

Mission Giving Committee report to APCM 2024

St Andrew's budget allocated 12% of planned giving income for distribution as 'mission giving'. In 2023, a total of £9,588 was donated to eleven different organisations and people. 65% (£6,232) went to projects overseas; 35% (£3,356) went to local projects.

The work and ethos of organisations supported by our mission giving seek to see people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and fulfilling their God-given potential. This inevitably, but not exclusively, leads to giving to organisations with a Christian basis.

We continued to support **International Health Partners (IHP)**, **Julie Noble** (working with **Latin Link**), **Living Hope** and **Tearfund**, organisations which work with a clear Christian basis.

We made a donation towards **IHP's** Big Christmas Challenge who support their partner World Child Cancer by sending chemotherapy and related cancer medication to Malawi and Cameroon, increasing access to treatment.

Julie Noble's work in Oruro, Bolivia includes a prison ministry through the Angel Tree programme which supports prisoners' children and families, and the Restoring Hope programme working in discipleship and restorative justice.

Living Hope was established in Cape Town, South Africa in the year 2000. Its primary mission is to build God's kingdom by "Bringing Hope and Breaking Despair". In 2024 they are looking to extend their work beyond physical structures and infrastructure in order to make a tangible impact on individuals' lives and communities.

Tearfund has maintained a presence in Ethiopia since the 1970s, working in partnership with institutional donors, religious institutions and local partner organisations to tackle extreme poverty and injustice. Drought in Ethiopia has led to a desperate hunger for millions of families, and we made a donation to their Ethiopia Hunger Crisis Appeal.

With attention focused on issues with global implications such as the wars in Ukraine and Israel/ Palestine, conflict and climate change are pushing people elsewhere around the world towards disaster. Therefore, we made a donation to **Tearfund's** Forgotten Crises Appeal. The funds raised are targeted towards, for example, communities in Pakistan devastated by extreme flooding and families in Yemen fleeing violence.

We wanted to respond to the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza, following the events in Israel on 7th October 2023 when Hamas attacked and killed over 1,100 people and took around 250 hostages, and the subsequent retaliation by Israel which to date has killed over 30,000 people in Gaza and displaced 85% of the population. **Embrace the Middle East** is a well-established Christian development charity which partners with Christians in the Middle East to tackle poverty and injustice in the region. They currently work in Egypt, Iraq, Israel/ Palestine, Lebanon and Syria supporting health, education and community projects. We made a donation to their Gaza Crisis Appeal.

The impact of the climate emergency is being felt around the world. Islands in the Pacific Ocean are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and increasingly ferocious tropical cyclones. We made a donation to **The Tanbok Project**, a charitable organisation based in London, working to support community-led sustainable development in Vanuatu. They are focusing on furthering education, health, climate resilience and sustainable development in the most remote parts of the country. They were founded in 2015 in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam which caused widespread devastation, and are supporting the recovery from the April 2020 Cyclone Harold.

Locally, we have supported **FUTUREHope, Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR)** and **Young Life** for many years.

FUTUREHope's Christian basis inspires their service. They work with teenagers who may be struggling with various aspects of their lives through:

- a mobile youth centre and purposeful detached work to connect with young people;
- work in schools at assemblies and deliver a range of small group work activities;
- providing one-to-one mentoring and counselling, and support to parents; and
- a weekly after-school youth cafe.

HWR was set up originally to work with Syrian refugee families, and continues to provide opportunities for refugees to meet in lunch clubs, women's groups and other gatherings, in addition to providing befriender and language support. They work closely with caseworkers at the Refugee Council and Dacorum Borough Council to support Afghan evacuees, and have also supported Ukrainian refugees. Their support for asylum seekers living in Hertfordshire increased dramatically during 2023.

Young Life makes connections with young people who might not otherwise have come across the Christian faith. Bryan Fries from YL Hertford runs the 'Toastie Tuesday' After-School Club for secondary school students in the Church.

There is a poster at rear of the church which summarises St Andrew's mission giving for 2023. It is reproduced in the Annual Report.

If anyone would like to become involved in the Mission Giving Committee, please let me know.

Andrew Goodman 30th March 2024