

Mission Partner Review by Jill Boyle and Jackie Austin - October 2019

Each session began with prayer and an explanation of the process from Jackie. This review document was taken to PCC on Thursday 31st October 2019, so that PCC were well informed and fully part of this review process. PCC would also then be able to make informed decisions about our Mission Partners based on the outcome of these reviews. In addition this report will be made available to the church family and a summary of future actions made available to PCC at the November 2019 meeting.

Please note that it was agreed by PCC on 27 September 2018 that **The Church Pastoral Aid Society**, as patrons of our church, should not be reliant on being voted in at our Mission Partner reviews and should therefore not be included as one of our Mission Partners, but rather should receive 2% from our budget each year. This percentage is ring fenced.

Canaan (Evelyn Smith)

- 1. Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner funding has helped support the work of the Canaan Christian Centre in Sheringham and Incredible Kids Club? How are lives being transformed by Jesus Christ?**
 - a) The number of children coming to Kids Club has reached 22 and we need to take a minibus.
 - b) Once a month the families receive a bag of food.
 - c) It's been good to see some making commitments. Although one girl had wanted to give her Bible back but made a commitment later.
 - d) Junior Leaders are being encouraged.
 - e) The Lunch Club for adults attracts different people from different backgrounds.
 - f) Discouragingly, the prayer meeting is only attended by 3 people, but there have been some good answers to prayer. Jackie suggested that Evelyn might put something in the Update inviting church family to join in prayer at home.
 - g) The cleaning team and Kids team from church were great. Evelyn was trying to start a gardening team.

- 2. Can you tell us about Canaan's work in Hungary and the Ukraine over recent months?**
 - a) Three families from Cromer Church had been out to Hungary to help at Kornel's camps. There were always opportunities for helpers. Prayer was needed for this as new people joined the church.
 - b) There was no way of sending parcels out to Hungary this Christmas. Evelyn would be collecting £5 gifts to fund a Pizza Party at the orphanage and hoped to talk to the church family in early November.
 - c) A group from Hungary was coming over in October. A driver was still needed to pick them up from the airport.

- 3. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of Canaan with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?**

- a) At least once a month a Mission Partner Champion should be given the opportunity to talk from the front. Jackie said that she wasn't sure why this had stopped happening but, now it was going into the notes for PCC, it could be addressed.
- b) Have a Missions Day with a table allocated to each Mission Partner.
- c) The February sale always did well and brought church family members in.

4. As we move forward can you please give us two or three points of prayer for the work of the Canaan that we can share with the church family?

- a) Rain damage costing an estimated £12,000 in the Wolery: pray that the insurers will pay towards it.
- b) A driver for the minibus for the Hungarian party.
- c) The ongoing work.
- d) Give thanks for Mike Brown and the escorts who transported children to Beach Mission.
- e) Give thanks for the use of the caravan at Trimmingham.

Michelle Proctor – Tim Britton

Jackie explained that the individual Mission Partners (which included Michelle Proctor) were guaranteed funding for 5 years. She invited Tim to talk about:

Activities that Michelle was involved in and specific examples of the transforming love of Jesus.

1. Michelle is a nurse at Mukinge Hospital in Zambia and a member of a team
2. She began as a children's nurse but has branched out and is now also a lead anaesthetic nurse. However, since another nurse returned to the hospital, she has been freed to do other things.
3. The brief of Mukinge Hospital is to bring the love of Jesus and to bring health and healing to those around.
4. Chaplains and Christian staff are free to share the Gospel with patients.
5. Michelle runs a Bible Study for nurses.
6. She has a house on site and gives hospitality to visitors and other mission partners. She is also the representative of SIM, exercising pastoral care and has to go to the capital to attend meetings. This is an outside link. She gets her own support from SIM in the UK.
7. Michelle is very happy at Mukinge. Jill Boyle observed that, when she was here on leave, it was obvious that she was missing Mukinge.
8. She was entitled to 6 months leave every 3 – 4 years. This was a time to visit family and friends and for training. On her last leave she did trauma training.

As we move forward can you please give us two or three points of prayer for Michelle's work that we can share with the church family?

- Adequate resources for the hospital
- Constant staffing
- Money to buy medicines
- Bible Study for Christians and non-Christians
- Security (Michelle's house was broken into when she was away)
- Ongoing good health
- Tim always prays for Michelle's work, witness and walk.

