

SPOTLIGHT

The Diocese of Lichfield Magazine

May/June 2016

"I was at St Andrew's, Church Aston recently, sharing a Dementia Friends Sunday service with the congregation there." says Sarah Thorpe, Lichfield Diocese's Dementia Support Worker in the Shrewsbury Area.



Sarah Thorpe with her father Theo who himself lives with dementia

"I had good conversations with a number of people who have first-hand experience of dementia: our Dementia Friends services are so important in giving space for it to be named in our churches, allowing people to share their experiences."

"Another thing the team has got involved with is a visit by The Alzheimer's Society's Roadshow Bus to Newport next month, publicising it locally and arranging for people to help on the day, giving out leaflets around town telling shoppers that the bus will be there.

"These are all great practical ways of taking steps forwards. Inspired by the way things are moving forwards at St Andrew's,

I wonder whether there is an obvious next step you could take you can take in your church.

Dementia Friends

Hilary Griffin and the Revd Leonie Wheeler are taking a lead in helping St Andrew's to be a more dementia-friendly church at the heart of a dementia-friendly community in Church Aston. They came to a recent four-session 'Dementia-Friendly Churches' course as well as our 'Dementia-Friendly Memory Boxes' Workshop.



Items for St Andrew's Memory Box

"'Forget me not Time Together' is a new group in Whitchurch. I joined them one afternoon, sharing colouring,



'Forget me not Time Together' sing-along

jigsaws, singing and tea. There's a warm welcome the moment you come in, there's music playing in the background and there are name badges for everyone. People are free to look at books or get involved with jigsaws or colouring, or simply to chat. And there's a different main activity each time the group meets – such as singing, art or craft, or sometimes baking or making.

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TGI Monday launch - online at



(l-r) Songs of Praise's Connie Fisher with TGI team Zoe, Hywel, Dan and Ros

TGI Monday is a weekly online chat show featuring a panel of Christians, including clergy and a theologian, answering questions sent in by viewers.

After a successful three-month trial, reaching thousands of viewers, the show has now launched and already caught the attention of the national church and media.

A venture from the Diocese of Lichfield's Online Pastor, Dr Ros Clarke, TGI Monday is filmed at Little Drayton church in Shropshire, and uses online media to reach out beyond the pews and into everyday life. Viewers are invited to send in their questions on any aspect of life and faith, for a panel from Lichfield Diocese which represents a broad range of Christian views within the Church of England.



Ros said: "Former Chief Rabbi Lord Sachs recently won the £1.1m Templeton Prize and said 'We are trying to work out how we can speak to this You Tube short-attention-span generation which nonetheless have hearts of gold and are waiting for a positive altruistic message.' Well, this is our answer."

In May, BBC Songs of Praise came to check out the project and presenter, Connie Fisher, appeared as a guest on the show.

On the day he was announced as the next Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Reverend Dr Michael Ipgrave came to meet and be interviewed by the TGI Monday team. [The interview is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHse7i0X_84]



Revd Zoe Heming is a curate in Shropshire. She said "We don't always agree with each other and that is a strength of the show.

"Being a Christian is open to everyone, whoever you are, whatever your background or life circumstances."

Revd Dan Stork Banks is a curate in six rural parishes in Shropshire. He said "People watch because we offer something spontaneous, unpolished and authentic - something you can trust. On TGI Monday we answer real questions, sharing what the church has to offer in Jesus Christ."

and on BBC Songs of Praise

The TGI Monday Mission Statement is:

TGI Monday seeks to be a safe place for anybody to ask questions on Christian faith and spirituality wherever they are in their faith journey, from people who are curious about Christianity through to those with many years in the pew. We offer perspectives from across the Anglican tradition from Evangelical to Catholic, Conservative to Liberal, because we believe that the church is a family and we all have something important to learn and to share. Using the latest social media technology, we want to engage your honest questions with our honest reflections in order to deepen faith and open further discussion. We are not about church politics or arguments, but life following Jesus.

