

Spotlight

The Diocese of Lichfield Magazine

Sept/Oct 2016

Bishop Michael will be arriving in Lichfield on foot to take up his new role as ninety-ninth bishop of the diocese. In the three days leading up to his Installation and Enthronement, he and a party of fellow pilgrims are walking part of the Two Saints Way.



"Lichfield is a pilgrim cathedral, and always has been. Travellers came here for centuries, inspired in their faith by St Chad and keen to grow as followers of Jesus Christ by walking in his footsteps. Chad is one of the all-time greats of the Midlands, his name is on landmarks everywhere, but many people have forgotten who he was. It's time to put that right."

"Chad was the first bishop of Lichfield, he brought the Christian faith to our part of the Midlands. He is one of the great figures of our history. He shaped the people we are and the places we live today. He journeyed alongside people, lived faithfully and drew the Mercians of his time to God in their thousands."

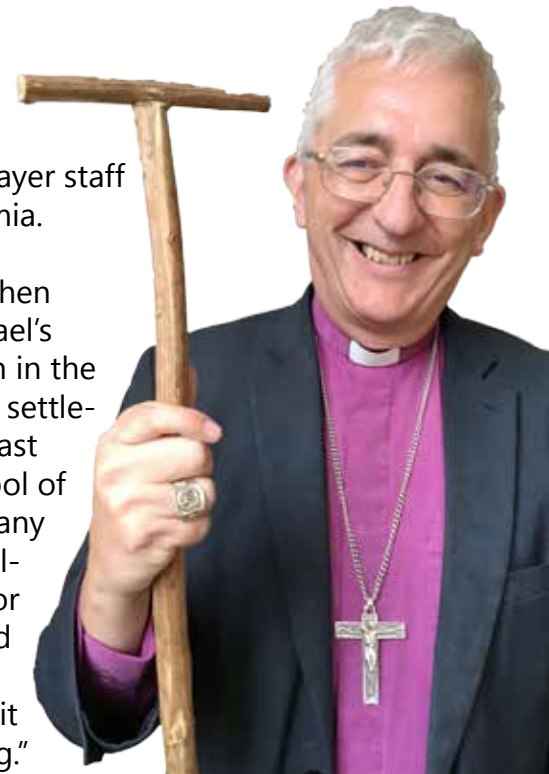
"As I begin serving as your bishop, I am humbled to be walking in Chad's footsteps. Everybody is welcome to come and join me along the way."

The Long Way

The three-day walk from Stoke to Lichfield will bring local people and places together. Starting at Stoke Minster, the Saxon birthplace of Stoke-on-Trent, he will follow the old custom of bringing stones to Stone, and join services in churches in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Gnosall and Lichfield.

Bishop Michael will be making the pilgrimage with a simple prayer staff called a mequamia.

"I was given it when I visited St Michael's Ethiopian church in the so-called Jungle settlement in France last year. It is a symbol of our world. So many people are travelling, searching, or lost and we need to pray, to lean on the Holy Spirit in our journeying."



**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**



DISCOVERING
THE HEART OF GOD



GROWING
DISCIPLES



REACHING
NEW GENERATIONS



TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES



PRACTISING
GENEROSITY

The Church of England around Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country

Bishop Michael's Season of Welcome

Bishop Michael's season of welcome is about to begin as we go to press.

In the nine days before his Installation and Enthronement at Lichfield Cathedral, he will travel across the diocese, visiting churches and communities, meeting people, praying for them, and asking them to pray for him in his ministry. Please check our website for additional details.

Oswestry - Thursday 15th

7.30pm; Holy Trinity, Roft Street, SY11 2ES. A Service of Word & Prayer for Diocese & Bishop; refreshments.

Wellington - Friday 16th

7.30pm; Christ Church, New Church Road, Wellington, TF1 1JX. A Service of Prayer and Praise; refreshments.

Chesterton - Saturday 17th

7.30pm; Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, ST5 7HJ Prayer and Harvest Supper.

