

# Mission Committee News



## Charity news

I am writing this mission news report in 'lockdown', and if I had been informed at the beginning of year that this was likely to happen I would have found it difficult to believe. We are living through extraordinary times, and while we miss the physical presence of our families and friends very much, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are or have been ill with coronavirus and the families of all those who have died.

The consequences of the lockdown have spread far and wide, affecting businesses and institutions in the UK, including the charities that we support. Many are in need of help and thankfully the government has provided some funds to help them, but it may be difficult for some of them to find a way forward when this is over.

Joanne Beale has asked us to share with you a web link from her dear friend in Mozambique, the Bishop of Nampula. Muassite, who visited St Mary's last July, works in the diocese of Nampula and lives in Pemba. They are doing a lot of work related to COVID-19 and the circumstances are very tough. Please click on either of the following web links to see the Bishop's emergency appeal.

<https://vimeo.com/mannaanglican>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybpc1x86Jo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybpc1x86Jo)

As you may know, the Mission Committee supports two home charities and two overseas charities each year. Although our schedule of events has had to be curtailed for the foreseeable future, we will continue to support the charities we have chosen for the remainder of 2020. I list them below for information:

 **Camfed** CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education);  
Campaign for Female Education overseas charity from 1 January–31 March 2020.

 **ROMSEY MILL** Romsey Mill, Cambridge;  
home charity from 1 April–30 June 2020. A donation can be made direct to Romsey Mill following the 'donate' link on their website: [www.romseymill.org/](http://www.romseymill.org/)

**USPG<sup>+</sup>** (United Society Partners in the Gospel);  
overseas charity from 1 July–30 September 2020.

 **age UK** home charity from 1 October–31 December 2020.

**Camfed** is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation founded in 1993 whose mission is to eradicate poverty in Africa through the education of girls and the empowerment of young women. We were very fortunate to have CAMFED's donor engagement officer, Helena Scholfield, come to speak to us on 12 March, and those of us who were there that evening were treated to an excellent talk. CAMFED says that 'Educating girls is the best investment we can make to alleviate poverty and create a safer world. It has an incredible multiplier effect, providing returns for generations.'

**Romsey Mill** is a Cambridge-based Christian charity, begun in 1980, that works with children, young people and families, many of whom are facing significant challenges in their lives. Each year they work with over 2,000 individuals and families, from Cambridge city and across areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Romsey Mill has a Christian ethos underpinning its values and exists to serve all people and families, regardless of their faith.

**USPG** (United Society Partners in the Gospel) was founded in 1701 and is an Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. Environmental degradation, turbulent global politics, gender injustice, the desperate flight of migrants, forced displacement of people at record levels: USPG believes today's major challenges cry out for words and actions that express a love and solidarity that goes beyond narrow self-interest and national boundaries.

**Age UK** states that 'Too many older people feel they have no one to turn to for support. We exist to help older people when they need us the most.' Age UK provides information and advice to older people on a range of services, helping them know their rights and therefore

enabling them to make the best choices for later life. With everything that has happened this year, this charity is a very appropriate one to end 2020. We hope we can invite a speaker from Age UK at the end of the year.

### **Leprosy Mission**

Helen Walton, regional manager of the Leprosy Mission, visited St Mary's on 16 February and was presented with a cheque for £300 for the Premananda Memorial Hospital in Kolkata, India. Helen wrote to ask that we 'pray that God will build a mighty hedge of protection around every leprosy community, often housing up to 3,000 people, many with challenged, weak immune systems, that the coronavirus will not/cannot enter'.

### **Lent boxes**

This year's charity is the Church Urban Fund. Please hold onto your boxes and bring them into church when we are allowed to come back to St Mary's. Thank you.

### **Events**

We held a Fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 8 February. The funds raised will go to the Church Urban Fund and will be added to the monies raised by the Lent Box Appeal.

### **Thanks**

My grateful thanks all the members of the Mission Committee for their support: Revd Alan Partridge, Dorothy Butler, Anne Little, Marian Watson (Treasurer), Janet Marven, Jose John and Tina Casey. I would like to thank everyone at St Mary's very much for supporting our charities. We cannot know what lies ahead, or how this will affect us in the future, but we put our faith in God and pray that he will keep us safe and well, and that through his light and love we may find a way through to where we want to be.

***Sue Lowdell***