

St. Luke's Ramsgate

World Mission Review 2017

The report and recommendations of the World Mission Review group.

Members of World Mission Review Group:

Eleanor Dawson, Mike Denton, Ced Hann, Charlie Harley, Andrew McMillan, Joy Smithers, Paul Worledge

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Reviewed and agreed to continue policy on 11th June 2019.

The Terms of Reference for the Group

In the light of the fact that Vernon Wilkins had ceased to work in the Jordan, it was decided at the PCC meeting of 24th April to set up a group to consider the future mission support of St. Luke's. The group was to be called together by the vicar and was given the following terms of reference:

1. To decide on which mission links St. Luke's should support in the future by considering the following criteria:
 - There is a balance between international, national and local.
 - There is a balance between the focus on poor and evangelism.
 - The missions we support have good stewardship.
 - It is better if there can be a personal link.
 - Where there is an option go for support of local projects.
 - Prioritize groups where there is an established link with people in church.
2. To consider how we might improve the way we promote and support these mission links.

Methodology of the Group

Deciding which Mission Links to Support

At the initial meeting on 10th July 2017 we considered the links we already supported and what new links we might support in the future. This produced a list of 7 mission links that are already supported and four new links that we might consider supporting. We also put a note in the notice sheet asking for feedback from the congregation on this issue, but none was forthcoming.

The 7 links we already supported:

1. Bible Society
2. Compassion
3. CPAS
4. Fegans
5. Dick and Caroline Seed (CMS)
6. Tearfund
7. Greg and Sylvia Venables

The 4 new links suggested:

1. Community Pastors
2. Crosslinks
3. Thanet Centre of Mission (Church Army)
4. Thanet Winter Shelter

Each member of the committee agreed to look at one or two of the potential mission links against the criteria that we were given. We also

added in a criteria about the financial need of each organisation. Paul Worledge produced a form with questions for each criteria, a space for comments and the chance to score each one out of 5. Included in this was an additional criteria about the financial need of the Mission Link.

At our second meeting on 31st July, we reported back our findings for each charity and the scores we had given adjusting the scores where necessary to ensure consistency across the group (see appendix 1). We then totalled the scores and ranked the 11 mission links in order (see appendix 2). It was agreed by the group that the ranking this produced fairly reflected how well each mission fitted the criteria.

We then discussed how many mission links we should support and agreed that it should be no more than 8, the number we had supported previously. Possibly there should be less links.

Finally we went through the list and considered which mission links we should definitely have in future and which we should definitely not support. There were still some questions to be resolved around one or two of the mission links, but the conclusion was:

Mission Links we should definitely support:

1. Compassion
2. CPAS
3. Dick and Caroline Seed (CMS)
4. Tearfund
5. Greg and Sylvia Venables
6. Thanet Centre of Mission (Church Army)

Mission Links we should not support:

1. Bible Society
2. Fegans
3. Crosslinks

This left two of the local mission links that had been proposed. It was felt that these were worthy of support, but there was not enough certainty around the future of Thanet Winter Shelter or the financial need of Community Pastors to make them long term mission links at this time. However, without these two links the other links were overbalanced towards overseas support and against local support. With this in mind the proposal was that we should have a definite focus on local mission links built into our pattern of mission support, but that the specific links we support be decided on a year by year basis.

Reviewing the way we promote Mission Links at St. Luke's

At our initial meeting on 10th July, some issues about how we promote mission links were raised:

- We need Champions for each link?
- What is the best way to use the noticeboards in church to promote the World Mission links?
- At present we have a termly pattern of Mission Links. Would it be better to have a monthly or weekly focus instead?
- Should we have a plate collection for mission at end of month, perhaps at the communion service for the mission of that month?

- Do we need to do more promotion when children still in service? In particular do we need to promote the Compassion child supported by Sunday Club in the main service?
- Should we promote the links when new resources become available and not just when it is their month?

An initial draft paper was produced and circulated after 31st July meeting and the group met again on 4th September to finalise the details of the report and to tie up some of the issues raised in previous meetings.

During the intervening period, Paul also contacted both Greg and Sylvia Venables and Dick and Caroline Seed to clarify their financial support needs. Both couples responded quickly and the key information gathered is included in this report.

