Global Partnerships

and Companion Diocesan Links

Lichfield Diocese has taken very seriously the call to be part of the worldwide church and to establish relationships of partnership with churches throughout the Anglican Communion and indeed ecumenically.

Long standing Companion Diocesan Links exist with Qu’Appelle Diocese, Saskatchewan and with Matlosane Diocese in South Africa. After more than 30 years of being formally linked with the Dioceses in the Province of South East Asia we continue with links of friendship particularly with West Malaysia, Kuching and Sabah.

Our link with the Nordkirche in the Lutheran Evangelical Church provides not only an important ecumenical dimension but also, in these post Brexit times, a reminder of our European identity and of the distinctive lessons we can learn from one another. Our recent link with the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross offers similar opportunities.

We are keen to encourage informed prayer for the wider church. The weekly Diocesan Prayer Diary often includes details from the world church as well as a link to the Cycle of Prayer for the Anglican Communion. Several of our churches have Mission Partners and others connect with the Anglican Mission Agencies, notably USPG and CMS.

Parish to Parish links have enabled this kind of informed mutual support and friendship to be sustained and there are also opportunities to make connections between schools.

The St Chad’s Volunteer programme has, for 20 years, enabled an exchange of young adults both from and to Lichfield Diocese and we are actively exploring what this might look like in our Post Covid-19 contexts.

We are aware that a great range of links outside of these formally recognised structures exist and we welcome these as an expression of our commitment to share in God’s mission globally. Charities such as Link for Life, which connects to Hands at Work, demonstrate the level of commitment which many churches show in responding to the Great Commission.

We recognise too that mission is, to quote Bishop Nazir-Ali, ‘From Everywhere to Everywhere’ and as such we rejoice in the enrichment of churches from Africa and Asia and elsewhere of many different traditions which are flourishing within our Diocese. We also seek to be confident in the Gospel and to develop the ability to minister cross-culturally.

 Philip Swan Easter 2021