Simon Jones, Bishop's Chaplain & Communication Officer, who previously spent twenty years as a TV sound recordist, oversees all the technical aspects also occasionally providing a lay, non-theologian's perspective to the discussions. "Through the internet and new technology, people can peer in and gain insight into of our Christian faith, in all its glorious Anglican variety from the comfort of their phone or laptop"

Since its launch, TGI Monday has featured in the Church Times, BBC Local Radio, the Church of England's Podcast, the Archbishop Cranmer blog and even the Spectator magazine!

Revd Hywel Snook, vicar of Christ Church, Little Drayton, said: "We agreed to do a three month trial, and we've just been blown away by the response. So many questions have come in that we've started doing TGI Extras, giving short answers to questions we don't have time to cover on the show."

"Former Chief Rabbi Lord Sachs recently said 'We are trying to work out how we can speak to this YouTube short-attention-span generation which nonetheless have hearts of gold and are waiting for a positive altruistic message.' Well, this is our answer."



Ask your questions about faith and spirituality

Find the TGI Monday Show online at www.TGIMonday.show or on Facebook at www.CofE.io/TGIMonday

New Ecumenical school

Holy Trinity Academy, the new joint Roman Catholic/Church of England secondary school in Priorslee, is now open. Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury RC Diocese and Bishop Mark Rylands, Anglican Bishop of Shrewsbury officiated in a service affirming the three central values of faith, unity and aspiration.

Holy Trinity Academy opened its doors to pupils in September 2015 and forms the first co-ecumenical school within the West Midlands.

Both the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Anglican Diocese of Lichfield have been instrumental in the formation of the school. The joint enterprise not only welcomes students from a Christian faith background but also reflects the cultural diversity of the local population with students from a variety of different religious and cultural backgrounds.



Angus Neal (headteacher of the newly-opened Holy Trinity Academy) with Rt Revd Mark Rylands (Anglican Bishop of Shrewsbury and Rt Revd Mark Davies (Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury)

Headteacher Angus Neal in his welcome address said "The common prayer symbolises that whilst we, as a community, come from a wide ranging, culturally rich background we also share the commonality of faith and are united in

"We aim to deliver the highest possible educational experience for students aged 11-18 through a caring and supportive Christian ethos." Holy Trinity Academy

ensuring that this can be freely expressed and nurtured throughout the community here at Holy Trinity Academy."



"As a school we firmly believe in allowing students to succeed and attain the highest personal achievements as well as celebrating their God given talents. We have the highest expectations with regard to academic success, behaviour and personal integrity and believe in supporting every student to achieve their best".

"Holy Trinity Academy is looking forward to its continued success for the future and opening up further opportunities to develop the unique educational experience it has to offer for many more years to come."

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Dementia Friends

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“What struck me was the friendly informality, with everyone enjoying a lovely relaxed afternoon together. With dementia, it’s all too easy for people to feel lonely and isolated, embarrassed to go out. An Alzheimer’s Society survey of people living with dementia confirmed that 61% feel lonely and 44% say they’ve lost friends. And a Carers UK survey tells us that 83% of carers have felt socially isolated as a result of their caring responsibilities.”

Josie Edwards, co-ordinator for St Matthew’s Church, Donnington Wood with a local residential home for adults with complex needs, was a reluctant participant on the ‘Dementia-Friendly Churches’ course, but was encouraged to go by her vicar, the Revd Paula Smith. But she immediately connected with something she heard.

“Sarah talked about going to meet people where they are – crossing the bridge to their world – rather than trying to drag them back into ours” says Josie. “It made so much sense. I met one man with a set of (rather rusty) lapel badges in a tin. My partner, Chris, has made a display case for them. It’s amazing to see him respond to them, pointing to them and obviously animated.”

Josie and Chris are also trying different ways of making connections. Recently, they have tried some church window artwork at the home.

Sarah has been working closely with David Latcham, Information Worker for Alzheimer’s Society in Telford.