Wolverhampton - Sunday 18th

5.30pm; All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Wolverhampton WV2 2AW. Prayers & Reflection on supporting Mission on the Edge; Supper.

Aldridge - Monday 19th

7.45pm; Aldridge Church Centre, The Green, WS9 8NH. A Service of Praise and Prayer; refreshments.

Whitchurch - Tuesday 20th

7.00pm; St Alkmund's Church, Church Street, SY13 1LB. A Service of Holy Communion; refreshments.

Newcastle under Lyme - Wednesday 21st

7.30pm; St Paul's Church, Victoria Road. A Eucharist for the Feast of St Matthew; refreshments.

Gnosall - Thursday 22nd

7.00pm; St Lawrence Church, Sellman Street, ST20 0EP. A Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving for our Benefice, our Diocese and our Bishop; refreshments.

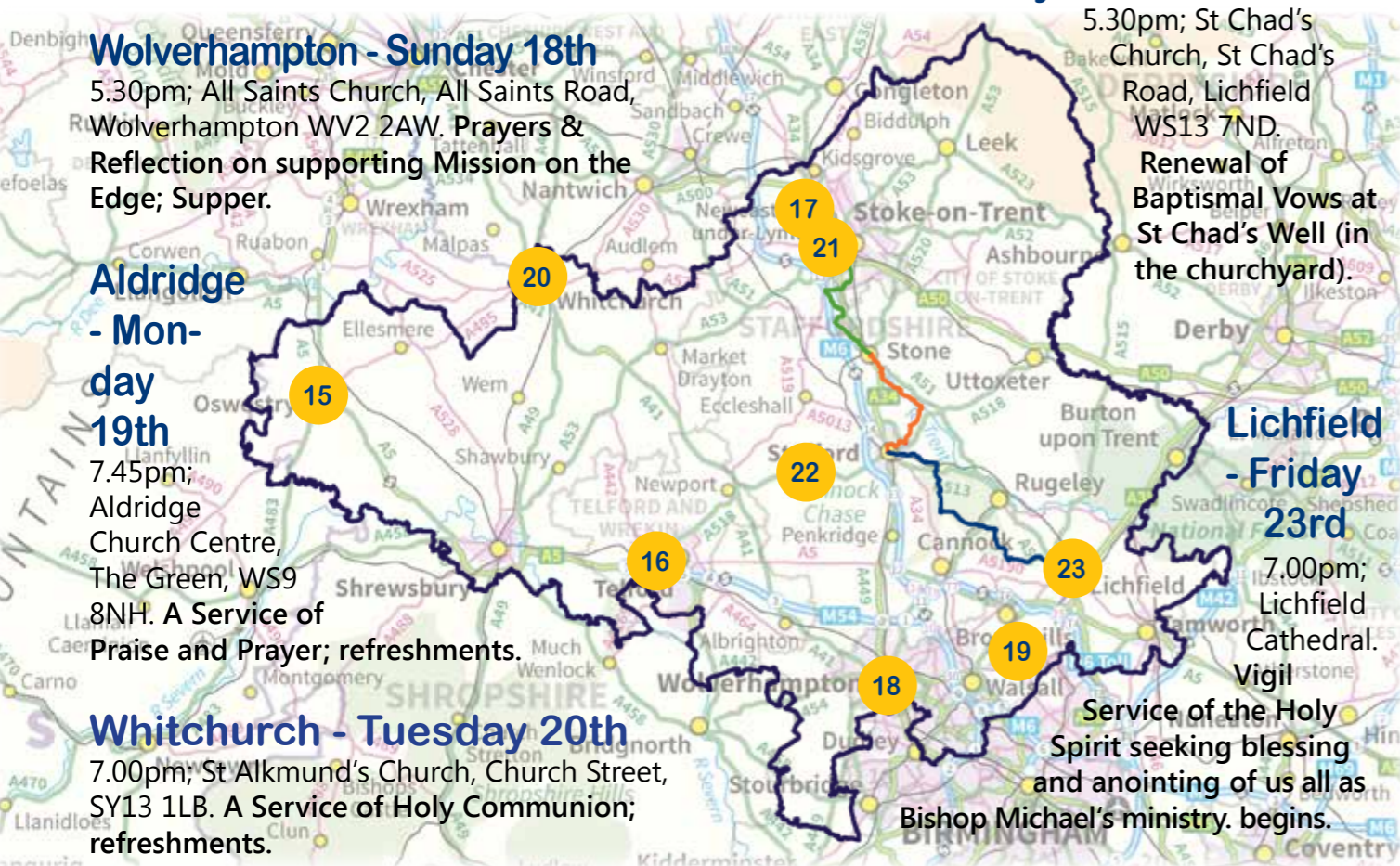
