

Farewell message from Revd Philip Swan, on his retirement in September 2021

'Fancy a nice cushy job with lots of exotic world travel?' So ran the Church Times advert which caught my eye back on the summer of 2009 for the Director of World Mission post in Lichfield Diocese. I was already hooked before I read the next part – 'If so, don't apply'. I am deeply thankful that I did apply and it had been a thoroughly rewarding and engaging post, building on the excellent legacy of those who preceded me and changing and adapting to all that the Spirit is doing within the world wide church and the Anglican Communion in particular.

I wanted to say a big thank you to all who have helped to shape World Mission in the Diocese over these past 12 years, for your prayers, participation and interest. Thank you to all who linked into the five Global Swansongs with Malaysia, Qu'Appelle, Matlosane and Ireland and the Nordkirche which took place on Zoom during the last 5 months. Thank you to Rev Preb Ben Whitmore for so kindly hosting my Farewell service at St Bart's, Penn, Wolverhampton and to all who were present or who watched the service on the St Bart's [Facebook page](#). It was a great joy to hear and see friends from our global partnerships speaking on pre-recorded video at that event.

I leave with many happy and formative memories and pray that World Mission will continue to play a central role in the life of this Diocese. I am so grateful to Bishop Michael for his inspiring leadership and for demonstrating what it means to 'join with God's whole church throughout the world' and to take seriously friendships and theological understanding which can help us take this forward. Archdeacon Sue Weller has been appointed the Bishop's Adviser for World Mission and Denise Keen will continue as World Mission Administrator. The existing and newly formed Working Groups for each of our links will provide fresh thinking and energy alongside the identification of individuals who will oversee other aspects of our World Mission portfolio such as mission agencies, school links, prayer and World Mission News and future Curates' visits. ([click here for further information about the Working groups](#))

And now I need to work out whatever I am going to do with a wardrobe full of very colourful clerical shirts!