CONGRATULATIONS to Bishop Moon Hing on his Installation as ARCHBISHOP of the PROVINCE of S.E. Asia. As Bishop of West Malaysia we have so much appreciated his support of our Diocesan links and we have benefitted in many ways from his passion for evangelism and discipleship and for his encouragement of the St Chads Volunteer Programme. We remember with much appreciation too ARCHBISHOP BOLLY LAPOK as he hands over the mantle and continues as Bishop of Kuching. We are grateful for his wisdom and generosity and his desire for the Lichfield—Kuching link to deepen.

As part of the Diocese of West Malaysia’s Decade of Mission and Networking, 2016 has been chosen to be a Year of Enriching Partnership. In addition to Philip and Charlotte Swan being invited to speak at the Clergy and Lay Conference in January, Bishop Mark and his wife Mandy will represent Lichfield at the Installation, along with David Brown and a group of four clergy who are there to seek ways of developing further the St Chads Volunteer Programme. Will and Jan Slater will also be visiting shortly to renew their links and friendships in Ipoh especially. We are invited to send people to the following events this year: the Conference on Empowerment looking at Ecological Issues (June 2-4), the Diocesan Worship Conference (July 7-9) and the Seminar for Disciple Makers (Sept 22-24). Do consider going or taking a small group from your parish.....

St Chads Volunteer Programme: previous Volunteers, hosts and others connected with the Volunteer programme gather at the ‘Church an Agent of Change’ conference (photo). This Spring we will have four Volunteers in Lichfield Diocese, from West Malaysia, Matlosane and Mecklenburg. Joe Poole during his time at St Mary’s Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur, used his skills as a sound engineer to carry out rewiring. We are very keen to find more people in the 18-35 age range to go for 6-12 months to serve, learn, bless and be blessed in our Companion Dioceses.

The team at the ABBA English Centre in Hanoi Vietnam where Jeremy Dillon works and is based for the year as a St Chads Volunteer. There are many openings for people willing and able to teach English through the Mission Gateways Programme.

ANTICIPATING ADVENT 2016
Nov 25-27
Shrewsbury

In 2015 a group from Lichfield Diocese went over to Parchim in Mecklenburg for the annual Anticipating Advent celebration. It was great to meet up with Sarah Partington who is based in Gustrow as a St Chads Volunteer whilst Jelena Kasten has come over to Forsbrook Parish in Stoke-on-Trent. We are delighted to be welcoming our friends from the Nordkirche to Shrewsbury this year—book it in your diaries.
August Week in Dovedale
19th - 26th August

12 young people are coming over from the Nordkirche to deepen their Christian faith. We are looking for 12 young people from Lichfield Diocese to join them for the week and to be missional friends.

More details:
terry.bloor@btinternet.com

Qu'Appelle Diocese Saskatchewan Canada

Parish links provide an opportunity to share together, to pray in an informed way for Christians in a very different context and perhaps even to visit one another. We are looking to establish 10 such links this year with Qu’Appelle and also to provide opportunities for lay exchanges and sabbaticals.

HAPPY 25th BIRTHDAY to Matlosane Diocese! Revds Nita Edwards and Lesley Bentley were present for the main celebrations. The photo and these words came from Nita’s blog in matlosanematters.blogspot.co.uk. Lesley’s sermon looked back and on into the future, echoing the words on the celebration cake: “For all that has been – thanks! To all that will be – Amen!” The singing, as always, was brilliant......

We are delighted to welcome our first ever St Chads Volunteer from Matlosane—Phillip Kgowe Moleme, a Youth Worker with experience with the Siyafundisa Peer Education programme working with issues of HIV/AIDS. He is based at All Saints Streetly and we hope he is keeping warm!

MORE NEWS:

- The 6 session World Mission Course ‘It Takes the Whole World’ has been tried tested and is strongly recommended.
- GPS (Global Positioning Sunday) takes place on Sunday May 29th. Resources will be available. A chance to highlight our part in the world-wide church, to pray and to celebrate what God is doing.
- David and Jane Newsome will be spending time with Hands@Work in South Africa. Pray for this new ministry.
- The work of LinkforLife is extending to include Penkridge. Pray for Rose Westwood and the team taking this forward.
- Specific opportunities exist for school links with Kuching at both a Primary and Secondary level. Interested?
- JOB VACANCY: Wendy Ford has retired from the role of St Chads Volunteer Coordinator. We are so grateful for all she has done. We are keen to find someone with very good administrative gifts, pastoral abilities and an interest in resourcing young adults to take this over. There is an honorarium and much of the work can be done from home.