“It’s been really exciting to support Sarah in her work to grow dementia friendly churches.” says David.



David Latcham, Information Worker for Alzheimer's Society in Telford

“Dementia Friendly Communities are an important part of my role, and I have seen both the great opportunity that churches have to care for those with dementia, and the great desire that church members have for making that opportunity a reality. Sarah’s vision for churches is impressively comprehensive, from sensitive pastoral care and accessible buildings through to connecting through services and with the wider community networks.

“On a personal level, I have benefitted from Sarah’s wisdom at an event I ran at my church in Shrewsbury. The depth of insight from her personal experience, as well as creative ideas about how to engage with people,

was really helpful in highlighting dementia and how churches can best help and minister to people.”



If you’re in the Diocese of Lichfield, do get in touch with Sarah if it would help to discuss ideas and plans: sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org and 07982 248949. Sarah has a regular blog at salopdementiafriendlychurch.co.uk/

Connecting with Sierra Leone

Sierra Foundation for Life Skills (SFFLS) is a charity born in Shrewsbury and inspired by two Christians, Sandra Lloyd and Sarah Wolton, with the aim of 'Transforming lives through Christ's love in action and bringing hope to the people of Sierra Leone'.

In October 2015 a team of volunteers from Shrewsbury and Luton went to add the finishing touches to The Bread Basket Bakery, built with SFFLS funds to feed a school and community near Freetown, and in partnership with The Family Homes Movement based in Sierra Leone.

These are the reflections of Steve Butterworth, a member of the team:

"When we were offered the chance to go to Sierra Leone to help finish the bakery, we jumped at the chance! And so it was that after an 18 hour journey we arrived at our

hotel all hot and sweaty. We showered, had a drink and retired for the night not fully knowing what would be in store for the next 12 days.

"The following morning we arrived at the bakery which was indeed finished except for the painting of the walls inside and out, along with the door and windows. We all set to, and soon there was paint everywhere! As the day went on, we were introduced to three guys by the names of John, Saar and the Brigadier. These three had basically done all the building work from footings to roof in the heat of up to 30 degrees – phew! The bakery will make a big difference to the school children and people alike in Mayenkineh. The phrase 'We don't have anything' is so profound out there because

quite simply they don't! We waste so much in our lives (food, water), a waste that would keep a family going for days. Nearly all the people in Sierra Leone eat just once a day.

"We met amazing people such as the 12 year old girl selling peanuts to people on the beach to help feed her family, and the man in a wheelchair begging because the rebels had chopped his hands and feet off during the civil war. They try to live from day to day by doing anything they can.



All the children in Sierra Leone think about is going to school and becoming doctors, lawyers and engineers. They want to succeed in life – hopefully to make life better for themselves, but also for their fellow men and women.

Would I go again to Sierra Leone? I surely would. There is so much to be done out there and with people like Sandra and Sarah, much will be done. Those two ladies are tireless in their work and dedication to the people of Sierra Leone. They are an inspiration to us all. I hope you will support them in any way you can so that they may continue in their work out in Sierra Leone. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and thank you for your support."

Sierra Foundation for Life Skills has agreed with the Family Homes Movement to build a centre that will help to break the cycle of teenage pregnancy and destitution amongst young women, offering them education and training that can influence future generations.

