

Mission and Giving Group - St Andrew's, Chesterton Update, No 2 – March 2008

What is the Mission and Giving Group?

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

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?

In addition to what's contained in this leaflet, you'll find further information displayed in church. The large noticeboard near the main entrance door displays a world map and details of individual people and projects we currently support, including pictures. It also gives information about the principles underpinning our giving and a list of people and projects supported in 2007.

Ellie Howes – Transitions Co-ordinator, Romsey Mill

Romsey Mill is a Cambridge-based Christian charity that works with some of the most disadvantaged young people and families in the area [for more details, go to: www.romseymill.org].

Through the North Cambridge Council of Churches, St Andrews donates £1,000 a year to support Ellie Howes who is the current coordinator of the Transitions Programme. She helps 10-14 year-olds increase their self-esteem and confidence, raise their aspirations, and develop their skills. She does this through out-of-school groups, outdoor activities, peer mentoring, 1:1 work across the primary-secondary transition, and a literacy support programme.

We are planning for Ellie to visit our young people and tell them about her work later in the year.

USPG – Anglicans in World Mission

USPG works in direct partnership with Anglican churches in over 50 countries, enabling them to share God's love in practical, life-changing ways and to build communities [www.uspg.org.uk].

Following our Harvest 2007 giving to help support hostels for young people run by the Church of North India, we continued developing our relationship with USPG through our Autumn 2007 Giving Day. We were able to send £723 for the 'Training for Tomorrow's Church' project supporting the under-resourced theological colleges in Ghana and Madagascar who seek to provide leaders for the growing churches in those countries. Their work can be linked to the first and second marks of mission.

Azul Wasi (Blue House) Project in Peru

St Andrew's has been supporting the Azul Wasi project in Cusco, Peru, to build a home for street children.

There are now 9 boys for whom the Blue House has become home. They will attend the local school and will learn to cook and to look after themselves. Alcides, the project manager, is hoping to rent a field to grow potatoes, which are an important part of the Peruvian diet. On Saturdays a group of street children visit the Blue House to enjoy a day away from the city. The builder, Adrián, is going to live on the site with his family to look after maintenance, security and further building work, while his wife helps to look after the children.

Their next plans are to build a fence around the site and to continue with work to drain the land. Alcides is hoping to buy a secondhand minibus to make it easier to get in and out of the city. Once the children are settled in, Alcides intends to start the programme of training them in various skills so they have a better chance of getting a job when they leave the house aged 18. Several of his contacts have offered to help with this.

So far we have raised over £10,000 — some donated by other groups, but the majority raised at St Andrew's. Thank you to all who have contributed in any way. We hope to be able to continue supporting the project as it grows. Please remember Azul Wasi and all those involved in your prayers.

Donations can be made to St Andrew's Church, Chesterton. If you would like to Gift Aid a donation, please put it in one of the white pew envelopes (completing the form on the envelope and labelling it Blue House). If you would like to know more about the project, or if you have fundraising ideas, please contact Chris and Mary Pountain on 01223 311055.

Young people from St Andrew's on gap year projects

Matt Pountain is volunteering for several months in a day centre for children with physical and mental disabilities in Cochabamba, Bolivia, helping to give the children physiotherapy as well as general care and attention.

Anna Frayling-Cork is volunteering for 4 months with Latin Link in Argentina. She is part of a team of young people working on a church building project in a poor but welcoming community in the province of Quilmes, not far from Buenos Aires.

As a church, we have contributed £100 in support of each of these two young people, and we pray for them regularly.

Some dates for your diary ...

Our next Giving Day will be on **Sunday 4th May 2008** when we shall be focusing our attention locally on the Cambridge Cancer Information Centre being established at Scotsdales Garden Centre in Shelford.

On **Sunday 8th June** our morning service will take a 'creation care' focus to reflect the 5th mark of mission and we shall be using worship resources provided by A Rocha UK [www.arocha.org].

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 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)*