In what ways have you had the opportunity to share Michelle's story with the church family?

1. Opportunities when Michelle was on leave.
2. Focus month in January.
3. Display at back of church.

Is there anything more we can do as a church family?

The focus month could be used more effectively, especially the intercessions. People leading services should be reminded.

Andrew Leake (Bishop David Leake)

What is Andrew doing and how is he making a difference?

1. Of all the Mission Partners, Andrew's work is the most difficult to quantify.
2. A lot of his work is hands-on but, as an advocate for the Toba and Wichi peoples, he writes a lot of papers and books to help them when they have court cases against the government. (Bishop David showed some examples).
3. The 5 marks of Anglican Mission were:
 - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
 - To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.
 - To respond to human need by loving service.
 - To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
 - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Andrew's main focus was striving to safeguard the integrity of creation.

4. Andrew says “Justice is very close to God’s heart”. Things that happen here, e.g. buying decisions from major supermarkets, impact on what happens in Argentina.
5. Andrew does a lot of travelling, including work for the Anglican Diocese. He divides his time between CMS and Compassion International. He was sent to places to act as a trouble-shooter and had been involved in this, and in a monitoring role for about a year.
6. He hadn’t been to England for a number of years. His wife is Argentine. It’s his way of life and he is following in the footsteps of his parents and grandparents.
7. A lot of Andrew’s work is advocacy – enabling the Toba and Wichí peoples to fight injustice.

As we move forward can you please give us two or three points of prayer for Andrew’s work that we can share with the church family?

1. For discernment in dealing with the authorities and settlers and knowing how and when to interact.
2. Safety in travel for Andrew and the family.

Do you have enough opportunity to share Andrew’s story with the church family?

Bishop David and Rachel are actively involved in Quintet Benefice, where they live and David ministers.

Response to question from Bishop David: funding support for Andrew was guaranteed for another 4 years. At the end of this period, PCC will review. Recipients will be advised two years in advance of this process.

Bible Society/Open the Book (David Orsborne and Frances Britton)

1. **Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner Funding has helped to support the work of the Bible Society through Open the Book.**
 - a) The main area is the use of Bible Society resources for Open the Book.
 - b) It has been a year of 20th Anniversary celebrations for Open the Book and we were able to promote this in the Diocese. A presentation at Deanery Synod enabled us to engage with other local Open the Book groups. Sue Wells followed up a subsequent interest from Gresham Village School, where we have an opportunity to do a presentation in December. **The presentation from Deanery Synod had been recorded, if anyone wanted to listen to it.**
 - c) Members of the teams are recognisable to children and families in the town and there are links with when the schools come to church.
 - d) Knowing Bible stories is powerful, but ongoing relationships are also important.

2. Has Cromer Church used any of the resources that the Bible Society publishes in our work with children, young people and families?

Yes. The Holy Week, Easter and Christmas material, including booklets, story books and video materials have been particularly useful and well received.

3. Can you tell us something of how the Bible Society works with those in politics through the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast?

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is an annual recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. This year, the main speaker was the Bishop of London. As well as listening to a speaker, participants pray together for the top level politicians in our country. Bible Society is the main sponsor and promotes the circulation and use of Scripture.

4. Can you tell us something about the work of the Bible Society in transforming lives through distributing Bibles?

- a) The Bible Society is particularly active in China, Africa and the Middle East.
- b) In China Bible Society has printed £68m Chinese Bibles, created 77 distribution centres and deployed 48 Bible vans for transportation.
- c) In Africa, Bible Society is working in the toughest, hardest parts of the continent where they aim to reach the poorest and most marginalised. The work includes training of leaders.
- d) In the Middle East, Bible Society has remained in Syria and Iraq, where they have worked for years. "They know we're not leaving, they know we're local people and they trust us."

5. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of the Bible Society with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?

- a) Prayer Diary.
- b) Information on displays in Parish Church and St Martin's
- c) Bible Society Resources.
- d) Annual display during focus month in November.
- e) Opportunities to feed in prayers to leaders etc outside focus month.
- f) It's sad that there is no longer a monthly opportunity at Prayer Night.
- g) We could use more Bible Society resources, including resources to support prayer partnerships, individuals and small groups. We could also have more involvement with Open the Book and other Bible Society resources for helping people engage with scripture in the public space.

h) "About our Mission Partners" leaflet – David Orsborne would check if this was still available.

