

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.

Nowadays, the Nordkirche is blessed with a unique evangelistic opportunity as its area had become Germany's No.1 vacation destination. 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.



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 which provide accommodation and address the issues of justice and care.

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 already being planned with considerable enthusiasm.

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.

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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 link. relationship. Pastor Albrecht Martin (of Schwerin) preached at Lichfield in August 2014 as part of the diocesan programme commemorating the centenary of WW1.

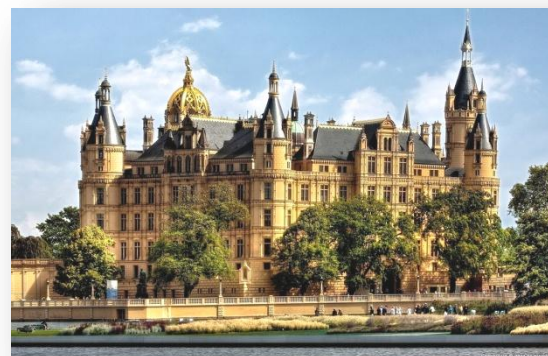
Youth Opportunities

The partnership has promoted various youth visits...

- Teenagers from Mecklenburg attend the Soul Survivor annual youth event annually
- 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 includes the Nordkirche and placements have commenced

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.



Schwerin

The administrative capital of Mecklenburg has been at the heart of our partnership for a number of years. Strong friendships have been forged and many reciprocal parish visits made.

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 Declaration which works for unity between the CofE and the Lutheran 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 has been attended by representatives of Lichfield on three occasions. 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 promotion of unity between our nations and with all creation as we respond to the call of the God of peace.

Mutual Encouragement

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

