

Discuss these ideas about what 'culture' means... **Culture is...**

1. an integral pattern of human knowledge, belief and behaviour that depends upon the capacity for symbolic thought and social learning.
2. the set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterises an institution, organisation or group. Cross Cultural Christian p4

Remind each other of the tale of Robin Hood.

What underlying story lies within this story?

Why has the story carried on for so long?

What does the Robin Hood tale tell us about British/English culture?

*How does the way we see ourselves as people/community affect the way we respond to Christ's call to follow him?*



It takes the whole world  
To know the whole Christ

**Reflect on** these words of Andrew F Walls;

*The very height of Christ's full stature is revealed only by the coming together of different cultural entities into the body of Christ. Only 'together' not on our own can we reach his full stature. The church..... is a celebration of the union of irreconcilable entities, the breaking down of the wall of partition brought about by Christ.*

Chris Neal....365 days CMS (Easter 34) said;

*each culture will bring its own perspective and understanding of who Jesus is, and so stretch and hopefully deepen the understanding of us all*

*Is your church a group of people like you?*

## Session 1 Discovering the heart of God

**In this session:** How has our culture had an impact on the Christ we know?



### Book Links.....

*The Faith of the English:* Nigel Rooms

*Foreign to Familiar:* Sarah A Lanier

*Christianity Rediscovered:* Vincent J Donovan

*Cross Cultural Christian:* Stuart Buchanan



### A prayer of Welcome

*Lord God, you have brought us together in partnership.*

*You have caused us to depend on each other.*

*We thank you for this.*

*May we use this opportunity to discover each other.*

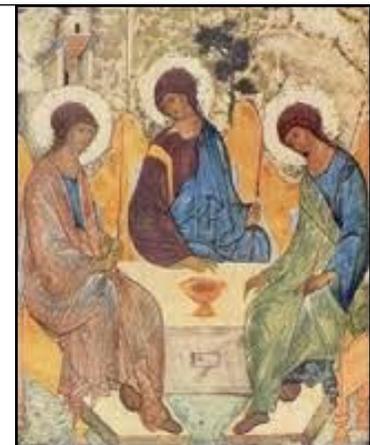
*Open our hearts to see the problems and needs of our partners,*

*Strengthen us as we give and receive, sharing material and spiritual gifts.*

*We commit ourselves to You as we go journey together,*

*United with one another in Your love. Amen*

*Gustrow Cathedral; Christian Höser (2013)*



### Making Links....

Describe an embarrassing or funny situation in which there was a misunderstanding of language or culture e.g. On holiday abroad.

### Bible Links...

Revelation 7: 9-12

In John's vision of worship in heaven there are 'people from every nation, tribe people and language' (v9 NIV)

1. In what ways does your church worship reflect this vision of the Kingdom of God?
2. How can worshipping with people who are 'not like us' enhance our worship and understanding of God?
3. How can we work towards the vision which Rev 7 sets before us?

### Companion Links...

Introducing Lichfield Diocese's four Companion Links...

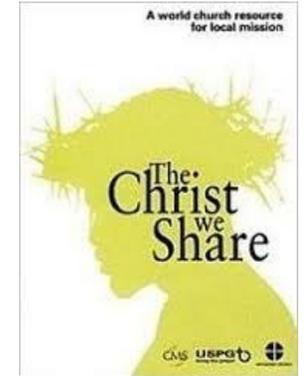


- Matlosane, South Africa
- Qu'Appelle, Canada
- Nordkirche, Germany
- West Malaysia, Singapore and Kuching in S.E.Asia

Meet:  
Kagiso Teme (Matlosane)  
Bishop Moon Hing (West Malaysia)  
Kim and Susan Salo (Qu'Appelle)



The Christ We Share: a World Church resource for local mission. Christ through Global Eyes.



### Local Links....

Describe any links your church has or you have personally experienced with mission overseas.

What links do you have if any with 'The World that has Come Here'?

### Prayer Links....

Place nightlights on a map of the world to remember and hold before God people and places whom you have thought of today.



### Personal Challenge;

This week, talk to someone not like you.