

Spotlight

May/June 2018

Screening the Mission

Short videos which showcase pioneering mission work in the Diocese are available to view and share. Bishop Michael launched the four mission projects 12 months ago. They explore different approaches to mission parishes, schools, chaplaincies and fresh expressions of church.

Church and School Together in Worship and Mission



This project seeks to develop links between



4 Rural Youth

Small parishes working together can be the source of something greater than the sum of their parts. This project is experimenting with different ways to grow young disciples and provide fellowship in sparsely populated areas in Shrewsbury Episcopal Area. It is considering ways to foster rural disciples when they move

to secondary schools with a chaplaincy project in Holy Trinity Academy, Telford.

schools and churches in the Stafford Episcopal Area. The Wow Factor in Worship offers 24-hour retreats for staff and students at the diocesan retreat centre Dovedale House in stunning surroundings. The Lighthouse Project in Stoke-on-Trent is a pioneering partnership between Kingsland CE Academy and a local church. The school's former Children's Centre is being developed to provide services in an area with few local resources. Connect 2 is a small missional community which meets in a primary school in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

[continues on p2 ->](#)



DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD



Screening the Mission 2

Walsall Heathlands Mission
Blakenall Heath has the highest poverty and crime rates in Walsall borough. This project is a unique partnership between the local parish, diocese and Latimer Minster - a missional Anglican church based in Buckinghamshire.



The idea is to move the parish onto a 'mission footing' and enable growth.

'Sanctuary, Refectory, Road' is a guiding theme - calling people to worship and prayer; community and eating together; and openness and engagement with the wider community.



Watch the videos now at www.lichfield.anglican.org/mission_projects/

Chaplaincy At Work

Exciting initiatives are breathing fresh life into chaplaincy. Two projects, covering both 'white' and 'blue' collar workers, are providing areas for learning. Ministry At Work focuses on the faith of executives and others in positions of responsibility. It is helping these professionals navigate their Monday-Saturday life of faith and



make difficult decisions well. Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) is a well-established local partnership providing chaplaincy



to manufacturers, retail centres, council offices, fire stations, bus garages and many others. Many of the chaplains are lay volunteers.

Toddler prayer marathon

People are being invited to pray for one of the biggest potential mission opportunities in Lichfield Diocese – toddler groups.

will provide a space for children and adults to discover themselves and encounter the hope and love of Jesus Christ."

Church-based toddler groups are increasingly recognised as a valuable resource within local communities. With research showing that over half of all under 4s had been part of such groups, up to 2 million children and their families could be reached at any one time.



Use these points to help you pray for each deanery:

- Pray for families to find their local group, especially families who

June is the *National Month of Prayer for Toddler* groups and people are being asked to take part in a prayer marathon for toddler groups across the diocese (see below).

Toddlers and grandparents in action at Little Fishes, run by All Saints Alrewas and Alrewas Methodist churches.



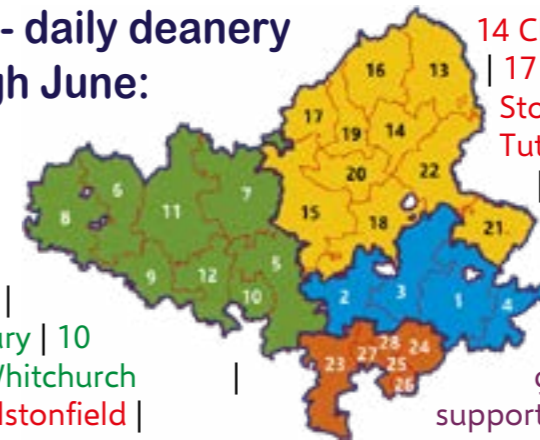
Laura Edwards, the Diocese's Under 5s and Families Enabler, said: "Toddler groups provide a valuable gift to the community and can create a safe and welcoming space for children and their families where they can feel accepted and invited to experience God's love. During this National Month of Prayer, let us pray that toddler groups

- Pray for groups to really work hard at giving a warm welcome; it can be so hard to walk through the door for the first time!
- Pray for more volunteers to help in the groups.
- Pray for groups in church premises, that the church community and church leaders will see the huge potential for positive relationships with the families who come.