Recommendation of the Group

The group recommends the following:

1. We no longer support the following Mission Links:

- 1.1. **Bible Society** – Although this link has been supported for a long time at St. Luke's, there are no individual champions in the church at present, it doesn't provide a personal link for people to connect to and the organisation has a significant amount of long-term investments (£18.7million).
- 1.2. **Fegans** – We have supported this mission link for a number of years. However, due to a number of changes the charity seems to be doing less in Thanet and does less to promote the gospel than it used to, focussing instead on counselling where no Christian input is allowed. Furthermore there are no personal links from St. Luke's with anyone working for the organisation.

2. We continue to support the following Mission Links:

- 2.1. **Compassion** – There is a strong personal link with the child that Sunday Club support and a long tradition of Sunday Club doing that. Compassion is also excellent at promoting both the gospel and caring for the poor.
- 2.2. **CPAS** – This is our church Patron and so there is a long established link. They are also good at promoting the advance of the gospel nationally and support poorer children specifically through the Falcon Camps.
- 2.3. **Dick and Caroline Seed (CMS)** – We have a personal link with this couple through a number of visits to St. Luke's over the last few years. Their work in training pastors and teachers in Africa also has a far-reaching positive impact for the gospel on that

continent. St. Luke's has also been a long-time supporter of CMS. The pattern of recent years has been to give 1/3 of the money raised to CMS and 2/3 to Dick and Caroline Seed. Whilst this report was being produced Dick and Caroline managed to gain support for a major project to develop Theological education across Africa. However, they will still require personal financial support for which they rely on supporting churches like St. Luke's.

- 2.4. **Tearfund** – This organisation has been supported for a number of years at St. Luke's and we have had a number of speakers from Tearfund over the years. It has a strong Champion over recent years and does excellent work in reaching the vast needs of the poor around the world. It also works through churches to achieve that, so helping to promote the gospel. We have over recent years also linked especially with the Kale Hewitt church in Ethiopia and their self-help groups scheme. Although, this hasn't amounted to much more than advertising that at particular times of year.
- 2.5. **Greg and Sylvia Venables** – Again there is a strong long term and personal link with this couple, as they were originally sent from St. Luke's. Their work in Argentina in providing leadership for the church there (Greg is Bishop in the Anglican church), helps to strongly support the gospel in that place.

Although Greg is a Bishop, like many Anglican clergy in the Diocese he is unpaid. He also no longer receives support from any mission agency. They are therefore also dependent on the financial support of supporting churches like St. Luke's.

3. We start to support the following Mission Link:

3.1. Thanet Centre of Mission (Church Army): This work has strong personal links with St. Luke's, as its main workers, Pete and Lynne Bone, attend our church. It provides a local mission link, which helps to balance out the overseas links we support. The main focus is on the promotion of the gospel across Thanet, but it also has a bias to the poor, in particular with its links with Ignite and the St. George's Project.

4. Twice a year we focus on and raise support for another one or two Local Missions.

4.1. These will be decided on a year by year basis by the PCC.

4.2. In the first year if both organisations are running it is recommended that we support:

4.2.1. Thanet Winter Shelter – This scored excellently on the criteria we looked at. There were a number of volunteers involved in it last year and our hall was used for one night a week as one of the shelters. It provides much needed support for those sleeping rough at a particularly difficult time of year.

4.2.2. Community Pastors – This group supports people who find themselves the 'worse for wear' after a night out in Thanet. Whilst, the Community Pastors are not allowed to initiate conversations about faith, they often find themselves having such conversation when people ask why they are doing it. There is a personal link with St. Luke's as Charlie Harley is involved in this initiative.

4.3. The Thanet Link Food Bank

St. Luke's has offered support for this organisation for the last few years, with ongoing collection of food throughout the year and a special collection at our Harvest Service. We recommend

that this level of support continues and that awareness of the Food Bank is particularly publicised around Harvest time.

5. We move to a monthly pattern of focus on each mission:

- 5.1. This is to enable a more regular focus on each mission.
- 5.2. The main communion service that month should hold a collection for its mission link, but there should no longer be a separate collection slot in the box at the back of church. If people want to give to a mission at a time other than the main communion service, then they should put it an enveloped marked clearly as a donation for that mission.
- 5.3. Compassion will not be included in this monthly pattern, but will instead be supported all year round by Sunday Club, with occasional information given in the main service so parents are aware of the link.
- 5.4. October should be devoted to a 'Harvest Appeal' which will be decided annually by the PCC to be supporting a Christian project helping the poor overseas. There should be specific collections for the Harvest Appeal both at the Harvest Service and the October communion service.
- 5.5. Tearfund will only be supported one month a year, but this will be December and include Christmas.
- 5.6. All the other supported mission links will receive a focus on two months of the year:
 - 5.6.1.CPAS
 - 5.6.2.Dick and Caroline Seed (and CMS)
 - 5.6.3.Greg and Sylvia Venables
 - 5.6.4.Thanet Centre of Mission