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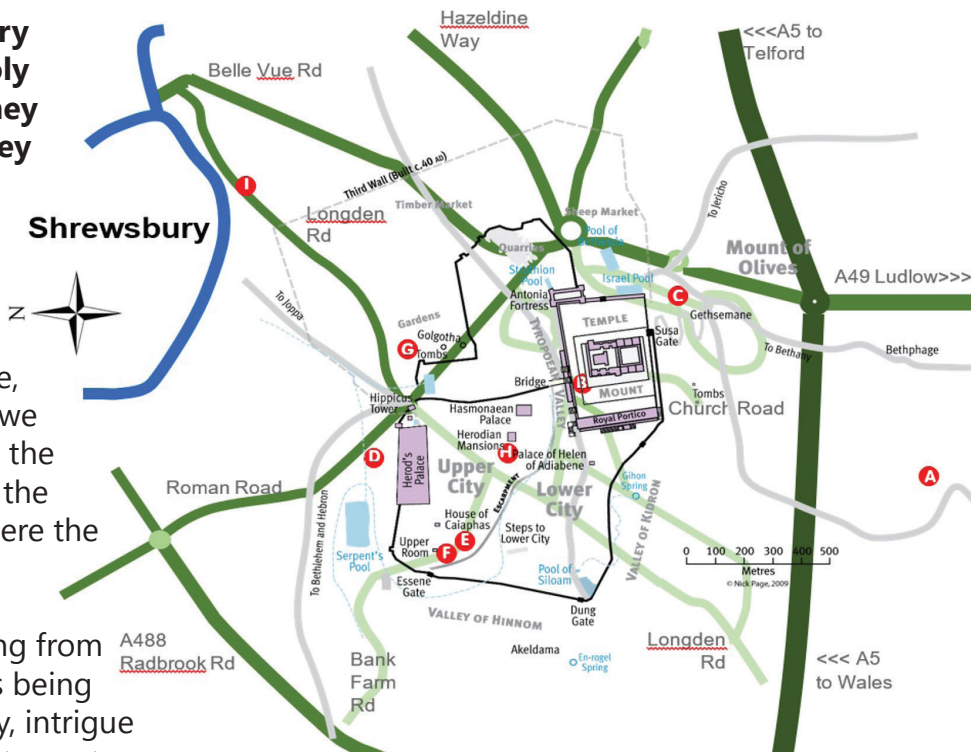
Navigating Holy Week

This Easter saw a Shrewsbury parish walk through the Holy Week events, at the time they occurred, and the places they occurred.

"We superimposed a map of C1 Jerusalem onto a map of the C21 parish, and it fitted amazingly", said Phil Cansdale, vicar of Trinity Churches. "So we met together each day to tell the Easter story real-time, and in the Shrewsbury-equivalent of where the gospel accounts took place."

The week saw donkeys walking from Bayston Hill, money-counters being disturbed in the church vestry, intrigue in a Radbrook Café, late-night arrests on the Meole Estate, and trials in a local playground, just off the appropriately-named Roman Road. The week finished in a local cemetery - where Golgotha and the nearby garden tomb fell on the map – for a Easter morning sunrise service.

"It's been really exciting to get the Easter story out of church buildings and into the local community" said Phil. "If nothing else we've got more idea of the sort of geography, distances and context of the Holy Week story. Next year, especially with schools being off, we are thinking of doing something similar but to find more ways to include children and families."



Pilate's HQ set up in the middle of Radbrook playground.



It will further their education by providing skills training in I.T., tailoring and hospitality and offering help to gain employment. This unique project will be able to accommodate 0-2 year olds alongside their mothers on the site of an existing preschool and primary school at a place called Deep Eye Water. The cost of the build

will be £32,000 with completion planned for spring 2017 where more opportunities will be available for folk to join a team. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the building of this facility or to find out more about the work of SFFLS, please go to the website www.sffls.org or email veritylowe@btinternet.com



Over the Moon with ne

Our links with the Diocese of West Malaysia have been strong over the years largely because of the inspirational leadership and support from Bishop Moon Hing. We want to congratulate him now he has been installed as the Archbishop for the Province of South East Asia and to assure him of our prayers in this new phase of his ministry.

Nine people from Lichfield Diocese were present at that magnificent service on February 22nd at St Mary's Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur including a group of five who were visiting West Malaysia and Singapore in order to see how the St Chads Volunteer Programme might be further developed.