Lichfield - Friday 23rd

5.30pm; St Chad's Church, St Chad's Road, Lichfield WS13 7ND. Renewal of Baptismal Vows at St Chad's Well (in the churchyard).

Lichfield - Friday 23rd

7.00pm; Lichfield Cathedral. Vigil

Service of the Holy Spirit seeking blessing and anointing of us all as Bishop Michael's ministry begins.

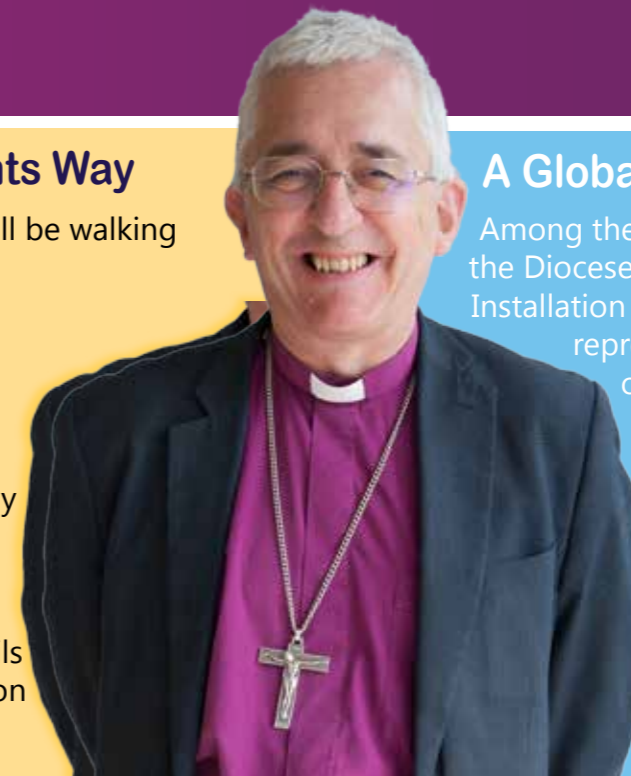


Walking the Two Saints Way

Bishop Michael and others will be walking part of the Two Saints Way:

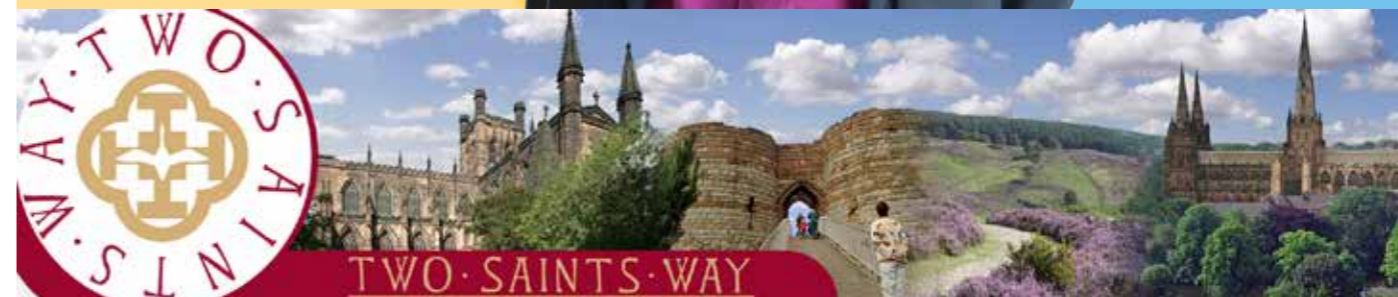
Wednesday 21: Stoke - Stone
Thursday 22: Stone - Stafford
Friday 23: Stafford - Lichfield

Anyone is welcome to join any part of this (and there is no need to 'book in') but please be aware of the need to maintain a steady pace! Details of each day's pilgrimage are on the diocesan website.



