

Christ Church Mission Partners 2017-19

As an outward looking church we are committed to partnering with Mission organisations at home and overseas. Through a tithe (10%) on all personal donations to our general fund we are able to support six such organisations, as listed below.

In addition, through a tithe on personal donations to the Building 4 Life project, and as a result of the generous donations of individuals, we have been able to completely fund the building of a church in Ursoaia, Moldova with Transform Europe Now. The PCC has agreed that any further personal contributions to the church re-ordering will be tithed to help pay the salary of Misa Hiorescu, the pastor of the church in Ursoaia.

The missions outlined below represent many aspects of God's work in the world and we are passionate about partnering with them to relieve poverty, to highlight injustice and to help people of all ages discover the life changing good news of Jesus Christ. Each organisation is allocated one Sunday a year when the Mission Champions or a representative of the project is able to thank the church for its support and to bring us up to date on what is happening in their particular area of mission.

We are thankful for the mission champions in Christ Church who act as the link between the congregations and the individual missions. They share news and prayer requests, explain how the money donated is being used, and encourage meaningful partnership and engagement.

More details of the organisations we support are as follows:



Ben and Katy Ray are three years into a 6-year mission as Directors of the Neema Crafts Centre for people with disabilities in Tanzania. Their mission aim is: *“To show the love of God for the most marginalised in Tanzania by providing training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities”*.

In Tanzania, people with disabilities are often considered to be a burden or even a curse. People think that nothing can be done for them. They are often left uneducated and told that the best chance they have is to beg on the streets. The Neema Crafts Centre is changing people's perceptions of disability and provides high quality training and employment for disabled artisans, chefs and technicians.

As directors of Neema Crafts their job is to ensure the many facets of the centre (seven different crafts workshops, shop, cafe, conference room and guesthouse) are all on track and that the products and services are attracting customers and promoting the work of people with disabilities. They also oversee various other projects including the entrepreneurship training course, tailoring training, computer and English teaching, mobility access and their latest house building project for their staff.

Mission Champions: Gary Smart and Dave Moller

Websites: www.neemacrafts.com

www.churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/ben-and-katy-ray

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchmissionsociety>

<https://www.facebook.com/NeemaCrafts>



Richard and Jan Bacon serve as Country Directors for Mission Direct's work in Uganda, with a particular focus on Kumi in Eastern Uganda. They co-ordinate and host teams of volunteers for mission experiences, ensuring that meaningful practical support is provided to local community based projects.

1. Mission Direct enables men, women and children to go and make a practical difference to the World's poorest communities.
2. We are currently active in 11 countries across the globe building homes, school classrooms, refuges and workshops for the disabled.
3. We mobilise more than 400 volunteers each year who work in teams for two weeks at a time and in partnership with local churches and indigenous people.
4. We know that volunteer team return from country, deeper in their commitment to Jesus, experiencing Him in a tangible way as they step out.
5. We create through our projects a real sense of discipleship; a taste of how it must have felt for Jesus' team. We hear regularly from returning team members that their lives will never be the same. This is truly a "win, win".
6. We are active in Uganda, Cambodia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, India, Sierra Leone, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Zambia, Moldova and Malawi

7. In each of these countries, we find the need and partner with those who are trying to meet that need. Our work to date has focussed around building homes for destitute families; Class rooms for schools which are totally overcrowded; a refuge for girls in the Maasai and workshop and home complex for polio sufferers in Sierra Leone.
8. The concept is that we give our time, talents and expertise to relieve poverty and suffering, our experience is that lives are transformed both across the team members as well as the local communities which they serve.

Mission Champions: Jan and Richard Bacon, Liz Parsons and Dave Prosser

Website: www.missiondirect.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/missiondirect

Haven Home India

Haven Home is a Christian School and orphanage based near the Indian city of Visakhapatnum. It was set up by a Christian couple, Benjibab and Krupa, who in 1996 obeyed a word from God to 'take care of orphans and the needy'.

Through prayer and hard work, Haven Home has grown substantially, and today cares for over 100 children from the age of 3 and up. It provides the children with an excellent education (Haven Home regularly exceeds the results of the government funded schools in the surrounding area), good medical care through its medical centre on site, good food and nutrition, and a solid foundation in the Christian faith. Haven Home seeks to provide a home and schooling for poor and orphaned children from the surrounding rural mountain villages, where they receive a nutritious diet, medical care and schooling. Their vision says: 'We are committed to feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting those in prison, providing clean water and showing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.'

Many of its children go on to college and university and earn a good wage with which to support their entire family and lift them out of poverty. For those who are not academically gifted, Haven Home teaches them a trade, such as sewing, and provides them with a sewing machine so that they can earn a living back in their village and stand on their own two feet. One of Benjibab's sons, Prasant, now runs Haven Home along with his wife Grace, and their dependence on God for their provision is reminiscent of George Muller. They are entirely funded through donations and sponsorship of the children, largely from people in the UK.

