

THANK YOU AND KEEP ON...

“It is a great honour to select and promote my first Bishop’s Lent Appeal in Lichfield Diocese. As I’ve learned about past Lent Appeals, I have become so aware that they are the result of thousands of people in parishes across the Diocese working together to contribute positively to the good of Christian and non-Christian, nearby and far away.”

“And so I appeal to you again this year to open your hearts and wallets in generosity as we focus on the needs of refugees and asylum seekers; strangers, aliens and even angels maybe; certainly all people made in the image of God.”

LENT STUDY & SELWYN LECTURE

“I’m keen that we have the chance to linger with subjects as a diocese, perhaps with a pattern of linking the Bishop’s Lent Appeal with the Lent study book and the Selwyn Lecture before them. In 2016/17, aspects of financial inclusion are at the fore as we had a wonderful day in the Cathedral in October on ‘God and the Money Lenders’. Our 2017 Lent focus together will be around Archbishop Justin’s new book ‘Dethroning Mammon’. And this Lent Appeal contributes to helping those who’ve fled persecution and war with nothing more than the clothes they stand in as we give them help and resources in rebuilding their lives.”

+Michael Litchfield

“Our Church in Greece is on the coal face of the Church of England’s response to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in such places as Syria and Iraq. There are no easy solutions. Our partnership with USPG enables ecumenical and NGO response as well as providing for immediate humanitarian needs. But what is vital is that the Church provides a loving response, recognising that in the refugee and migrant we see the face of Christ.”

+David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop of Europe



HOW YOU CAN 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 or by text.
- PRAY** for all forced to travel in search of safety and a better life, particularly for refugees and asylum seekers; for all those who are working with them – through USPG, the Diocese of Europe, and locally with TCT and local churches.
- ACT** Inform us of any local project known to your church, whose work includes refugees and asylum-seekers. Invite a representative from TCT or USPG to speak to your parish or deanery; work with local parishes or ecumenical groups; multiply your generosity with a Lent Lunch, coffee morning, or other fundraising activity.



For more information about what you can do, or to invite speakers to churches, house groups, or youth fellowships, visit lichfield.anglican.org/lentappeal or contact:

TCT:
James Henderson
The Small Street Centre, 1a Small Street, Walsall WS1 3PR
T: 079046 771495 E: james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk www.tctogether.org.uk

USPG:
David Brand
Community Fundraising Manager
T: 020 7921 2210 E: davidb@uspg.org.uk www.uspg.org.uk/europe

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

WAYS TO GIVE

Via just giving...

Online: www.justgiving.com/lentappeal2017 **Text:** Lent98 £ (insert amount) to 70070 (eg. Lent98 £10 then send to 70070) (Text messages are free to send on all networks.)

Via cheque...

Please make your cheque payable to “**Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal**”

MAKE YOUR GIFTS GO FURTHER...



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

Title:Forename(s): Surname:

Home Address: Postcode:

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 any difference.

Signature Date

Data Protection Act: We will not pass your details to any third party except for the purposes of processing your donation (for example, to HMRC if your donation is Gift Aided). We may store your details and use them to keep you informed about how the funds raised by the Lent Appeal have been spent and to update you about future Lent Appeals and the work of the Bishop and Diocese of Lichfield. If you do not wish to receive such details please tick this box To reduce administrative costs and ensure more of your donation is used to help the important work being supported by the Lent Appeal, receipts will not normally be issued. If you would like a receipt please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

The Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal is administered by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance Inc (registered charity 1107827). If the Bishop of Lichfield’s Lent Appeal is unable to make a donation to the charities specified, for example if they cease to operate, the monies raised by this appeal may be donated to other charities at the discretion of the Bishop of Lichfield.

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I WAS A STRANGER...

Matthew 25:31-46 - “...i was a stranger and you welcomed me.”



THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD'S LENT APPEAL 2017



URGENT AND ONGOING



We have all been shocked and appalled by the images of refugees in the media in recent years fleeing Syria, risking and losing life crossing the Mediterranean while looking for safety in Europe. And we meet those seeking asylum from other oppressive and murderous regimes in Africa and the Middle East. The lucky ones may be safe, but even once in the relative safety of Europe, they are often left destitute because they have no right to shelter, food or the dignity of using their skills to work and contribute to society while due process assesses their claim.

This year's Lent Appeal helps to tackle the urgent and the ongoing. Through USPG, we will support the immediate plight of refugees arriving in Greece. And working with our own Transforming Communities Together partnership, we will support projects working with asylum seekers in our own region.

REFUGEE CAMP



Within this environment, USPG's partners Medical Intervention (MedIn) provide primary health care and psychosocial support to refugees, including essential medication, hygiene items and infant formula. MedIn have a mobile clinic to reach the most vulnerable refugees more effectively.

USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) is a predominantly Anglican charity founded in 1701 that shares God's love through practical action. Its programmes have a deep impact because they are run by local churches that are embedded in the communities they serve – communities that have often been overlooked.

INTO THE TINDERBOX

Around 62,000 refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece. While a third are now in apartments, hotels or with host families, 40,000 remain in pre-fabricated containers and canvas tents which provide little protection from cold weather and which weren't designed for long-term accommodation.

Meanwhile, refugees continue to arrive each week and this puts further pressure on an already stretched system in Greece. For example, on the island of Samos, a centre designed to host 850 people is currently hosting almost 2,500 people in lightweight tents intended for summer camping.

Little wonder Fr Malcolm Bradshaw, Senior Anglican Chaplain in Greece, describes the situation as a 'tinderbox'. Over-crowded and confined conditions exacerbate tensions and anxieties, inflamed by the uncertainty and slowness of the asylum system. There have already been reports of fires, violence and riots involving both refugees and local residents.



LOCAL BENEFICIARIES

Bishop Michael asks, "Is there a local project supported by members of your church, any part of whose work includes asylum-seekers and refugees?" To nominate that project as a beneficiary of his Appeal, use the form on the website www.lichfield.anglican.org/lent-appeal or email tc@lichfield.anglican.org before Easter with the name of your church and details of that project. Allocations will be decided in July, and the Diocese will then be providing additional resources in support of this ministry.

www.lichfield.anglican.org/lent-appeal

Later in the year TCT is hosting a day-conference reflecting theologically on asylum in its contemporary context, to be run by the Children's Society, the beneficiary of last year's Lent Appeal. Register your interest now with tc@lichfield.anglican.org

FROM FEAR TO SAFETY

Transforming Communities Together, the shared ministry of Lichfield Diocese and Church Urban Fund, thanks God for all the existing work with refugees and asylum seekers across the diocese and is keen to support parishes extend their ministry in this area. In November 2014, they worked with Tearfund and Boaz Trust to run the 'Asylum and the Church' conference, helping congregations to know more about the issues and build links with organisations across the diocese which are providing care and support. TCT also secured CUF funding for refugees and asylum seekers to meet regularly at the Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary drop-in, and is a partner in Walsall Borough of Sanctuary, assisting in a recent arts performance to challenge negative stereotypes. James Henderson, TCT's development worker, has run awareness sessions in churches and the community, explaining the important role church groups bring to the care of refugees and asylum seekers. The Common Good Fund is contributing to the inspirational work of Sanctus, in Stoke.

