



Church of North India Partnership

Newsletter
November 2007



Visit to Derbyshire by CNI Bishops and their wives July 10th – 16th 2008

Hosts needed!

Planning is beginning for the visit to Derbyshire next year by what we hope will be a large number of bishops from the CNI, with their wives, immediately before they attend the Lambeth Conference.

This is a rare opportunity for the churches in Derbyshire to offer hospitality on a significant scale to our partners in the CNI, and to promote awareness of the link amongst our congregations.

So far the plans include a Songs of Praise Festival, beginning with lunch (Indian) on Sunday 13th July, probably at Carsington Water; a schools event in Derby Cathedral, a conference on mission and ministry in India and Derbyshire, and a sightseeing tour.

The programme will also of course leave space for local congregations to organise their own events, especially on Saturday 12th July and the morning of Sunday 13th.

**If you can offer hosting, please contact Christopher Harrison
on 01335 390226 or christopher.d.harrison@btinternet.com**

30th Anniversary Celebrations

The 30th anniversary of the Derbyshire-CNI partnership was marked by the visit to Derbyshire of the CNI General Secretary, the Revd. Dr. Enos Das Pradhan. Dr Pradhan took part in various events including a service of celebration at St. Peter's church, Littleover, and the AGM of the partnership. He suggested three ways of developing our links:

An invitation to submit articles for the monthly CNI Review

The 3rd Sunday in May should be marked in our churches as "Derbyshire-CNI Partnership Sunday"

We should consider inviting one or more ministers from the CNI to stay in Derbyshire for several weeks, to join in the life of our churches and to help promote the partnership.

From the local links

The Ashbourne-Patna group, now a charity, is now sustaining the sponsorship of 100 orphan and semi-orphan girls at St. John's school, Taljhari, through local regular donations. Eight people from the Ashbourne area spent several weeks doing voluntary work in schools in Patna diocese in March. The group is now planning for a visit to the Ashbourne area by members of the Diocese of Patna, probably in 2009.

Within the Crich-Alfreton partnership with the Diocese of NE India, St. Mary's church, Crich, is seeking to fund the training of Nipaditha Marak to be ordained and then work with her tribal people near to the border with Bangladesh. She has just started at College of Theology in Visakhapatnam, Eastern India. She is 23 and is the first woman ordinand in North East India. (The church has previously funded Malin Dahanga and Stephen Nag, who are both now working in Assam).

Jim and Lynda Gray visited the Diocese of NE India last Easter, and a report of their visit has appeared in their Diocesan Newsletter.

David Truby and Alison Richards from the **Wirksworth** churches visited **Durgapur** in February. They bought a new rickshaw which would be rented out by the Diocese in order to provide a living wage. This is a simple but effective idea, which helps the local church to serve the community as an act of Christian witness. Since then, the idea has caught on amongst friends and church members, and six other rickshaws have now been purchased, to begin a "fleet." Anthony Gell School in Wirksworth have joined the project, and donated the takings from their well dressing display in Wirksworth at the end of May. The students there have been looking at life in India, and this is a good way of helping to make a difference amongst the poorest people of that country.

The **Allestree** churches have received information from **Nagpur** about that diocese's response to heavy flooding there in June and July. This disaster did not receive the level of news coverage as the subsequent flooding in North East India. This later flooding, mainly in the states of Bihar and Assam, prompted an emergency relief programme co-ordinated by the CNI. Hundreds of thousands of farmers lost crops and homes, in two of the poorest parts of India. Anyone who wishes to send a donation to the CNI appeal, which is still ongoing, should send this to the Partnership Treasurer, Mr John Spray, 6 Onslow Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5JJ.

Other churches have been following up the visit in March to NE India by the Derbyshire group. **St. Paul's church, Chester Green**, Derby, is forming a connection with Saontalpur church in the Diocese of Eastern Himalaya. **St Mary and All Saints' church, Chesterfield** and **All Saints Church, Ripley**, have also kept in contact with the diocese of Phulbani, through Bishop Bijay Nayak. Various other members of the group have been giving talks and presentations around the churches in Derbyshire.

Lesley Walton of Chesterfield spent several months as a volunteer in St. Crispin's Orphanage, Pune, following a connection made by Kate and David Gough. This was by all accounts not always an easy experience, but nevertheless rewarding in many ways – and of course led to insights which only an in-depth visit of this kind can provide!

Resources etc

- A powerpoint presentation on CD-ROM about the life of two Christian children from Shillong, diocese of NE India, has been prepared by Alison Brown, Schools Director of Derby Diocese, Rosemary Wibberley, Headteacher of St. Werburgh's school, Spondon, and Nicola Wright, teacher at Doveholes School. This is suitable for schools as well as for children's work in churches. For copies contact Alison at the Derby Diocesan Board of Education, Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR, tel. 01332 388660.
- Following the visit to Derbyshire by the 'Messengers of Peace' worship group, an audio CD of some of their songs and a book of words and music has been produced. Copies are available from Christopher Harrison, at a cost of £5 for the CD and £3 for the music book – write to The Vicarage, Parwich, Ashbourne DE6 1QD (cheques payable to Derbyshire CNI Partnership)

Forthcoming visits etc –

- A visit to India for teachers and headteachers of schools in Derbyshire is being planned by Alison Brown and Phil Moncur, of the Derby Diocesan Board of Education. This is expected to take place in October 2008.
- A youth exchange for young people from Derbyshire and NE India is expected to take place within the next two to three years, following conversations between Alistair Langton, the Derby Diocesan Youth Adviser, and clergy in the Diocese of NE India.

visit <http://www.northindia-derbyshirechurches-partnership.org.uk/>

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