A Global Church

Among the many guests visiting the Diocese for +Michael's Installation will be bishops and representatives from our link dioceses. On Sunday afternoon/evening, many will be receiving Lichfield hospitality at parishes around the diocese. Updates on the website: www.lichfield.anglican.org



Installation and Enthronement Diocesan Eucharist

Lichfield Cathedral; 11.00 & 15.30
Because of the limited capacity of Lichfield Cathedral, these will be ticket-only services: As well as invitations to all Licensed Lay and Ordained ministers, each Deanery has been given an allocation of tickets so the whole people of the Diocese may be represented.

Not everyone can squeeze into Lichfield Cathedral, so the Bishops and Dean have asked each deanery, alone or in clusters, to identify a hub location where people can gather together from local churches, to watch one or both services live on a big screen and share lunch and a time of fellow-

ship. Confirmed hubs where you can go and take part in the celebration include:

- Shifnal: St Andrew's
- Shrewsbury: Bayston Hill - Christ Church
- Stafford: Littleworth - St John's
- West Bromwich: YMCA's Cielo Shop, Carters Green
- Telford: Wrockwardine Wood - Holy Trinity
- Walsall: St Martin's
- Pelsall: St Michael's
- Tamworth: St George's Glascote

Both services will be streamed live over the internet, and a number of deaneries are organising local places to gather and enjoy the celebrations together. Check for details at www.lichfield.anglican.org.

Pilgrims follow Henry V

A small but determined band of pilgrims embarked on a seven-day trek from Shrewsbury to Holywell in the footsteps of King Henry V.

Six hundred years ago, the warrior king undertook the pilgrimage on foot about six months after routing French forces at the Battle of Agincourt on 25 October 1415.

The King's pilgrimage began at the Benedictine Shrewsbury Abbey, where the relics of St Winefride were enshrined, and ended at St Winefride's Well in Flintshire, the site where the virgin martyr was beheaded by the Welsh chieftan Caradog in the 7th century, before she was miraculously brought back to life by her uncle, St Beuno.

About two dozen walkers gathered in Shrewsbury Abbey for a service of prayer before they set off on a 71-mile route close to that taken by the King.



Pilgrims set out along Shrewsbury's Town Walls

The route is not identical to that taken by Henry, who probably would have walked along part of the ancient Roman road from Wroxeter to Chester. Ron Williams, who designed the new pilgrimage trail, said: "We cannot follow the route that Henry took because Watling Street, is now the A5 so we have had to create a route as near as possible."

He added: "We have designed the programme so that people can join in for two days or one day or whatever."

It is hoped that once the route has been tested by the first group of pilgrims it will be formally launched as the St Winefride Pilgrimage Trail.

The pilgrims then set out on the first leg of the journey, from Shrewsbury to Montford Bridge.

Walking about 10 miles a day, the pilgrimage was to take them through Nesscliffe, Oswestry, Froncysyllite, Llangollen, Llandegla, Cilcain before concluding at Holywell for a weekend of events in honour of St Winefride.



Rt Revd Mark Davies, Roman Catholic bishop of Shrewsbury encourages pilgrims in Shrewsbury Abbey

The House of the Rector

The chocolate-box image of the traditional vicarage doesn't account for the realities of life in the 21st century. Just keeping those buildings warm and dry is often a challenge for the Diocese's Property department, let alone keeping electrics and heating up to modern standards.

So there was celebration all round when the Rector of Aldridge, Revd John Coyne and his wife Sue received the keys of their brand new rectory at the start of September.