Further ideas for the National Month of Prayer can be found at www.1277.org.uk. Contact Laura at laura.edwards@lichfield.anglican.org

Prayer Marathon - daily deanery to pray for through June:

- 1 Lichfield | 2 Penkridge | 3 Rugeley | 4 Tamworth | 5 Edgmond and Shifnal | 6 Ellesmere | 7 Hodnet | 8 Oswestry | 9 Shrewsbury | 10 Telford | 11 Wem and Whitchurch | 12 Wrockwardine | 13 Alstonfield |



- 14 Cheadle | 15 Eccleshall | 16 Leek | 17 Newcastle | 18 Stafford | 19 Stoke-upon-Trent | 20 Stone | 21 Tutbury | 22 Uttoxeter | 23 Trysull | 24 Walsall | 25 Wednesbury | 26 West Bromwich | 27 Wolverhampton | 28 Wulfrun | 29 For Toddler church services across the Diocese | 30 For the growth of Under 5's networks to support volunteers

Music be the food of calling

The Vocations team are getting ready for the Encourage Festival which will take place on 7 July at Shallowford House.

The day festival celebrates God's call to us all and encourages participants and attendees to think about what they are passionate about and how we want to live as Christians.

In addition to range of live music, speakers, poetry, crafts and other activities that were enjoyed by festival-goers last year, this year there will also be a focus on food. We will be celebrating abundance with local food and drink and thinking about tackling food waste.



Anna Pitt, author of *Leftover Pie: 101 Ways to Reduce Food Waste* (Green Lanes publishing 2017) will be speaking and sharing some of her tips and there will be live cooking challenges and demos from a range of chefs including Sanjeev from the award winning Sanjeev's restaurant in Stoke.



Director of Vocations Lindsey Hall said: "The festival really draws together some of my favourite things: music, food, discussion and the firm belief that God calls everyone to abundant life in Christ. With a menu full of stuff for kids and adults, it looks set to be a great day."



Tickets and further details are still available at www.encouragefestival.co.uk

Could you Lent a hand?

The Bishop's Lent Appeal raises thousands of pounds every year for good causes thanks to the generosity of local churches, schools and others throughout the diocese.

This year's appeal focused on supporting families in need at home and abroad.

The appeal is made possible because of a small group of

volunteers who mail out leaflets, posters, letters and gift aid envelopes each year. A new team - led by two main volunteers - is needed to carry out the mailing in 2019.

The exercise takes roughly three days and food, including a hot lunch on the final day, is provided. If you are interested in helping, please email margaret.wilson@lichfield.anglican.org or call 01554 306000 to find out more.



The Lion, Archbishop and the Falls Rd



The Revd Julia Cody, Vicar at Perton, reflects on a visit to Northern Ireland:

"Are you trying to mess with our heads?' A question levelled at Archbishop Justin by one of the group of pilgrims during our time with him in Northern Ireland. His response? 'Yes'. These days messed with my head and, even more deeply, with my heart.

"My husband is Dublin born-and-bred, faithfully going to Mass, yet unaware of that 'Catholic' label until he moved to England and was asked his denomination. Whenever we've talked about 'The Troubles', he's sought to distance himself. Yet, the complex history of this island and its peoples are part of us as Irish and British citizens respectively. When visiting Irish tourist sites, to the amusement of my in-laws, I find myself apologising for being British. I keenly feel the legacy of what's been done in the name of my birth country, especially deeply in N. Ireland.

"The broken table in CS Lewis Square, Belfast, spoke powerfully to me of the brokenness of N. Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement is 20 years old - 20 years of fragile peace. Yet, as we listened to such differing voices, the uniting thread was fear, particularly with 30% unemployment and Brexit.



"Beforehand, I'd been moved learning of the ministry of Fr. Alec Reid who served at Clonard Monastery, between the Falls and Shankill Roads, by the 'peace-wall'. He spoke of the importance of getting his hands dirty. He facilitated secret meetings between SDLP and Sinn Fein and ministered to dying British Soldiers. His life was a deeply challenging example of incarnational ministry; being a sign of hope and light in the darkest of times. To visit Clonard, to meet, talk and pray with members of the community, and experience their profound hospitality, reduced me to tears.

"As a priest I desperately wanted to speak of hope, but to do so felt trite, unconnected to real lives. But there were glimpses of hope - in the legacy of Fr Alec and the on-going ministry at Clonard; in former paramilitary members saying they do not want to return to violence.

"While prayer walking along Shankill Road, I reflected on hopelessness, and someone simply stated, 'but there's you'. That stopped me short. I am the hope. One candle flame in the dark makes a huge difference. What does it mean to be a candle of hope and light; get my hands dirty; where I'm called to serve?"

"The cracked, divided table may be a picture of N. Ireland, but of course in Narnia the stone table was where Aslan, Lewis' Christ, was slain. It broke in two as he was raised to new life - resurrection, hope, out of brokenness and death. Jesus was sacrificed to bring peace with God and each other; to bring hope, despite our brokenness. Thank God, there's always hope."