6. As we move forward can you give us some prayer points which we can share with the church family?

- Gresham may be looking to Cromer for resources for Open the Book. Pray for wisdom.
- Thanksgiving for openness of schools in welcoming Open the Book on a very regular basis.
- Pray for more people to join the teams, especially the Infants School.
- Thanksgiving for engagement with children and the opportunities to tell them Bible stories.
- The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast.
- Bible-a-month club – one of our Sunday Club groups is supporting this. Pray that they, and others in the church family, will understand the importance of getting Bibles to people.
- Impact of Bible Society resources.
- Bible Society's impact in many countries.

Scripture Union (David Orsborne)

1. Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner funding has helped to support the work of LifeLight/Beach Mission.

- a) We funded a team member who had financial difficulties and contributed to peoples' expenses.
- b) We were able to fund events like the ceilidh, which are good opportunities for meeting families.
- c) Scripture Union provided DBS checks, Safeguarding, finance and support from the regional and central teams.
- d) Access to Holiday Club and other resources.
- e) Starting to engage with the "95" campaign aimed at reaching the 95% of children and young people who are not currently in churches.
- f) The Scripture Union legacy to hand on to the 2020 Mission.

2. Has Cromer Church used any of the resources that Scripture Union publishes in our work with children, young people and families?

- a) Yes. We use SU resources for Christmas, Easter and the Light Party.
- b) SU has recently produced resources for sports ministry which has been added to the library.
- c) Holiday Club material – most recently “Polar Explorers”. Resources for “Ancora Clubs” have been produced. We could use the Coffee Bar for this in the holidays.
- d) “It’s your move” was used successfully at the Junior School again this year. This resource has recently been re-written by young people and is enthusiastically received by their peer group. At Deanery Synod on 09 October, a representative from Poppyland told how it was successfully used at the Belfry School at Overstrand.

3. Can you give examples of the international work that Scripture Union is involved in to make the Gospel known to children, young people and families?

- a) Because the work was so comprehensive, David provided us with a copy of the Annual Report and Global News, which gave a full picture. He highlighted work in schools around the world – particularly Australia and parts of Africa.
- b) The Annual Mission Report, “Connecting You” and Global News” could be found in the racks at the back of church. Visitors were also taking them and taking them back to their own churches. In the case of non-Christians, it gave pause for thought. They could also be downloaded from a link provided in the Prayer Diary.
- c) Scripture Union provided mission/holiday opportunities.

4. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of Scripture Union with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?

- a) There are practical opportunities to be involved in Holiday Clubs, half-term events and Beach Mission.
- b) Day-to-day opportunities to talk about and promote the work of Scripture Union.
- c) Monthly Prayer Diary.
- d) Information on display at St Martin’s and Parish Church.
- e) Focus month in July.
- f) Provision of “Connecting you” – monthly news and prayer letter.
- g) It’s sad that there is no longer a monthly opportunity at Prayer Night.
- h) We should encourage our young people, children and families to take advantage of SU holidays, events and serving opportunities. Bursaries are available.
- i) We could take advantage of other opportunities that Scripture Union provides for helping people engage with scripture in the public space.

- j) The main practical link has previously been Beach Mission. We're hoping to explore new ways of expressing that link from 2020, including the possibility of a quarterly event for the wider church in North Norfolk.

5. It is good to celebrate the links Cromer Church has with Scripture Union as a Mission Partner. What aspect of their work would you like to highlight and why?

- a) "95" campaign: something we could get involved with.
- b) Ex-cite events, focussing on young people from churches and their friends. David Osborne would like to explore this with Simon Fenn. It could be opened to the Deanery.

6. As we move forward can you give us some prayer points which we can share with the church family?

- The children and young people who attended Holiday Clubs, that they would be true to their calling.
- Seasonal opportunities, e.g. Light Party and Christmas.
- Use of Guardians of Ancora clubs.
- Terry Clutterham (a Cromer man) in his new role as Director of Culture and Innovation.

Tearfund (Judith Anderson and Lynda Brown)

Apologies were received from Judith Anderson. Mike Brown was in attendance at the interview to support Lynda.

Judith and Lynda provided background reading for the team. It included general information, "Connected Church", current campaigns, transformed lives and ongoing commitments.

1. Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner funding has helped to support the work of the 'Power to the People Campaign?'

- a) The campaign is about bringing solar energy to people who need it. However, our money goes generally to Tearfund unless we specify otherwise. The campaign, which is connected to climate change, is still going on.
- b) Sanitation is another area of campaign, but we haven't given specifically.
- c) It is always possible to specify what we are giving to.

2. Can you tell us something about the way Tearfund works alongside local people in campaigns such as the 'Search and Rescue Techniques' campaign?

- a) Lynda was unable to elucidate on this particular campaign.

- b) Tearfund was very much involved in climate change and had a point of view regarding response to Extinction Rebellion based on Paul's teaching that we should respect our leaders. Tearfund doesn't support civil unrest. Christians were meeting peacefully on Lambeth Bridge to pray for Extinction Rebellion.
- c) People in the third world were already suffering terribly from climate change.

3. Can you give us some examples of how the work of Tearfund transforms lives by Jesus Christ?

- a) Tearfund stands up for the Gospel.
- b) They give aid to people who aren't Christians.
- c) Their main aim is not to proselytise, but that Christ will do the work.
- d) The literature included testimonies of people whose lives had been changed.

4. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of the Tearfund with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?

- a) Tearfund works with partners "on the ground" (Connected Church). Churches are linked with a partner church in the third world. This could make people in Cromer Church feel more connected. It was a long term scheme, like a twinning.
- b) There are bi-monthly prayer meetings. The next one is in November.
- c) Monthly prayer letter.
- d) Coffee morning to raise money
- e) Quiz night, with Tearfund video.
- f) For the last few years, the Christmas collection has gone to Tearfund. Lynda asked that this year's collection should also be for Tearfund.
- g) Collection from Christmas Café Church also goes to Tearfund.
- h) Would like more time to talk about the work at Sunday services.

5. As we move forward can you give us some prayer points which we can share with the church family?

- Disasters in Yemen, War in Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- For governments to act on climate change, and for Tearfund's Power to Change campaign.
- Horrific impact of rubbish on peoples' lives: "This is rubbish" campaign.

Prison Fellowship (Janet Rosier)

1. Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner funding has helped to support the work of the Prison Fellowship?

Janet always specified that the funding went to Sycamore Tree – a restorative Justice scheme which Prison Fellowship had taken up when central government withdrew funding.

2. Can you tell us how the work of the chaplaincy team in our local prisons helps to transform lives by Jesus Christ?

- a) The work of the chaplaincy teams was supported by volunteers. They ran Bible studies (including Revd John Chandler at HMP Bure), an Alpha for Prisons course, took services and conducted one-to-one sessions with prisoners.
- b) The chaplaincy teams run Sycamore Tree and provide contacts for Angel Tree.
- c) Chaplaincy teams are under pressure but people are coming to Jesus. You can't quantify. Much depends on the prison governor, but the local ones are good.
- d) There must be chaplains, but they don't have to be Christians.

3. You mentioned two further areas of the work of the Prison Fellowship in your Mission Partner application, the Angel Tree and the Sycamore Tree projects, can you tell us about these?

- a) Angel Tree: Janet had put the following in the Weekly Update for 13 October: "Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship which gives prisoners the opportunity to send a Christmas gift to their children. Last year Angel Tree was run in 87 prisons and nearly 5,000 gifts were sent. Volunteers buy, wrap, and send the gift on the prisoner's behalf with a personal message written by the prisoner to make the gift extra special. The hope is to keep families connected during the separation caused by the prison sentence, so that they will be a family unit on the prisoner's release. One Angel Tree co-ordinator said "Angel Tree is a very practical demonstration of our care and Jesus' love for the children of those in prison"

One prisoner wrote: "I've phoned my son. He doesn't know what he's got yet, but he says he doesn't care because it's from me. You made my Christmas and his, and I will treasure his words for ever. Another prisoner wrote: "what you have done brought tears of joy to my eyes. HMP Wayland, one of the nearest prisons to Cromer is involved with Angel Tree. At this moment prisoners are applying to be able to send a gift to their child, and the response has grown year on year. Volunteers are getting ready to buy and wrap presents. There is a need for money to buy these presents so that none of the prisoners are disappointed. If you feel you would like to be part of Angel Tree this year and help HMP Wayland, there is more information about Angel Tree and a box for donations at the back of the church this Sunday, 13th October".