"It's the culmination of a long and complex process" says Andy Mason, Director of Property for the Diocese. "Negotiations and planning over this area of land had begun before John [Coyne, Rector of Aldridge] or I had come to the Diocese. But we've sold the land to the highest bidder, Kendrick Homes, who having built the



Julie Jones, CEO of Lichfield Diocese; Revd John & Sue Coyne receiving keys; and James Rennison, MD of Kendrick Homes

new rectory is now building eight other lovely houses. It defies expectations when you realise the new rectory is one of the smallest on the development and first to be completed, yet also will give John lower running costs and a house that ticks all the boxes in the 'Green Guide' for clergy houses that is too often just an aspiration, so the study and visitor facilities will work for both ministry and family. Kendrick Homes have gone beyond our expectations

in the finishing of the house which exceeds all environmental requirements."

"It's a privilege to be the first to live in this new house" says John, who spent seventeen years as a chaplain in the RAF. "I have lived in 29 different houses, 10 since we married; we've had a family grow, fly the nest and now return as guests to see gran & grandad. So we have been very aware through this process that we have a responsibility on behalf of future rectors of Aldridge and their families that this house will be good for them and their ministries too.

"I'm thrilled with this outcome" says CEO of Lichfield Diocese, Julie Jones. "Kendrick Homes were the developers who submitted the highest bid and have proved to be excellent partners, going above and beyond our requirements in providing an appropriate vicarage at a very good cost to us.



As well as triple glazing and rainwater collection, the developers thought to include baby-chagne facilities in the visitors' cloakroom

"And the proceeds of the development are good for both the parish of Aldridge and the whole diocese. For Aldridge, as it is helping finance their new parish centre, already a vital hub for its mission in the local community; and for the Diocese as we continue the rolling programme to repair and upgrade all our vicarages."



Try Praying

Power of prayer is put to the test

Churches in Shrewsbury recently came together to make a big splash in the town with prayer. Everyone from Orthodox to Salvation Army, Catholic to Pentecostal joined to put up banners, ads on buses and in the papers, all with the same invitation: Try Praying.

ABOUT 20 million people, nearly a third of the UK population, will say a prayer at some time or other. Of those, nearly half of them will pray every day, says the Rev Charles Ruxton.

"It depends how you define prayer," he says. "The Anglican minister from Shrewsbury might include the 'God help me' said in a moment of stress, our longing in trouble, words from a book or said in church, limits of quiet attention, or 'Easter is a time when the role of the church - and of God - comes to the fore'."

And Mr Ruxton is convinced that he and like-minded people can prove the merit and power of prayer.

He is challenging Shropshire's sceptics to try praying for seven days as part of an experiment to see what happens.

Try Praying week, and in the lead-up to the event there will be a heavy advertising campaign including notices in the local press and adverts on the side of buses.



Members of Shropshire's Christian community getting behind the campaign



The Try Praying movement has already been trialed in other cities

"You can't say 'God, I will believe in you if you make my granny better', but you can say 'try praying is it, please make her better' - and then listen to see what happens."

Mr Ruxton also says people should be prepared for unexpected results. "It's not the kind of process where you always get the answer you want," he says.

"People talk about asking God for things, asking for something being given, but sometimes what they want and what they get are different stories."

Also featured on the website is the Rev Andy Knight, who visited the town of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, to see what happened when he visited in hospital.

"I asked him if he would like me to pray for him, and he said yes, so I would put my hands on his head," Mr Ruxton says. "That person wrote me a letter saying, 'As you prayed I had been suffering from great depression, great anxiety and tension because of this ongoing critical illness. I felt immense peace and peace coming into my body as you prayed. I felt so much strength from not just your prayer, but from what was being said.'"

trypraying.

Why not try praying this week and see what happens! It might not be what you expect...

God, if you're there, I really want to know you...

trypraying is a simple invitation to have a go, using a booklet or phone app which takes you through 7 days of Christian prayer.