5.7. Another two months each year will be devoted to supporting a local Christian mission initiative (see 4. above).

5.8. CPAS will continue to receive 10% of the Pentecost gift day money raised.

5.9. A possible programme for the year could be:

January	Dick and Caroline Seed
February	Thanet Centre of Mission
March	Greg and Sylvia Venables
April	Local Mission, e.g. C.P.
May	CPAS (Pentecost Gift Day)
June	Dick and Caroline Seed
July	Thanet Centre of Mission
August	CPAS (Focus on Ventures)
September	Greg and Sylvia Venables
October	Harvest Appeal
November	Local Mission, e.g. TWS
December	Tearfund

Although this could be adjusted as necessary year by year.

6. To further promote World Mission at St. Luke's we recommend:

6.1. Sermon Series on World Mission

It is recommended that a sermon series on World Mission be programmed in in the near future to help people gain a Biblical understanding of its importance.

6.2. Communication

6.2.1. Noticeboards: The main World Mission noticeboard should be moved into the coffee area. One side section should give a list of all the missions we support. The other side section should be for the latest updates from the

missions we support. The main section should focus on the Mission of the Month.

6.2.2. Screen in church and Noticesheet: These should both contain details about the Mission of the Term.

6.2.3. Website: There should be clear and up to date information on the website for the World Mission links we support, which is regularly shared on the church Facebook page.

6.3. World Mission Steering Group

6.3.1. We should aim for there to be one Champion in the church for each of the Missions we support. A role description for a Champion should be developed.

6.3.2. There should also be a communications co-ordinator to ensure that good communications about our Mission Links is maintained.

6.3.3. Initially the World Mission Review Group should continue as the World Mission Steering Group with the aim of transitioning this group into one that contains all the Champions for the different missions.

Appendix 1 – Analysis of each of the proposed links by criteria (scored from 1 to 5, 1 being low):

Questions linked to criteria:	Com- passion	Fegans	Seeds (CMS)	Tear- fund	CPAS	Ven- ables	Cross- links	Bible Society	Thanet Centre of Mission	Comm- unity Pastors	Thanet Winter Shelter
To what extent does the mission help the poor?	5	5	3	5	3	2	2	4	4	2	5
To what extent does this mission promote or proclaim the gospel?	4	3	5	3	4	4	5	5	5	3	2
To what extent is this mission Thanet based?	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	5	5	5
To what extent does this mission have a national focus?	1	3	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	1
To what extent does this mission have an overseas focus?	5	1	5	5	1	5	4	4	1	1	1
What is the financial need for this mission?	5	4	(3)?	5	4	(3)?	2	3	2	3	(3)?
What proportion of money raised goes on front line mission?	4 (82.4%)	4	4 (78%)	4 (83%)	4	5	4 (80%)	4 (92%?)	4 (80%)	5	4
To what extent is this an established St. Luke's link? i.e. Is there a champion for this link? How long has been the church been supporting it?	5	3	4	5	5	5	2	3	3	3	3
To what extent is there a clear personal connection with the church? (i.e. Are there individual(s) supported by or working for the link known to people at St. Luke's)	5	1	5	2	3	5	3	1	5	5	5
TOTAL:	35	27	31	31	30	31	25	27	30	28	29

Appendix 2 – Ranking the 11 Mission Links under consideration

Rank Position	Mission Link	Total Score on Criteria	Main area of focus: Overseas / National / Local	Main area of focus: Poor / Gospel
1	Compassion	35	Overseas	Poor
2=	Tearfund	31	Overseas	Poor
2=	Greg and Sylvia Venables	31	Overseas	Gospel
2=	Dick and Caroline Seed (CMS)	31	Overseas	Gospel
5=	Church Pastoral Aid Society	30	National	Gospel
5=	Thanet Centre of Mission (Church Army)	30	Local	Gospel
7	Thanet Winter Shelter	29	Local	Poor
8	Community Pastors	28	Local	Poor & Gospel
9=	Bible Society	27	National & International	Gospel
9=	Fegans	27	Local & National	Poor
11	Crosslinks	25	Overseas	Gospel