Clergy - please be seated

Bishop Michael has honoured six clergy for their work in the Diocese by installing them to vacant prebendal stalls in Lichfield Cathedral during evensong on 15 April.

Prebendaries are members of the cathedral foundation, and become part of its extended community. The award of a stall recognises the contribution and service of the recipient to the life of the Diocese. In times past, it was also associated with rights and income from a parcel of land after which the prebend is named.

The Revd Helen Morby, Rector of Kinnerley with Molverley and Knockin with Maesbrook and Maesbury, was appointed to the Prebend of Wolvey. She said: "It was a huge surprise to receive the invitation to be a Prebend and I feel deeply honoured by the appointment. Ministry is greater than any individual and so I thank all those who have been part of my ministry over the years."



The Revd Ian Cardinal, Rector of St Michael and St Wulfad Stone with St Saviour Aston and Rural Dean of Stoke, was appointed to the Prebend of Bobenhull. "I am very thrilled and honoured to be appointed a prebendary," he said. "As a small boy my parents would occasionally bring me to visit the cathedral, but never for one moment, did I imagine I would one day be associated with it and its role. I cannot imagine what my parents and brother (all deceased) would have said to see this day!"

The Revd Sarah Morris, Managing Chaplain at HMP/YOI Drake Hall, said: "I am delighted to accept the Bishop's invitation to be installed to the Prebend of Whittington. Prison ministry is something that is dear to my heart and I've

been involved in working with prisoners since 2006. This opportunity both affirms Bishop Michael's support of chaplaincy, especially Prison Chaplaincy, and helps me to continue to give voice to prisoners and to support the many other chaplains and volunteers who are working in our local prisons."

The Revd Philip Moon, Vicar of Bishopwood and of Brewood, was appointed to the Prebend of Stotfold. He said: "I was both surprised and honoured to be offered the opportunity to be a prebendary and look forward to playing a role in the cathedral's witness to Christ in this generation, as it has been for generations past and will be, I pray, for generations in the future."

The Revd Mark Salmon, Vicar of Harlescott and Area Dean of Shrewsbury, was appointed to the Prebend of Tarvin. "As one serving on the far extremities of the diocese it is sometimes easy to feel a little remote from the work of the cathedral," he said. "So, I really appreciate the invitation to become a prebendary and look forward to strengthening links with the cathedral and the work of the Dean and Chapter."

The Revd Brian Leathers, Vicar of Alton with Bradley-le-Moors and Denstone with Ellastone and Stanton and Mayfield, and Rural Dean of Uttoxeter, was also appointed to the prebend of Dasset Parva.

Bishop Michael said: "I was delighted to offer these six clergy Prebendary stalls to recognise their dedication – whether in parish ministry or, as in Sarah's case, serving as a chaplain at the heart of the prison community."

A good orange

Churches across the diocese have received a big 'thank-you' from the Children's Society after raising more than £30,000 through their latest Christingle services.

Jemma Kinch, the charity's new Relationship Manager for Lichfield Diocese, said: "A light shone across the diocese as armies of volunteers prepared thousands of Christingles; juicy oranges, candles, red ribbon and sweets on cocktail sticks.

"Parishes opened their doors to the community, inviting in schools, uniformed groups, the elderly and the young. Those who know and love God and those yet to meet with him. For many, it's the one time of year they step into church – a family tradition that brings in the start of the Christmas festivities. It's an opportunity for the church to share the wonderful news of Christ, the light of the world.

"There is much darkness where that light needs to shine. At The Children's Society we are working with the most vulnerable children who are victims of child sexual exploitation, who live in poverty, who suffer mental health or the effects of a parent's solvent abuse. Young people who are carers for adults, young refugees living in fear and children who go missing from home, running from the darkness that brings such sadness and pain.

"Christingle is a celebration of Christ, but it's also a meaningful event that raises awareness and funds supporting those young people we work with across the North of England.

"On behalf of The Children's Society, I want to thank you, your army of volunteers and those who support your Christingles. Your help enables so many projects where we are working with the most vulnerable young people.

"This year we are celebrating 50 years of Christingle from Advent 2018 to Candlemas



2019, and I invite you to join us. Think big, think '50', think 'orange' and sign up for our free resources at christingle.org/50

"I would also love to arrange for a speaker to come to your service to update you on our local projects that your contributions have helped to fund and to extend our thanks to the whole congregation. If you would like to discuss this please get in touch."