Ask at any church in Shrewsbury; get it at outlets in town or online at www.trypraying.co.uk

And have a look at our facebook page tryprayingshrewsbury for videos of local people telling their experiences of prayer.

trypraying is a joint project by the churches of Shrewsbury using materials from therehope and trypraying

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£160,000 from £1,600 per month

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£960,000 from £9,600 per month

£980,000 from £9,800 per month

£1,000,000 from £10,000 per month

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Banners on buildings: article and advert in local newspaper; and engagement online.

"Most important were the people - Christians who said to friends, family, colleagues or chance acquaintances 'prayer is important to me, would you like to try?' This happened mostly in homes and workplaces but for a week, we also had the use of a former library bus which toured the town's squares and car parks with a pop-up café and resulted in 308 conversations about prayer. Altogether we gave out nearly 5000 'credit cards' with website and contact details and a similar number of the prayer booklets.

The invitation was backed up with a booklet and phone app, produced by 'There Is Hope' in Edinburgh, which takes users through 7 days of Christian praying. It is written for those who don't go to church, with versions for adults and children.

Charles Ruxton, Chair of Trypraying Shrewsbury, tells the story:



"A key part of the project was its online presence, especially a Facebook group called 'tryprayingShrewsbury'. We posted videos of local people giving honest accounts of their experiences of prayer and they are amazing.

"Local media took an interest - we appeared in the Shropshire Star and Shrewsbury Chronicle as well as being interviewed live on Radio Shropshire.

"We are in this for the long haul. The churches are still meeting every fortnight to pray for the town, and we plan to set up a prayer trail around the centre, as well as hosting some events in local venues giving people a chance to explore ways of praying. We know it is God who blesses and changes people - we want to do our bit.

"All that really matters in prayer is the relationship with God that grows. We have been quite struck by the way God has responded in rather direct ways in peoples' lives. We don't need to know everything that happens as a result of TryPraying, but we do pray that all of it would bless people in our town and that the community of believers would grow.

"If you would like to be involved in the next phases of TryPraying, do get in touch. We don't know where it will go next - perhaps you could help us find out!"

Charles Ruxton can be contacted on 01743 891636. To see the videos and find out more visit www.trypraying.org.uk/tryprayingshrewsbury



DISCOVERING THE HEART OF GOD



Fruits of the Spirit Award



Wendy Rees of All Saints' Church, Rangemore tells the story of a special award to local children that has delighted the local school.

"The New Testament Letter to the Christians in Galatia tells us that the Holy Spirit gives a person "fruit" in their life. Nine fruits are listed in Chapter 5 verses 22-25 as being "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control." So real are these qualities which the Spirit gives that we can often see them in our own lives and in the lives of others. Verse 25 tells us 'If our lives are centred in the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit'.



"Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Rangemore created an award to be presented annually at the local school. Working closely with the Head Teacher and Staff of their local school All Saints (C of E) Primary School, School Christian Club and School Council, it was agreed to present the award to the child who, nominated by other pupils and staff, best displays the "Fruits of the Spirit" in their life.

"The award itself was a handcrafted basket of fruit made out of natural materials, each piece bearing the name of one of the nine qualities. To involve the wider community in the award scheme, the Rangemore and Tatenhill Branch of the Women's Institute (Craft Crew) were 'commissioned' by the church to design and make the fruit basket. The names of

Faith-sharing Advocates

Have you ever felt isolated when doing mission? Do you wonder whether you're re-inventing the wheel?

With this in mind, Bishop Mark's Evangelism Enabling Team has asked each of his benefices to nominate a 'Faith Sharing Advocate' to create a network across the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area.

Far from being extra work, it is hoped that in sharing good practice and encouraging each other, every Advocate will be better equipped to keep evangelism on the agenda in their churches. Advocates receive a monthly email full of simple, practical ideas and good-news stories, and enjoy occasional fellowship meetings over a glass of their chosen tipples—even with sunshine to order!



The network is being convened by Fi Iddon (07793 731512) and Hannah Lins (07949 451486) as part of their ordination training projects and Capt Gordon Lamb, Church Army officer based in Shrewsbury (07975 601282).



award winners are embroidered onto the lid of the basket.