"We fitted a lot into 15 days: visiting roughly 28 churches in West Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia; going to the Theological Seminary in Malaysia; meeting former St Chad's Volunteers and seeing some of them exercising church ministry and leadership. As a result of the trip we have learned potential ways to realign, strengthen and expand the St Chad's Volunteer Programme as well seeing how the approach shown there to church planting, discipleship and mission and ministry amongst young adults can inform the future in our own diocese."

David Cundill

"I'm struck by how important international links are for us, especially for a diocese like Lichfield - we are a strange mixture of an international community in some areas, whereas parts of Shropshire feel very mono-cultural and insular. We've got to continue finding ways of increasing partnership, and keeping this on the diocesan agenda. I'd hope that any strengthening of ties at this stage of things will lead to a greater understanding at a local level, a relational networking which might be able to move in a different direction to any

more formal and institutional problems which may affect the Anglican Communion."

Phil Cansdale



Lichfield clergy Jonathan Iddon, Phil Cansdale, John Coyne and David Cundill

"What struck me most about my time in Malaysia was

"Singapore blew me away. I loved the place and saw a highly focused approach to mission, evangelism and Church Planting. This clearly grew out of their legendary experience of renewal in the Holy Spirit which rather than being domesticated into a private experience of renewal was deeply transformational and has been directed to mission. Awesome. I think there is so much we could learn from the experience of Singapore. I think it would be good not just for young adults but also for clergy to see a Spirit empowered Church in Mission mode." **John Coyne**

how church planting is so much part of the DNA of the church. It's just what they do, what they live for. There is some lament over the fact that they cannot build their own church buildings due to the Islamic dominated government, but this does not stop them buying or renting shop fronts and turning them into meeting spaces. It feels very much like the things we read of in the Book of Acts. In contrast, in the UK we have an abundance of (old) church buildings which contributes to a missional inertia, as we spend much time and energy on maintaining what we have'. **Jonathan Iddon**



New Archbishop of SE Asia

It was a pleasure to join the Lichfield team. For me, the highlights included talking to Revd Fred David about his work of evangelism. He is a glass half full, activist, extrovert evangelist whom the Lord has used greatly to grow the Kingdom. Equally, meeting the HTB church plant leaders in Kuala Lumpur (HTBB) – Miles and Dan – was very encouraging.

It was great meeting the St Chad's volunteers; Wai Theng, Stephanie, Christopher Soe, Anthony Arul and others who have been to



Bishop Mark learns from Archbishop Moon Hing (light blue) and his wife show how to eat this Chinese New Year Dish.



Meeting up with former Volunteers and placement vicars in Penang

Lichfield. It was wonderful to see how they have blossomed and are now contributing to the life of the Church back in West Malaysia. It was very encouraging to meet up with other Anglican church leaders for the installation of Bishop Moon Hing. +Mark Rylands

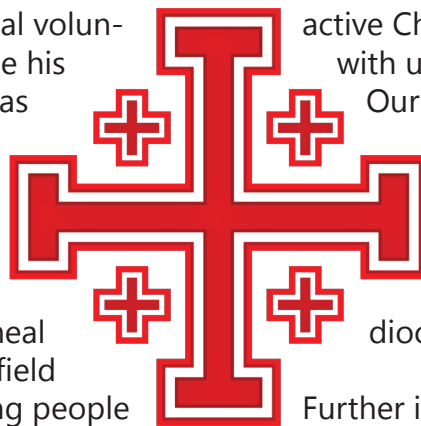
The Programme longs to place young people in unfamiliar cultures; to see with their eyes what cannot be assimilated through their ears. Jesus's example - the things he did before people's eyes - was surely his main teaching method.

Archbishop Moon Hing has given high priority to the St Chad's Volunteer Programme. His diocese is the size of England, with over 140 churches or worship centres. He seems always on the look-out for potential volunteers—then never lets them escape his gaze! A sign of his commitment was seen just before his inauguration as Archbishop. Although there were probably more archbishops and bishops in town than Kuala Lumpur had ever seen, he gave priority to hosting a celebratory meal for former volunteers and we Lichfield visitors. He is resolved to see young people established in a faith that will grow, and in God's time bear fruit.

