Philip Swan at the World Mission Office: 01922-707860 or at philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org

If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please contact the editor or any of the above