"The first 'Fruits of the Spirit' award was made during the End of Term Service in All Saint's Church on Tuesday 19 July this year. It followed much teaching and encouragement on the

subject, included in school worship and songs, classroom subjects and school displays. The children know about the Fruits of the Spirit. All Saints School have been delighted with the response and have even noticed a change of attitude within the school community.

"The Fruits of the Spirit Award' is testimony to how the Bible can encourage and direct our lives."



Strong bonds with Malaysia

After his recent enthronement, Archbishop Ng Moon Hing is not only Bishop of West Malaysia but Archbishop of South-East Asia.

The Archbishop has set out to consolidate his Diocesan vision in a series of conferences, and his colleagues have extended a warm invitation to representatives of Lichfield Diocese to join in as many of these conferences as possible.

In July it was the turn of **worship and discipleship**. Diocesan Secretary Julie Jones and her husband Stewart were the Lichfield delegates.

"Before the conference began, we went to Penang to catch up with previous St Chad's volunteers. Anthony Arul, who served at Penn, was our main host. We delighted in the sights, food and ministry of the island, meeting Miriam Samuel and her father, Bishop Charles, and joining in the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the St George's Anglican church there. We loved meeting members of Anthony's church and learning from them directly about the challenges of evangelism and discipleship.



Canons Stewart & Julie Jones, David Joseph, Provincial Chancellor Andrew Khoo and Archbishop Moon Hing

"Back in Kuala Lumpur we joined the conference, which was energetically led by a worship team from the Sarang Community in South Korea. The worship was not for the unfit or



Diocesan Secretaries of Malaysia and Lichfield: Canon Julie Jones with David Joseph

faint hearted! It was supplemented by practical and challenging teaching about all aspects of worship and the importance of intentional day to day discipleship - Bishop Moon Hing's clear priority.

"I was able to spend time with the Chancellor and Diocesan Secretary and met members of the Diocesan office, and we were both privileged to preach at different churches in KL at the weekend.

"What really hit us was the commitment and energy they encountered from people in the pews and all those attending the conference. The high energy and passion was infectious and we came back with much to reflect on both for the life of our Diocese but also Stewart's ministry at St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham.

"I hope people will take the opportunity to visit, learn and build relationships with our partners. It is exhausting but energising, challenging both personally and corporately, and - if you go - be prepared to eat vast amounts of food at all hours of the day and night!"

+Michael's Pastoral Letter

For you, I am a bishop; with you, I am a Christian. Those words of St Augustine will be the first words that (provided all goes to plan) I speak after being placed in the episcopal chair, the cathedra, in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 24th September.

And I will say them in response to a child who will just have reminded me: 'Bishop Michael, never forget that first and foremost you are a child of God'. It is a crucial message for bishops to remember, and really Augustine's words should be in the reverse order: to begin with, a Christian, among Christians, and only then a bishop, for Christians.