Sign up for our free resources at christingle.org/50
Ring Jemma on 01244 544159 or email [Jemma.kinch@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:jem@childrenssociety.org.uk)

From the Editor

It's not often we are sent a photo of someone reading Spotlight – let alone while floating in the Dead Sea. So hats off to



Keith and Annette Haywood who are pictured engrossed in the mag while on a trip to the Holy Land with St John's Community Church, Chase Terrace. Feel free to send us your Spotlight photos and good news stories!

Pete Bate, Director of Communications

The language of welcome

A Walsall church has become the first in its area to deliver a fully-accredited English language course. All Saints in Darlaston is the town's only church-based centre of learning that delivers English for Speakers of other Language (ESOL).

The Church successfully delivered its first term of support primarily to people who are from asylum seeker or refugee backgrounds.

It successfully bid for funding from the Lichfield Diocese Community Fund with help from Near Neighbours, which brings people together who are neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse.

Haroon Ravat, community cohesion and engagement officer from Walsall Council, said: "Delivery of ESOL is a fantastic way of bringing together people who would not ordinarily socialise with one another. The church represents a great model of what can be achieved when faith institutions throw open their doors to social action."



ESOL courses cover speaking and listening, reading and writing, vocabulary and punctuation and grammar. Improving someone's English can help them with medical

appointments, enable them to help their children with homework and pass the Life in the UK test to become a British citizen.



Liza Jo-Guyatt, from Walsall Adult and Community College (now part of Walsall College), added: "The church provides free childcare facilities, free refreshments and have subsidised the cost for students who are not eligible for grant support. They have recognised the common barriers for entry into ESOL that many newly arrived communities often face and have worked with us to help overcome them."

The Revd David Gilbert, who heads up the project, was equally enthusiastic. "The church is a popular centre of worship for local Christians," he said. "However, we believe our church should be a place which serves the need of the

entire community and for people of every faith and background. We are delighted that every student on our first term course passed their Level 1 accreditation with flying colours."

East meets West

It's a delight to have a large group of bishops and friends from our companion dioceses in SE Asia with us for a week to share experiences and teaching on discipleship in the 21st Century.

Their programme includes a day in each episcopal area, seeing projects run by parishes, schools, fresh expressions and chaplaincies sharing worship and teaching with congregations across the diocese and signing new partnership agreements together.

A year in the planning, the goal is to enable as many people in Lichfield Diocese as possible to have the chance to attend to meet and hear members of the group which includes the archbishop of SE Asia, Rt Revd Moon Hing Ng. This will be primarily through a series of evening and Sunday services to which all are welcome in Wolverhampton on Wednesday 11 July, Shrewsbury on 12 July and Trentham on Friday 13 July.

During the weekdays, the group will visit projects and meet leaders in the three episcopal areas to see how churches and groups in the diocese are living out our core goals of discipleship, vocation and evangelism.



On Saturday 14 July, Archbishop Moon Hing will lead a day seminar at Shallowford House on 'Advanced Intentional Discipleship' to which lay and ordained leaders will be invited. And there will be a service celebrating the renewal of the partnership between this and the Malaysian dioceses at 5pm in Eccleshall Parish Church that day.

On the Sunday morning, the visitors will scatter to the four corners of the diocese to take part in services in parishes with existing or new links.

Full details are available at www.lichfield.anglican.org/eastmeetswest/



discipleship

The main celebrations to which all are welcome will be in each Episcopal Area:

7.30pm Wednesday 11 July
St Bart's, Penn, Wolverhampton
Church Hill, Penn,
Wolverhampton WV4 5JD

7.30pm, Thursday 12 July
Holy Trinity, Meole Brace
Shrewsbury SY3 9HF

7.30pm, Friday 13 July
Trentham Parish Church
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AB

Hope for clergy

Hope was at the heart of the 2018 Lichfield Bishops' Clergy Conference as over 300 people from across the diocese descended on the Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire.

The four-day event - called Chad Hope 2018 - featured keynote speeches from former chief executive of Christian Aid and First Church Estates Commissioner Loretta Minghella, the Bishop of Loughborough Guli Francis-Dehqani, and the Bishop of Burnley Philip North.

Morning bible studies were led by New York priest the Revd Yejide Peters who spoke from her own experience about following Christ. She urged those present to be an 'Easter people', finding deep joy and contentment in the midst of everyday struggle. Evening entertainment included a ceilidh with local band Revival and stand-up comedy from Bilal Zafar. Along with various prayer and worship sessions and a busy marketplace, there were dozens of late afternoon options to choose from including football, knit and natter, photographer and workshops on topics such as mission, clergy well-being and recruitment, building church websites and prison chaplaincy.

