

The Nordkirche was formed at Pentecost 2012 and is the product of the merger between the North Elbian Church, the Church of Mecklenburg and the Pomeranian Church. With 2.25 million members it is the fifth largest evangelical church in Germany.

Northern Germany is fairly flat and has many lakes which makes it ideal for cycling and walking; furthermore, it has a very accessible coastline along the North Sea and the Baltic which runs for some 850 kilometers. It is one of Germany's fastest growing destination for tourism.

The combination of the three formerly separate church districts gives the Nordkirche more than 1,900 churches and chapels served by a total of 1,715 pastors.

Mecklenburg and Pomerania were both of the former East Germany. The uniting of these two church districts with that of Schleswig-Holstein (being of the former West) brings together diverse cultures and the challenges of further integration.

Hamburg has recently seen an influx of African and Syrian refugees. The plight of these displaced people has become an important focus for the Lutheran Church in Hamburg which together with other Nordkirche regions have created refugee centres providing accommodation and addressing issues of justice and care. Related activities in Stoke-on-Trent (a UK refugee dispersal centre) has been inspired by what we've seen done by our partners.

Lichfield's partnership with the Mecklenburg contingent of the Nordkirche began back in 1997. The sharing of our life at different levels has gone from strength to strength. On 29th November 2014, the Covenant between Lichfield and the Nordkirche was renewed for a further five years. Various activities to further consolidate and grow our link are being planned with considerable enthusiasm by a dedicated team.

Parishes contemplating mission-focussed partnerships with our German, ecumenical partners are encouraged to contact the Revd Philip Swan (Lichfield Diocesan Director of World Mission) or the Revd Prebendary Terry Bloor who coordinates this partnership with the World Mission group.

 philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org
 terry.bloor@btinternet.com



Evangelisch-Lutherische
Kirche in Norddeutschland



Our Partners in Northern Germany



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad



Cathedrals

The cathedrals of Lichfield and Schwerin have a long-standing relationship. Pastor Albrecht Martin (of Schwerin) preached at Lichfield in August 2014 as part of the diocesan commemoration of the WW1 centenary.

Youth Opportunities

The partnership has promoted various youth visits...

- Teenagers from Mecklenburg have attended the Soul Survivor youth event in Stafford many times
- Abbots Bromley School hosted a 4-day youth conference during summer holidays
- Teenagers from the village of Eldena; spent a week in a Telford parish
- The Community of St. Chad's Volunteer Scheme has seen placements of young Christians in both Germany and the UK

Advent Celebration

The annual bi-lingual service held during Advent has become a key feature in the ongoing life of our partnership. These increasingly well-attended services are held alternately at venues in England and Germany.



Pilgrimages

Our 2016 Luther themed, joint pilgrimage to Leipzig Wittenberg & Eisleben set the scene for a 2018 pilgrimage to Ireland where the Celtic roots of St. Chad will be traced.

Theology & Sabbaticals

The partnership has...

- provided exchange visits of ordinands and students from theological colleges and universities.
- supported sabbatical breaks and periods of extended study leave
- contributed to the ongoing work of the Meissen Commission which works for unity between the CofE and the Evangelical Church of Germany
- hosted conferences on various theological topics.



Kirchentag

The biennial 5-day celebration of faith and church-life held in different German cities is usually attended by representatives of Lichfield. The partnership has helped to staff the 'Meissen' stall in the conference halls.

Peace and Reconciliation

The partnership allows engagement with the ongoing work of reconciliation and promotes Christian unity between our two nations; even more important in a post-Brexit Europe!

Mutual Encouragement

The partnership often has representatives at each other's ordinations and licensing services and the concerns of each church feature regularly in one other's prayer diaries.