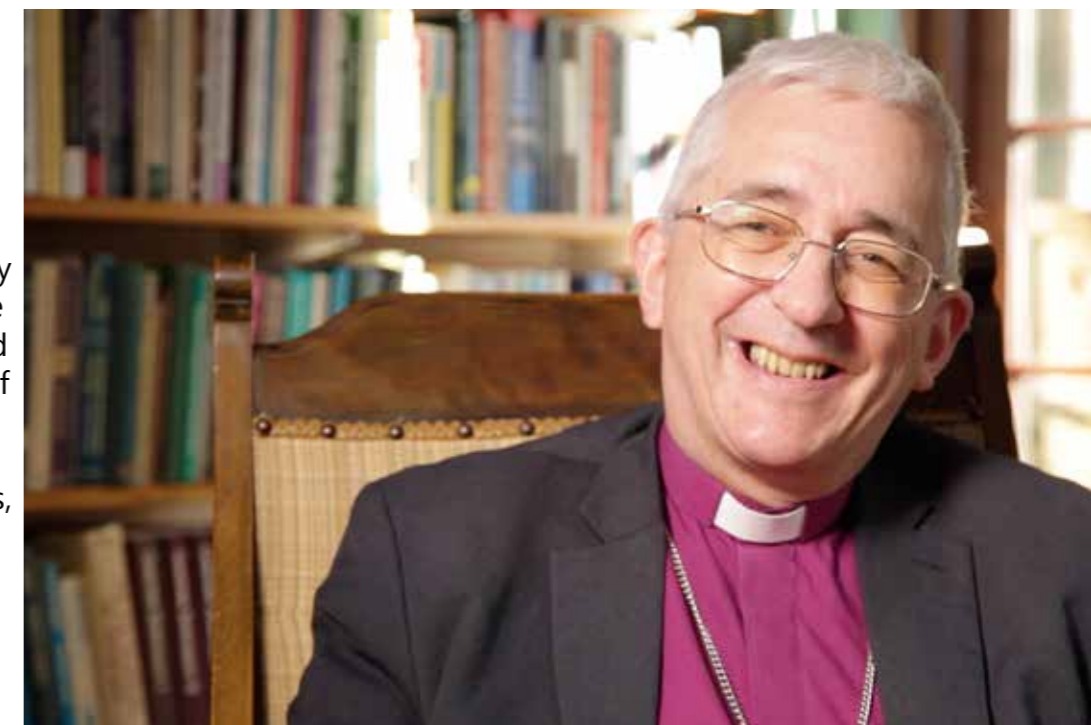
It is not only bishops who need to remember that. We talk a great deal about ministry in the Church of England, and so we should: we have rightly rediscovered the ministry of the whole people of God, and the many and varied ways in which the Lord equips so many, lay and ordained, for specific tasks of service in church and world. But before some of us are called to particular ministries, all of us are called to be disciples, to be people who follow Jesus, and who invite others to come along with them and follow him too.

If we forget that, we can become so focused on what we think we have to offer God and his church, on the many different respects in which we are the best thing since sliced bread, that we fail to grasp the starting point of the whole Christian faith, which is not what we reckon we can do for God but what God has done for us - and that is not less than everything. We need to

keep coming back to the faith of a child of God to remember that.

**For you, I am a bishop;
with you, I am a Christian**

If I forget that, and become too bound up in being a bishop for you so that I forget that I am a Christian with you, please tell me: remind me that first and foremost I am a child of God, like you. And please pray for me, as I will pray for you. From 15th to 23rd September, I will be travelling around this great diocese to nine different churches where we can pray together;



and on the evening of Friday 23rd we will be renewing the vows of our baptism which declare us to be the children of God. We will do that at St Chad's Well in Lichfield, where my predecessor baptised the Mercians of his time. May God bless us and renew us in our following of Jesus now as he blessed them and renewed them then.

+Michael



DISCOVERING
the faith



GROWING
the people



TEACHING
the world to follow



TRANSFORMING
the world



PRACTISING
the faith

The Church of England
around Staffordshire, northern
Shropshire and the Black Country

DIARY

Community of St Chad
- Teaching Event: Celtic
Spiritual Warfare

Thurs 29 Sep 2016, 7.30-
9:30pm, Doxey, Stafford

The Dark night of the Shed
A Men's day with author & speaker Nick Page

Saturday Nov 19, 9.30am – 3pm, Holy Trinity
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury. More details via
www.trinitychurches.org

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

**C1 Safeguarding Training for
Parish Volunteers**

Saturday 1 Oct 2016, 10
am-1pm, Beacon International
Centre, Stafford

For more info, contact Kim
Hodgkins 01543 306099 / kim.
hodgkins@lichfield.anglican.org

Selwyn Study Day

This year's Selwyn Lecture a little
different to that we're used to.
Bishop Michael invites clergy
and laity to join him at the
Cathedral from 10am to 4.15pm,
on the theme of "God and the
MoneyLenders."

Wednesday Oct 5,
10.00am-4.15pm

This year we are providing a
FREE LUNCH for all those who
REGISTER IN ADVANCE. Please
register via
[lichfield.anglican.org/events/
2016/10/05/selwyn-lecture/](http://lichfield.anglican.org/events/2016/10/05/selwyn-lecture/)