Loretta Minghella, former Chief Executive of Christian Aid, spoke about her global experiences of hope in action and asked: "How do we share the deep joy of our faith that comes from knowing we are fully known and loved? How do we encourage each other to speak to truth prophetically and powerfully?"

Bishop Guli, the first female bishop from a minority ethnic community in the Church of England, talked about her family's flight from Iran in 1980. She spoke movingly about forgiveness in the light of her brother's murder. "Forgiveness frees us from hatred and allows us to live," she explained.

Using the inspiration of Vincent de Paul, Bishop Philip advocated the virtues of simplicity, humility, mortification, meekness and zeal for souls in a rousing closing day speech. "Renewal is inevitable and it will come from the margins, which is where our centre of gravity must be," he said. "We are to be people of hope in a world of fear."

The Revd Deborah Walton, Curate in Kinver, said: "I had a memorable and marvellous time at the conference - so grateful to all from the diocese involved in planning and administration. There is so much to reflect on."

Bishop Michael invited everyone to walk together in discipleship, vocation and evangelism as they returned home. He also made special mention of Bishop Mark who was at his last Lichfield Diocese clergy conference as Bishop of Shrewsbury. Bishop Mark himself said: "It was a wonderful three days with terrific input: inspiring bible encounters from Yejide Peters; life-giving worship; moving and thought-provoking addresses and servant leadership from Bishop Michael. A huge thanks to the organising team - we have been blessed."



Anecdotal feedback from clergy has been good with praise for this year's speakers. All are welcome to listen to them via lichfield.anglican.org/clergy_conference_2018/

First an anxious huddle

We studied the Bible together. We heard inspiring speakers. We enjoyed a Ceilidh (at least, those of us who can dance enjoyed it). We joined in regular times of prayer and worship. We ate copiously and drank socially. We were entertained by a Muslim comedian. We did all these things in East Derbyshire, at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick.

Running through our conference this year was the great biblical and Christian theme of hope: hope for our world, hope for our communities, hope for our society, hope which is anchored in the one unshakeable ground of our hope, the new life that God has won for us in Jesus Christ. We live in a world which often seems to have given up on the idea of hope, to find

It was to a hopeless, despairing and anxious huddle of dispirited men and women that Jesus showed himself at the first Easter

In case you wondered what they were up to, that is - broadly speaking - what happened when more than three hundred clergy of this diocese joined in our Clergy Conference from 23rd to 26th April. I write these words in faith, ahead of the event, but confident that this will prove

to be an encouraging, refreshing and renewing experience for our deacons, priests and bishops. Practical considerations mean that this event has to be designed specifically for those who are ordained, and there are similar events for lay people such as the recent Readers' gathering, June's 'Food for the Journey' event and July's Encourage Festival. We are all engaged in ministry, and one of our commitments as a Diocese this year is to engage with the business of 'Setting God's People Free', releasing laity and clergy together to be agents of mission and transformation in our world.



Bishop Michael verging on despair despite putting in a respectable time on the St Chads Volunteers' chopstick challenge at the clergy conference

it easier to live with anxiety or despair than to believe that there is the real prospect of change. And sometimes that mentality creeps into our churches today; if we do not really expect numerical and spiritual growth, new opportunities for mission and fresh opportunities to commend the faith, then almost certainly we will not encounter them - except ...

Except that it was to a hopeless, despairing and anxious huddle of dispirited men and women that Jesus showed himself at the first Easter. He breathed on them his Holy Spirit and renewed the wellsprings of hope within them. At the end of our time in Swanwick, our clergy were all anointed with the oil of chrism and sent back to our cities, towns and villages; to our parishes, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions and schools, and to our Cathedral, to be messengers of hope. We do that as priests and people together, as in that first Easter season, so now; as in Jerusalem, so in Staffordshire, Shropshire, and the Black Country. Our hope is for real. +Michael May 2018



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad



For a full listing of events in the Diocese, visit lichfield.anglican.org/events
Let us know about your events by email to comms@lichfield.anglican.org



DIARY

Encourage Festival

7 July 2-8pm
Shallowford House

Tickets and details of performers, speaker and much more at www.encouragefestival.co.uk

Thy Kingdom Come 10-20 May 2017

The Archbishops' big prayer and evangelism initiative returns with events in parishes and ecumenical groups around the Diocese / country / world.

More at lichfield.anglican.org/TKC2018 and www.thykingdomcome.global

East Meets West Main Celebrations - 7.30am

Wednesday 11 July -
Wolverhampton
Thursday 12 July - Shrewsbury
Friday 13 July - Trentaham

Full details at lichfield.anglican.org/EastMeetsWest or see posters in churches