- b) Sycamore Tree: this was a 6-week course which included listening to a victim of crime. Prisoners were then given an opportunity to show remorse, e.g. by writing a poem. It was very moving. Often, they wanted to see a chaplain afterwards but, otherwise, a seed had been sown.

4. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of Prison Fellowship with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?

- a) £120 had been given to Angel Tree as a result of Janet's talk on Sunday 06 October. The church family were generous.
- b) There had been a good response to the appeal by the Community Champions for items for prisoners when they were released.
- c) Literature at the back of church.
- d) Regular prayer updates.
- e) Being able to ask if there was a specific need.
- f) It would be good to have more opportunities to promote Mission Partners from the front, including input into Prayer Night.
- g) The existing Mission Partner booklet should be updated.
- h) The existing display area could be improved.
- i) Jackie Austin said she would be happy to co-ordinate quarterly Mission Partner meetings.

5. It is good to be able to celebrate the links Cromer Church has with the Prison Fellowship as a Mission Partner. What aspect of their work would you particularly like to highlight and why?

- a) Letter-writing: other people could be encouraged to get involved with this work for which training was required.
- b) Angel Tree at Christmas and Mother's Day.
- c) Sycamore Tree.

6. As we move forward can you please give us two or three points of prayer for the work of Prison Fellowship that we can share with the church family?

- Chaplains and volunteers
- Main ministries of Prison Fellowship
- Give thanks for response to Angel Tree

1. Please bring us up to date on how your Mission Partner funding has helped to support the work of London City Mission sharing the love of God with London's neediest?

- a) It was difficult to be specific because the work was so wide-ranging. 90 full time missionaries with part-timers and volunteers were working across London in various roles – e.g. Webber Street, serving the homeless (“guests”) was open 7 days a week.
- b) Many missionaries do door-to-door work.

2. Can you tell us something about their programme for equipping churches for evangelism?

Day conferences are held, especially for equipping churches to witness to Muslims and ethnic groups. Missionaries are working in churches and training church members.

3. London City Mission are committed to working to bringing people off the streets into their various centres for homeless men and women and addicts. Can you tell us something about this work and how their lives are being transformed?

The Webber Street project includes flats across London for men who are ready to come off the streets but need support. A resident missionary helps them back into independence, work, voluntary Bible studies and getting involved in the local church. Some progress, some regress. One man took 30 years to be transformed.

4. In what ways have you had the opportunity to share the work of London City Mission with the church family? How have the church family been involved? Is there more we could do?

- a) Some church family members don't see the point of London City Mission, but what happens in London radiates out. In addition, Cromer Church has strong links with London City Mission. One of the founders was a churchwarden here.
- b) It would be good if LCM could get another slot in the Update.
- c) June is our focus month when 3 or 4 missionaries visit us. People are very good at providing hospitality.
- d) There are resources and prayer diaries at the back of church, but few are taken. Jackie suggested putting something in the Update to highlight that they are there.
- e) LCM had offered to come and put on a training course on personal evangelism. Jackie suggested that Elizabeth should email Simon Fenn and/or the Deanery Lay Chair. Jill Boyle said we had a lot to learn about working with other churches and this could help.

5. It is good to be able to celebrate the links Cromer Church has with London City Mission as a Mission Partner. What other aspects of their work would you like to highlight and why?

- a) Significant prison ministry, including Lucy Merino's visits to a women's prison, including a Gospel Choir. Songs were important for teaching faith and a number of women had become Christians.
- b) Several missionaries worked in retirement homes. End-of-life ministry tended to be a "Cinderella" but it was urgent!
- c) Youth ministry was important, especially in an age of knife crime. Boxing sessions used up aggression.
- d) Craft clubs and English classes for women also included help and advice. Imtiaz Khan ran poetry evenings for Muslims and Christians. Even Imams had attended. Please pray for safety for Imtiaz.
- e) There are different language churches.
- f) A lot of work is done in schools, including teaching RE, after school clubs and anti-knife crime programmes.

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6. As we move forward can you please give us two or three points of prayer for the work of London City Mission that we can share with the church family?

- a) For the right people to apply to be missionaries and for their training, and that they would stay.
- b) For more support – praying and giving – from churches across the country.
- c) Missionaries to be passionate, committed and maintaining their relationship with Jesus.
- d) For the safety of missionaries.