

19 February 2023

Mission Partner update and prayer requests for the Open Theological Seminary & Sialkot Diocese, our Partners in Pakistan

As mentioned in our last update, Bishop Alwin Samuel made a short notice visit to the Guildford Diocese at the end of November, together with Shazhad Khurram, his Diocesan Secretary. We were unable to host them (Jolyon, Frances, Ron & Jackie all being away), but their visits to both St Andrew's Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon were well received (see photo). This has helped Leatherhead Deanery contemplate possible links.



Thank you for your prayers for the programme, including Bishop Alwin speaking at the Cathedral on 27 November. The Companion link team now has at least one new member, and we are exploring further reciprocal visits, a social enterprise making tailored clerical shirts and production of a quarterly prayer update for use across our diocese.

Thank you too for your prayers for Qaiser Julius' safe and smooth travel to the Increase Gathering in Malaysia, where his contribution to a task group also went well. Qaiser and his wife, Rahila, are now planning a visit to the UK and to St Andrew's in the early summer of 2023 and are the first Mission Partners to apply for a grant from our MP Travel Fund. We will take opportunity to review our partnership with OTS in delivering discipleship training in Sialkot. OTS offer superb materials and support to the Sialkot area, including an excellent youth programme in a school. We hope to strengthen Sialkot Diocese engagement with this.

Please pray for:

- our recommendation and approval of a generous travel grant
- planning of a fruitful visit in May/June 2023
- our helping Sialkot Diocese to make the most of their partnership with OTS
- Rahila, running her own Charity, HELP the Helpless: supporting women by teaching them sewing skills

The Mission Partnering Team
