

Moving from corporate world into church ministry was a big change for me in 2006. It was truly a blessing to be given the privilege to be a St Chad's volunteer in the Lichfield diocese. Living and working in a country with cold weather and a different culture was not easy. I thank God for His grace given to me each day that I was able to adapt to the weather, lifestyle and working environment.

I had chosen to spend 12 months in England and was attached to the Parish of St John's The Pleck, Walsall under supervision of Rev Ben Whitmore (vicar) and Rev Pauline Shepherd (curate). I also served in the Mission and Ministry Division in St Mary's House (diocesan office) once a week under supervision of Rev Mark Ireland (former diocesan missionary).

Children and youth work play an important part in the church ministry at St John's. I was given a great opportunity to experience work in these two ministries. The areas that I was involved in were youth club, mother and toddler group, Good Friday children's morning activity, summer holiday club, Sunday school and I led youth fellowship.

Using my IT skills and knowledge, I was also in charge of operating the hardware and software in church during Sunday worship. I have also revamped the church website and constantly updated it. In addition to that, I also had the opportunity to gather and meet some of the young adults in church and led study group and fellowship.

Sometimes I visited families and school assembly with the vicar. I did some visitations and it was marvellous to know how God has stretched me in this area by visiting, encouraging, listening and praying for them. I thank God for the opportunity to get to know them and for the friendship we have built. God has surrounded me with nice friendly people in the church. He also blessed me with a wonderful host family.

In the Mission Office, I helped to design a website for the department of Social Responsibility working closely with the director, Olivia Amartey.

I also worked with the Rev Mark Ireland most of the time in creating and updating a new website for Going for Growth (one of the diocesan vision statement).

I have learnt a lot serving as a St Chad's volunteer by experiencing church ministries in a contrasting culture. It has enabled me to learn from other Christians and helped me to grow in faith and rely on God. Being out of my comfort zone and into many unfamiliar situations, God has opened my eyes to view things from a different angle and see that there are so many creative ways to serve in His ministry.

I believe that the time I spent in the UK has proved to me that I can adapt and be comfortable in different situations and circumstances, but always with the help of God. My experience in the UK, I believe has strengthened my faith and

helped me in my personal development and I would strongly encourage and recommend this opportunity to other young Christian people.

