

I heard about the St. Chad's Volunteer Programme (SCVP) some years ago but it was only recently (and with the encouragement of my priest) that I felt right to apply for this programme. The Diocese of Lichfield then arranged for me to serve for a maximum of 12 months in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, under the St Chad's Volunteer Programme. I and two other girls (Regina & Julie) have exchanged the very hot monsoon season in Asia for a cold English winter for a whole year.

Before I came here, my time of preparation was an emotional one. Many times I asked myself if I was prepared for this and was I worthy. And then it was as if God assured me - family, friends and church members gave me words of encouragement and offering prayers for me. I spent a lot of time praying and prepared myself to start a new life here in England.

I understand that God sent me here for His purpose. Home sicknesses hit me badly when I first arrived, but God made a way and guided me all the way through. I've got supports from my family and friends. His grace is sufficient for me, for his power is made perfect in weaknesses! 2 Corinthians 12: 9.

And now that I'm here, many things are beyond my control hence I am living by the grace of God. Not a day goes by that I am not humbled and amazed at how the Lord works! Since my arrival here, people have been so welcoming and loving that I can see God working among the people in this church to make sure I am ok!

I still remember when it snowed (properly) on 12th January 2006 (I won't forget it) in Shrewsbury. It was a Sunday and because it was too slippery to drive, my host and I decided to walk to church. It was the first time in my life walking on the 4-inches thick snow! It was indeed an unforgettable moment in my life! I experienced a snow-ball-fight and sledging in the Quarry with some of the young people and children that day after the church service. And yes, I took loads of photos and sent it back home for my family & friends...

I started a junior church at St. Chad's Church for 9 - 12 years olds. I've been learning a lot, as I have never led a group of under-13s prior to this. Working with them was amazing! I've built friendships with the kids that I will definitely treasure. I also go to school every Wednesdays to help with the after school club. Very often when I see the kids in town, they will call out my name as if they saw one of their best friends!

Spending 12 months here in the UK working with children & young people has been my best experience ever! God is gracious indeed!