Jamie and Diane Paddon have been supporting the project for the last seven years, and as Jamie's work takes him to India occasionally he has been able to visit Haven Home on four occasions.

In August 2017 eight members of Christ Church Youth Group, and four leaders will be travelling to India to work alongside Haven Home and its children in various projects, and to accompany Prasant into the remote villages, bringing supplies, prayer and God's word to the local tribes, building the Kingdom of God. The youth group themselves aim to raise money to fund a bore well for the local hill village.

Mission Champions: Diane and Jamie Paddon, Gary Smart and Christ Church Youth.

Website: www.havenhomeindia.org

Children of Clarens

This is a partnership project between members of the Christ Church congregation and a church in Clarens, South Africa. Clarens is a small tourist town on a major route halfway between Johannesburg and Durban. The town is surrounded by three townships and as it is on the border of the Kingdom of Lesotho, has a lot of illegal immigrants who squat in makeshift shacks around the town. There is a great deal of poverty and sickness, especially HIV/AIDS, and apart from jobs in the tourist trade and casual farm work, men take jobs far from home and are away for years.

Dihlabeng church is one of seven churches in the town which run orphan feeding programmes and other support schemes. The People of Hope is a team of, some paid and mostly volunteer community care workers who take God's word to their community and have developed two more teams in other nearby towns providing ongoing medical support, foodstuffs, gardening, general cleaning and care.



Dihlabeng Christian School

Giving Hope for the Future

On the Dihlabeng site and under the aegis of the church, is Dihlabeng Christian School, an independent, multicultural school providing early years, infant and primary education. The school has around 150 pupils and teachers and teaching assistants are salaried, some are sponsored by UK churches as are over 50% of the pupils. The remaining school fees (c. £500 pa) are met from state grants and parents who must pay £60 pa towards the costs to qualify for state aid. The school provides a feeding scheme for all children, funded by Christ Church giving, and various after school activities for orphan children.

The main objective of the school is to educate the children with Christian values and faith and to provide a firm foundation for their future.

Mission Champions: Bill and Shelia Robbins

Website: School - www.dihlabengschool.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Dihlabeng-Christian-School



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

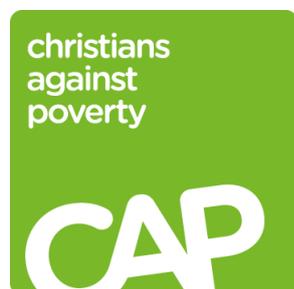
An international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. **Open Doors** supplies Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services. It also seeks to mobilise Christians in the UK and Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution.

Many of our Christian brothers and sisters struggle and suffer under great pressures as they seek to remain faithful to Christ, whilst others seek to wipe out Christianity from their countries. We can provide prayer and material support to help them endure, and our love in Christ gives them strength.

Mission Champions: Mary Massey and Ann Travers

Website: <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opendoorsuk>



Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of 150 centres based in local churches. In June 2008 Christ Church opened a CAP Centre which is now managed by Jane White.

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique hands-on approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime.

Through our CAP Centre, Christ Church Downend offers a free debt counselling service to members of the local community and beyond. Christ Church members play an active part in this ministry through befriending, provision of food through a foodbank, fundraising and prayer.

We are fully committed to helping more and more individuals and families to obtain release from the burden that debt brings. Through this service we aim to actively demonstrate God's love and share the good news of Christ.

Mission Champions: Jane White and Bryan Ashton

Website: www.capuk.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CAPuk

Supported through a tithe on personal donations to the Building 4 Life church reordering project:



Transform Europe Now (TEN) is dedicated to supporting Christian mission activities throughout Europe. The need is great particularly in the Balkans and the former Soviet states where poverty is rife.

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe with a GDP on a par with many of the poorer African countries. Many of those of working age have to find employment out of the country so children are brought up by their Grandparents. Young people are very vulnerable so TEN supports anti trafficking charities within the country.

One of TEN's partners in Moldova is Misa Hiorescu. Christ Church Downend has for some years been supporting Misa and his family who live in a village where they run a small church. They are planting a church in a neighbouring village [Oierseou] where there is no church at present. Christ Church has committed to help fund that church build by tithing monies donated for our own reordering and through personal donations by members of the congregation. The good news is that the church is nearly completed and will be open in early 2017.

Paul Peterson and Martin Brown are planning to take a team of folk from Downend to Moldova in April/May 2017 to celebrate the opening of the new church and to join with them in mission during the time there.

Mission Champions: Martin Brown and Colin Cooper

Website: www.transformeuropenow.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/transformeuropenow>

Christ Church also supports a variety of local and international organisations through the year as its members share their passion for Mission.

Examples include:

- Contributions to the Deanery Uganda Link initiatives
- Support of Christian Aid Week
- Craft group sales of cards raising funds for Mercy Ships
- Chernobyl Childrens Lifeline
- Shoebox Appeals
- Harvest Donations to St James Priory
- Children's Society through our Christingle Services

For more information on any of the above, do contact Paul Peterson, who can put you in touch with the relevant Mission Champion.