West Malaysia has sent nineteen volunteers since 2001 to serve in Lichfield; all still active Christians in their churches. Two are with us now, in Aldridge and Telford.

Our first volunteer from Matlosane is in Streetly. We have sent fifteen volunteers to linked dioceses so far. One is now in Schwerin (formerly E Germany) and one in Hanoi, through the Singapore diocesan gateway.

Further info on the SCVP can be found at www.lichfield.anglican.org/st-chads-volunteers



ST. CHAD'S
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Diggers and Beer

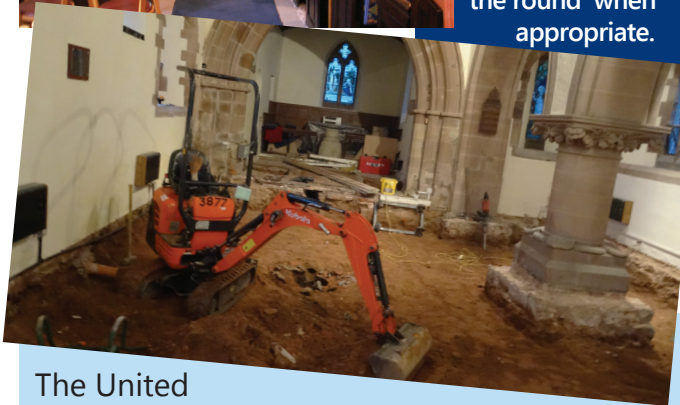
One of the many churches in the Diocese of Lichfield dedicated to St Chad is in the rural hamlet of Boningale, between Wolverhampton and Telford, just ten minutes' from junction 3 of the M54.

"Our parish church, which is part of the United Benefice of Albrighton, is thought to have been founded in the 11th century. says PCC Secretary, Jess Harper. "St Chad's is a living church with a small but faithful congregation led by the Revd Mary Wade.



"After several years of discussion and debate we have finally

St Chad's interior before, during and after reordering illustrating the new flexibility to arrange the church 'in the round' when appropriate.



The United Benefice of Albrighton is on a roll with successful fundraising: St Mary's is turning part of the building into a lofty village watering hole where enthusiasts from afar will gather with church and village regulars to help restore its magnificent Chancel East window.

The brainchild of the vicar, Revd Mary Wade and organists David Smith and Gerald Leach, the festival has twice previously seen hundreds converge on the church for a springtime gathering to celebrate the mutual enjoyment of quality ales, good conversation and live music.

completed an extensive internal reordering. We have created a space that can now be used for a wide variety of services and events by utilising movable pews and upholstered seating.

"The cost of the re ordering was £97,000 and a substantial part of this was raised by the congregation, those who live in the Boningale area and from those who have a past connection with St Chad's. The church was rededicated in a service led by Bishop Mark.

"We are holding four 'Quiet Days' this year, with two left on July 9 and September 24. The themes for these are 'Walking with the Lord' and 'The Power of Prayer' on Saturday 19th March.



Mary comments, "The uniqueness of our beautiful church! The great range of beers and the wonderful entertainment all seem to combine to create a lovely atmosphere to share with locals and visitors".



"To see such a diversity of people enjoying conversation and a drink together in hallowed surroundings is a rare pleasure", adds Gerald.

The festival takes place on 20 & 21 June: details at <http://www.albrightonparishchurch.org.uk>

