



Mission Partners

Who we support as a church and why

Christ Church Downend

'building loving relationships'

Mission Partners for 2008-09

The Church website sets out a clear mission statement which is that we are in existence to “create loving relationships up, in, and out”

- Up** - towards God
- In** - towards one another
- Out** - towards the world

We are committed to partnering with ten mission organisations to whom we make available a minimum of 10% of our general income in any one year. Also we partner in other more personal ways and during 2007 a number of people in the congregation have visited some of our mission partners in various parts of the world. We believe this type of engagement will grow significantly in the next two years.

In order to decide on the missions the Church should support in 2008 and 2009 the PCC voted on the nominations put forward by the congregation and the outcome of that vote was as follows:

- Christians Against Poverty
- Children of Clarens Schools
- Eurovangelism
- Haven House
- Mercy Ships
- St James Priory Project
- Barnabas Fund
- CMS
- Open Doors
- USPG

Financial support during 2007

Children of Clarens	£8,137
CMS	£2,897
Haven House	£2,897
Eurovangelism	£2,897
St James Priory Project	£3,940
USPG (including St James Lesotho)	£3,970
Send a Cow	£1,091
Viney Hill	£543
Barnabas	£543
BISC	£1,086
Other	£2,721
TOTAL	£30,722

The variations of the amounts between missions relate to personal financial support provided by individual members of the congregation who have made specific gifts towards the mission of their choice. These gifts are over and above the 10% tithe of the Church's general giving.

The total compares with £26,283 given in 2006. One further point to make is that although the "drop in" nature of the work at Haven House has ceased we believe that God has laid on the hearts of the volunteers and former supporters of Haven House a new development of the work in Staple Hill. It will be very exciting to see how God leads the church in this mission over the next two years and in particular the way in which the work of CAP impacts on the local community.

The six main mission partners are:

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

John Kirkby founded CAP in 1996 in response to the tremendous poverty he saw in his home city of Bradford. As a Christian, he believed God was calling him to use the skills gained through 17 years experience in the consumer finance industry to reach out to people suffering under the burden of debt.

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. Vital financial and budgeting skills are developed through the services, thus ensuring poverty relief is sustainable.

The charity operates through a growing network of centres based around the UK, all opened in partnership with a local church. Over the last ten years, the charity has grown from one man working from his home with a donation of £10, to a national charity with 58 centres across the country.

CAP's vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP centre operating in every major town and city by the year 2021. The Bristol North East Centre was opened at Haven House in June 2008.

Website: www.capuk.org

Champion: Sally Bartram, t: 956 6384

CHILDREN OF CLARENS SCHOOLS

Clarens is a small town on the border with Lesotho in South Africa. Many people live in the township on the edge of town in small, mud, stick, corrugated iron or brick houses. They are desperately poor and Aids is rife. As a result there are at least 90 orphans who are housed at night with local families but they are so poor, they cannot afford to feed them. Members of Christ Church congregation – Bill and Sheila Robbins have been heavily involved in the project for some time.

Website: www.clarens-school.org

Champions: Bill and Sheila Robbins, t: 957 3357

EUROVANGELISM

Since 1965, Eurovangelism has worked with churches, organisations and individuals in Europe as they seek to make Christ known through their words and actions. They are involved in social care projects through their Compassion Ministry – caring for those most neglected; CASA – helping families in difficulty, orphans and single mums. They are also involved in church planting in areas such as Bosnia, Serbia and Bulgaria. Evangelism is supported through Alpha Courses right across Europe and Summer Camps for young people. Lorraine Cooper has worked for Eurovangelism for many years.

Website: www.eurovangelism.org.uk

Champion: Myra Brown, t: 956 2616

HAVEN HOUSE

Situated in the busy shopping area of Staple Hill in Bristol, Haven House is the vision of local churches, who prayed for a project that would involve all denominations for the benefit of the local community. During the Spring of 2008 the “drop in” nature of the work at Haven House came to an end. However the vision to meet the spiritual needs of the community continues. CAP is the first of a number of mission initiatives that will be operating out of Haven House in the days that lie ahead.

