Vicar’s Letter for June 2016

Dear Friends

Whenever we have baptisms at St Matthew’s both Simon and I remind the parents of their beautiful child that through baptism their child has become a member of the Church – the Church which is not just here in Stretford, nor in England but the world- wide Church. And that is true for all of us!

To strengthen our links and remind us of our fellowship as Anglicans, the diocese of Manchester has specific link dioceses overseas: the diocese of Namibia in Southern Africa, the diocese of Tampere in Finland, the diocese of Melbourne in Australia and the diocese of Lahore in Pakistan.

This June and July the diocese of Manchester will be welcoming four Head teachers from the diocese of Lahore, and one of those Head teachers will be involved in the life of St Matthew’s School for the week beginning 13th June. This is an exciting project, and one which will not only strengthen our links as Christians but also help us to understand more about life in Lahore, which as you know has suffered terribly from recent bomb attacks.

As part of this project Christian Aid is going to be using the opportunity to raise awareness of its own work in Pakistan, where it works to provide urgent, practical assistance, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes, and setting up projects of peace-building, empowering women and safe homes

Christian Aid will be working alongside the Head teachers from Lahore and in order to hear more from the Head teachers of their life and work as teachers, and the work of Christian Aid specifically in Lahore and other parts of Pakistan, we’ve arranged a time to come and listen and learn and ask questions – and find out how the money we donate to Christian Aid is making a difference to peoples’ lives.

So we warmly invite you to come on Thursday 16th June at 5pm to St Matthew’s Hall to hear our speakers. It will just be for an hour or so, and there will be tea and coffee available.

With every blessing

Kate