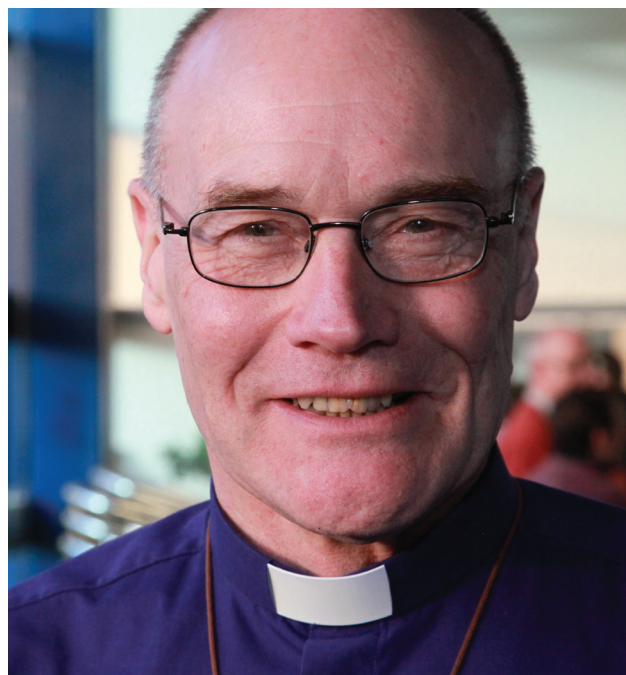
Bishop's pastoral letter

It may be that we are tired of hearing about it, but Thursday June 23rd will be one of the most important days in our life time – and in the life time of our children and grandchildren. Whether the United Kingdom votes to remain in the European Union or to leave, the consequences will be far – reaching and impossible to fully determine. We might ask for more information but the reality is that no one can be sure what is going to happen on June 24th and in the subsequent weeks and months. However we vote, we are stepping into an unknown future.

It is not the role of a Bishop to tell you how you should vote but it is my responsibility as a leader of the Church to remind you that you should vote and offer a Christian perspective to this crucial decision.

There will be many different opinions expressed in these last days leading up to the Referendum and it is important that we listen to all views and reflect on them prayerfully, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to how we should vote.

Jesus reassures us that part of the role of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into all truth and so we should find time not only to ask for guidance in our prayers but also to leave space in order to receive an answer – for God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we might listen twice as much as speak! We believe God always answers prayer although not necessarily at the time or in the way that we expect.



Prayer has been described as 'wasting time with God' and that is a very good description. When you are in love with someone you simply enjoy being with them – not necessarily 'doing' anything but just 'being' in their company. So it is with God. In prayer we meet God. We learn to see the world and other people through God's eyes and we begin to see ourselves through God's eyes too. We start to understand what it really means to be loved sincerely and unconditionally for ever.

When some of us help as volunteers at the Night Church in the centre of the night – clubbing district of Hanley, we often have young people requesting prayer – invariably for others (especially for their grandparents!) but sometimes for themselves. When they ask that we should 'do' the praying we always say that of course we will but invite them to join with us in praying too. The sad response is often that they could not possibly pray because they do not know how to do it! But that is nothing new – the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray as John the Baptist had taught his followers – and of course Jesus then gave us that prayer that is known and welcomed throughout the

world (except in certain cinema chains!) – the prayer which begins "Our Father in heaven".

However we vote on June 23rd we cannot be certain of the future we are passing to our children and young people but if there is one gift that we can give them that will always be of benefit to them, it is to know the value of prayer and how to pray.

+Geoff Stafford



DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD
GOING FOR GROWTH



Please send details of your events to Spotlight on
comms@lichfield.anglican.org

DIARY

Quiet Day Retreats
A weekend for Christian visual artists
June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept 8
AMICA Benefice nr. Whitchurch
Contact: admin@amica.org.uk 01948 890610 (answer phone)

GPS Global Positioning Sunday
Celebrating God's World Wide Church throughout the Diocese.
Sunday 29 May **Contact Philip Swan**
07857703303 or worldmission@lichfield.anglican.org



Messy Meet-up
for those leading Messy Churches in the Stoke (and much wider) area.
June 4, St Philip's Milton, Stoke
Contact Cerys Hughes
07738 290919
cerys.hughes@lichfield.anglican.org

EU Referendum Debate
with two Staffordshire MPs
Friday 3 June
Lichfield Cathedral
www.lichfield-cathedral.org for details

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