Website: www.havenhouse.co.uk

Champion: Martin Brown, t: 956 2616

MERCY SHIPS

Mercy Ships is a worldwide Christian charity which has been running for some 30 years. They take hope and healing to the world’s poorest countries, showing the love of Jesus in practical ways. The ship is primarily a hospital ship, performing operations for cleft lips and palates, tumour removals, burns, cataracts, fistulas and orthopaedic surgery. Eye and dental clinics operate ashore, a construction team builds schools, clinics, churches, water wells and drainage, education is given in health, agriculture and engineering and a church empowerment team assists local churches. All services are provided free of charge to both individuals and to the country visited. All on board are volunteers, not only unpaid but providing their own travel and living expenses, usually supported by their home churches.

Website: www.mercyships.org

Champion: Roger Lancaster, t: 940 2449

ST JAMES PRIORY PROJECT

The St James Priory Project is based in Bristol City Centre and offers comprehensive support to people with a history of homelessness who have a substance dependency. The service is specifically targeted at Bristol people but can accept individuals from throughout the UK. The project offers “First” and “Third” Stage residential treatment using the 12 step abstinence model in two special houses as well as separate addictions

counselling. Walsingham House is a First Stage residential treatment hostel for alcohol and drug addicted men and women aged 18 plus who have a history of homelessness. St James House offers Third Stage support and treatment for people who have experienced First and Second Stage treatment for addiction and who are maintaining abstinence. Penny Long and others from Christ Church have been actively involved in working at the project for a number of years.

Website: www.sjpriory.org.uk

Champion: Penny Long, t: 957 0010

The other four Mission Partners are:

BARNABAS MINISTRIES (BRF)

Barnabas is BRF's children's ministry. It provides a range of resources for church based leaders and primary school teachers who work with children up to the age of 11. Alongside the resources the organisation provides a ministry team who help in practical ways to help share the good news with children. In addition they provide positive help and training for the church leaders. This charity was the nomination of the church youth.

Website: www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk

Champion: Shahne Vickery, t: 908 9868

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)

CMS is a voluntary association of people rooted in the Anglican Communion who are united in obedience to Christ's command to fulfil his Great Commission. They strive to share the love of God with people of all races and to gather them into the fellowship of Christ's Church. Today there are about 150 Mission Partners in 26 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Our main link is with Richard & Sue Kellow (nee Bainbridge), who have recently moved to Rwanda to undertake God's work there.

Website: www.cms-uk.org

Champion: Norman Low, t: 956 8184

OPEN DOORS

Open doors was founded by "Brother Andrew". It supports in prayer, encouragement and finance, Christians who are suffering for their faith. Many Pastors are murdered or imprisoned without warning, leaving their families without support. Open Doors steps in to help.

Sometimes Christians are refused employment or have to take basic humiliating work to earn a pittance because of their faith; or their children are not allowed to go to school; the women may not use water from village wells and have to walk many miles to collect elsewhere. In some cases families are so terrorised that they move away, sometimes to another country and Open Doors helps where it can.

By their courage and faithful witness they are keeping our faith alive in the places where

they live, but often at great cost. The aim of Islam and Communism is to eliminate Christianity.

Website: www.opendoorsuk.org

Champion: Mary Massey, t: 957 2447

United Society For The Propagation Of the Gospel (USPG)

Project 215 – St James' Hospital Mantsonyane, Lesotho

Remember Dr Elizabeth Hills, lately working at Muheza Hospital, Tanzania? Now in her early 70's, she has returned to Mission Field at St James' Hospital Lesotho. In a recent letter she tells us it is a sixty-six bed hospital in the mountains with no telephone. Most patients have HIV and/or TB. Dr Hills says "I'd love to have a telephone system installed so that we don't have to walk everywhere to give and find out information. Also we are working with huge oxygen cylinders which have to be wheeled from one ward to another. It is hugely difficult as the cylinders are bigger than I am. We shall need to buy piping and flow meters at a cost of £70-80 each." As a church we could meet these costs and help support a hospital where we will get personal updating of the situation from Elizabeth Hills.

Website: www.uspg.org.uk

Champions: Robert and Sue Lake, t: 956 4044

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