

Mission Giving Committee report to APCM 2025

St Andrew's budget allocated 10% of planned giving income for distribution as 'mission giving'. In 2024, a total of £8,352 was donated to eleven different organisations and people. 65% (£5,429) went to projects overseas; 35% (£2,923) 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.

With the continuing unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, we made donations to:

- *International Health Partners' (IHP)* Lebanon Appeal, supporting their partners' highest priority needs which included trauma supplies, sutures, IV fluids, antibiotics, hygiene products, painkillers, anti-fungals and medication for chronic diseases such as diabetes.
- *Tearfund's* Middle East Emergency Appeal covering Gaza (with IHP), working with churches in Lebanon to provide food, mattresses and other essentials to people forced from their homes by the fighting, and in the West Bank working with the Diocese of Jerusalem who are providing healthcare and education.
- *Embrace the Middle East's* Gaza Crisis Appeal, supporting their partners' education, primary healthcare, humanitarian assistance, specialist disability services and reconciliation projects in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine.

We did not want to neglect the African continent and identified *Christian Aid's* Sudan Crisis Appeal for support. South Sudan has faced conflict and violence since becoming independent in 2011. Since the peace deal in 2018, the country continues to struggle with extreme flooding, hunger and political unrest. Christian Aid is among several donors to have provided funding to the ACT Alliance and Caritas joint appeal. Funds raised are helping local organisations provide emergency cash to families, improve access to clean water and sanitation, offer counselling and support to those traumatised by war, and support refugees fleeing to South Sudan.

In South America, we continued to support *Julie Noble's* work in Oruro, Bolivia (via *Latin Link*) which includes a prison ministry through the Angel Tree programme, supporting prisoners' children and families, and the Restoring Hope programme working in discipleship and restorative justice.

With the war in Ukraine in its third year in 2024, we identified the UK registered charity *Dnipro Hope Mission* for support. Their mission partners in Ukraine offer compassionate care for all people in need, with a particular focus on Eastern Ukraine.

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

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

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 has a network of over 150 volunteers who

- welcome refugees and people seeking asylum across Hertfordshire; and

- provide practical support to new arrivals, helping them connect with their communities and adjust to life in the UK - they provide a range of support from befriending and English language practice to practical assistance for those who need it most.

Welfare cuts, combined with rising bills, risk pushing vulnerable people into debt and poverty. We supported *Christians Against Poverty (CAP)* again in 2024 who provide free money and debt advice.

Ashleigh Gibb worshipped with us until she moved to the USA in August to continue her studies. We made a donation to her employer, *Ella's*. They work with women who have survived trafficking and sexual exploitation by

- running 6 safe houses, providing supported accommodation for survivors until they are ready and able to live independently;
- providing regular support for women and families in neighbourhoods across London; and
- speaking out on issues affecting the women they work with.

There is a poster at rear of the church which summarises St Andrew's mission giving for 2024. It is reproduced in the Annual Report.

Andrew Goodman 12th April 2025