

Mission and Giving at St Andrew's

Update, No 5 – July 2009



May 2009 Giving Day

At the family service on May 17th, we were treated to a stimulating and challenging presentation by the local NHS oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Leo Cheng, about the ministry of the ship “Africa Mercy” in Liberia. The ship has a crew of 450 volunteers, including surgeons who carry out operations on board, healthcare professionals who run disease prevention clinics, and engineers who drill wells to provide a fresh water supply for local communities.

As children at the family service put on surgical face-masks and handled valuable titanium rods used in jaw reconstruction, Leo Cheng showed some remarkable ‘before’ and ‘after’ pictures, (not for the squeamish!), demonstrating the difference surgery could make to the lives of both children and older people. Without the “Africa Mercy”, such operations as the correction of cleft lip and palate, the removal of tumours or advanced dental treatment, taken for granted as routine in the UK, would never be possible for the people of Liberia. The smiling faces and the post-operation dancing spoke volumes about the liberation brought by this ministry.

There is no doubt that this international Christian charity delivers much needed, specialised healthcare and community development services to the forgotten poor, bringing lasting change to many lives.

We are delighted to be able to report that donations at and following the service reached a total of £2574.46. For further information, please visit www.mercyships.org.uk. Thank you!

Wintercomfort for the homeless

Wintercomfort was founded in 1990 to serve the growing homeless population of Cambridge; it purchased its current headquarters, Overstream House, in 1993 and the daycentre opened in 1994, offering people a safe, sheltered environment, food and drink, showers and laundry.

Since refurbishment in 2002, Wintercomfort has worked with external agencies, partner organisations and skilled individuals to encourage the personal development of its clients through education and training, seeking to find them work placements off site to boost skills for the employment market.

Sheila Merrick from St Andrew's, known as "the fruit lady", has been a volunteer for six years now, delivering fruit weekly (funded jointly by individuals and the church's core giving) and receiving a wonderful welcome at the daycentre.

There are many opportunities for volunteering at Wintercomfort. If you'd like to know more, please talk to Sheila, read her full report on the church website or on the noticeboard, or visit www.wintercomfort.org.uk.

St Andrew's: other giving so far in 2009

- The Archbishops' Zimbabwe Appeal to support the humanitarian work of Anglican dioceses in Zimbabwe (£561.96)
- Diocese of Ely Bell Restoration Fund (£100)
- Simeon Centre for prayer and spirituality – Ridley Hall (£147.50)
- Contact – students visiting scheme in local area (£100)
- Romsey Mill – Ellie Howes, Transitions worker (£1000)
- A Rocha - Christians in conservation (£250).

Many thanks to all who have contributed.



St Andrew's continues to support **Azul Wasi** (the Blue House - www.azulwasi.org), a project in Cusco, Peru, creating a home for street children.

Recently, on a lovely sunny Sunday morning, 14 members of St Andrew's Church pedalled off into the Cambridgeshire countryside. Our collective 350 miles will raise nearly £600 for the project. The children of Junior Church also raised money at one of their coffee and cake sales after church.

Things have been hard recently in Cusco. As we enjoy the summer sunshine, they are in the middle of their coldest period. The cost of food has escalated and blockades have prevented the movement of food into the city. Alcides, who runs the project, is very grateful for the support they receive from St Andrew's. We have raised enough to be able to send a regular £500 per month this year. Other international groups send money too, but having a regular donation for food and other living costs is really helpful to the project.

One-off donations can be made to St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. You can Gift Aid a donation by putting it in a white pew envelope (complete the form on the envelope and label it Blue House). If you would be interested in making a regular donation by standing order, please speak to Simon Peyton Jones (523485) or Mary Pountain (311055).

Dates for your diary ...

4th October: Harvest celebration, focusing on Tearfund's "Make Life Flow" campaign for improved water and sanitation in Uganda.

22nd November: next Giving Day at St Andrew's, focusing on a project supported by USPG: Anglicans in Mission.

What is the Mission and Giving Group?

The *Mission and Giving Group* is a sub-committee of the PCC that plans and coordinates our giving as a church to Christian work and other charitable causes. We meet 3 times a year to monitor existing church commitments, and to plan Giving Days (November/ May), arrange speakers/materials, etc. Group members are: Judith Gardom, Margaret Hiley, Dorothy Peyton Jones, Mary Pountain, Nigel Taylor, Lynda Taylor, Bridget Trump and Sue Wrenn.

How do we plan our giving?

We use the five 'marks of mission' of the worldwide Anglican church to guide our decisions about priorities for giving and to ensure a balance in our commitment to various aspects of mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth

Where can you find more information?

As well as this leaflet, you'll find further information displayed in church. The large noticeboard near the main entrance door shows a world map and details of individual people and projects we currently support, including pictures. In addition, you will find links on the church's website to our mission activities. Click the 'mission and giving' heading on the menu.

Please take this leaflet away as a reminder of our church's involvement in mission at home and abroad. You can use it as a basis for prayer, and you may even like to explore further personal involvement in some of the projects. Thank you for your support.

*Nigel and Lynda Taylor, on behalf of the Mission and Giving Group
(01223 575172)*