

MISSION PARTNERS REPORT TO APCM 2023

Over the last 15 months we have once again been able to receive visits from our Mission Partners, notably Garry Ion, St John and Ellie Perry, a team from FEBA – which we had hoped would include Sheila Leech, who could not come owing to testing positive for Covid – and Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo, visiting after the Lambeth Conference in August 2022. We held our first Missions Gift Day since the Covid lockdowns shortly after Easter 2022, for projects in the Diocese of Khartoum.

Current Mission Partners

St John and Ellie Perry. (Malaysia with OMF). Their recent work has been in theological education in a college in Borneo. The aim of this is to train indigenous pastors to do evangelism throughout South East Asia. This has become increasingly important as the Malaysian government has become less tolerant of western ‘missionaries’. The Perrys have now returned to the UK permanently as St John has taken up an OMF role in the UK. He was ordained during a visit to Borneo in February 2023.

Ian and Simea Meldrum (Brazil). Ian used to be a mission partner via SAMS and subsequently CMS. He has now retired although Simea is an ordained priest in the church in Brazil and continues to work in Olinda. Much of his work has centred around My Father’s House, a safe house for teenage boys to keep them away from gang and drug culture. (We have also retained a link with ReVive in Olinda, a ministry to girls. We sponsor Maria Clara, one of the teenage girls looked after at the project.)

Garry Ion (CMS, East Africa). Garry is from Cumbria and our link with him originated with Chris Edmondson, who knew him when he also worked there. Garry is a builder and in some ways a very unconventional ‘missionary’. As he is his parents’ sole carer, Garry has now taken up a CMS role in the UK, working in Carlisle Diocese, although a return to Africa in the longer term has not been ruled out. He visited us in February 2022.

Colin and Christine Edwards. (LAMB hospital, Bangla Desh) Christine was brought up at St Peter’s Shipley and worked in Bangladesh for a number of years as a medical missionary. They have now returned to the UK, and the PCC donation for them is given entirely to essential medical provision at LAMB hospital in a particularly poor part of Bangladesh.

Sheila Leech (FEBA). A FEBA team visited us in July 2022. Sheila Leech retired as International Director in September 2022 and this link is therefore under review.

Julian Shelton (Wycliffe Bible Translators). Our original link with WBT was with Mick and Margaret Foster (from 1968 to 2018!) This is a very recent link with a younger family who once lived in Central Asia to become proficient in a language into which the Bible could be translated. Julian shares his time between the UK and Central Asia although the current war in Ukraine has ruled out visits to Russia for the foreseeable future.

Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo (Sudan). Was once a Langham Bursar at St Peter’s Shipley and a very close friend of Eric and Anne Parker. Support for Sudan used to be channelled through

the annual Sudan Barbecue which has now restarted at Jason and Frances Agar's. Sudan is a Leeds Diocesan Link and should be retained, although Ezekiel himself is approaching retirement.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). This is a link with an organisation rather than an individual, although much of Garry Ion's work in East Africa would not have been possible without them.

Mercy Ships. A link led for many years through John and Iris Rhodes from this congregation, offering medical help in third world contexts.

Zephaniah Trust Not an overseas link, but a link established for the PCC to part-support Julia Slaney's work with a local charity working in schools and with refugees.

The following receive no regular financial support from the PCC but are considered to be mission partners :-

Alice Shirengo. Once a part of St Peter's Shipley, now leads a church in Kenya and has extensive responsibilities both for her own family and a number of orphaned Africans whom she has raised. Several members of St Peter's have been making financial donations to her support.

Chris Howitz. Son of Kathy Tedd, Anglican priest in Oman.

REVIEW OF PCC DONATIONS 2023

In view of some of the above links coming to an end, the PCC have asked me to undertake a major review of them. Where missionaries have retired, donations are likely to cease, diminish or to be reassigned. We are working on bringing the Shipley CAP Debt Centre into the area of PCC missions donations over the coming three years should the project remain in existence.

There are also new links arising from our own congregation which we feel are worth considering for PCC support. Amongst these are Mervyn Silva's charity to sponsor poor children in Sri Lanka, and Chris Howitz, starting a new church in Oman. Gemma Richards and myself will be presenting a report to the PCC this summer and your prayers for this time of change are requested.

John Rainer