

# TRANSMISSION

News and features from the Anglican Communion

Spring 2018

## SPECIAL FOCUS ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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† UNITED SOCIETY  
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

USPG<sup>†</sup>

**Cover: Jennifer cuts bamboo to make barbecue sticks, part of a community development programme, Besao, Philippines**

Credit: USPG/Leah Gordon

USPG is an Anglican mission agency supporting churches around the world in their mission to bring fullness of life to the communities they serve. Theologically, practically and financially, we encourage and enable churches within the Anglican Communion to act as the hands and feet of Christ. Together, we are working to improve health, tackle poverty, put children in school, challenge discrimination, nurture leaders, give a voice to women, and much more. Founded 1701.

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ISSN 0967-926X

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*Transmission* is sent free of charge. Donations to cover costs are appreciated.



# FAITH IS THE KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

This year, USPG is encouraging the Anglican Communion to deepen its engagement with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There are 17 SDGs – agreed by 193 nations at a UN meeting in January 2016 – together they provide a framework for tackling poverty, injustice and the depletion of the planet's resources.

As a global Anglican mission agency, we want to showcase the church's historic commitment to tackling poverty, promoting justice and caring for the environment. Indeed, these goals have been at the heart of our mission for decades.

Secondly, we want to emphasise that Christian and other faith communities have an essential role to play in making the world a better place. Increasingly, the UN, the world's governments and other global institutions are recognising that significant change is only possible if we recognise the central role that faith and spirituality plays in people's lives.

As I take up my role as USPG Chief Executive, I invite you and your church to make the SDGs a focus for your action and prayer as, together, we seek to transform lives for the better.

**The Revd Duncan Dormor**  
USPG Chief Executive

If you'd like to receive *Transmission* on a regular basis, please email [eunicek@uspg.org.uk](mailto:eunicek@uspg.org.uk)

# Anglicans have a vital role to play in global development

**Anglicans – and, indeed, all faith communities – have a vital role to play in global development, but more work needs to be done to ensure that faith communities have a voice in national and international development processes.**

This was the key finding of a survey designed by USPG, in collaboration with six other Anglican agencies, and completed by Anglican archbishops, bishops and development officers worldwide.

The survey emerged out of USPG's desire to highlight the global work of faith communities to address the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a list of 17 targets that provide a framework for tackling hunger and poverty and the depletion of the earth's resources.

We also wanted to explore how Anglicans might work more closely with non-faith-based agencies that are also striving to achieve the SDGs.

Emma Bridger, of USPG, said: 'The UN and other development institutions are becoming increasingly aware that faith is a central part of the lives of the communities in which they work – and that faith communities have a great deal to contribute towards development. However, there is an opportunity to help the UN explore how they might work more effectively with faith communities.'

Emma said the survey identified ideas



for fostering closer co-operation between faith and secular actors, including reducing the amount of bureaucracy and reducing the gap between top level policy-making and grassroots action.

The idea for the survey grew out of USPG's participation in PaRD (International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development), which brought together a coalition of UN agencies, governments, and faith-based and value-driven organisations. PaRD is committed to harnessing the positive impact of faith in achieving sustainable development. ■

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SDGs

- More in this edition of *Transmission*.
- Our Lent course looks at the SDGs.
- Our prayer diary looks at the SDGs.

**Pictured: The SDGs challenge unsustainable consumerism. Cabot Circus shopping centre, Bristol.**

Credit: WikiCommons/Jongleur100

# Filipino bishop still in prison



**Bishop Carlo Morales, of the Philippine Independent Church (PIC), remains in prison on the false charge of 'illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions' – see the last edition of Transmission.**

The bishop, a peace advocate from Ozamiz, was jailed in May after refusing to leave the side of a human rights activist who had been wrongfully arrested by the police.

Both arrests can be seen as part of a violent campaign by the authorities to destabilise the efforts of activists to win better conditions for marginalised communities.

The Revd Richard Bartlett, USPG Director for Mission Engagement, visited Bishop Carlo in jail in November. He reported: 'We queued for about an hour in the baking heat – a challenge for the bishop's wife Losaria and his friends, who visit him every day.'

'Bishop Carlo was in good spirits considering he had been in jail for five months. We talked about his hopes for his diocese – just as I had with other bishops during my visit to the Philippines.

But he said, "I feel so useless. I'm unable to do anything."

'The bishop's bail hearing was held a week after my visit, but only two of three witnesses were called, so the decision on bail has been postponed until February.'

Please pray for Bishop Carlo and lobby for his release. More at [www.uspg.org.uk/carlo](http://www.uspg.org.uk/carlo) ■

**Pictured: Bishop Carlo (centre) with wife Losaria, his children and Richard Bartlett (right).**

## Tribute to Don Arden

Former USPG missionary Donald Arden CBE, who died aged 98 in 2014, has been honoured with a memorial stone at St Alban's Church, Harrow, where he was an honorary curate for 25 years. Donald served as a USPG missionary from 1943 until 1981. Among other roles, he served as the Archbishop of Central Africa and the Bishop of Malawi.

USPG International Programmes Director Naomi Herbert said: 'Bishop Donald was an inspirational figure who encouraged local leadership.' ■

## Women celebrated

There were tears of pain and the sounds of laughter when 120 women gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September, to commemorate 25 years since the Anglican Province of Southern Africa first ordained women.

In attendance, USPG Theological Adviser Evie Vernon said: 'My sisters recalled how many times they had been silenced. But they also remembered with joy those, like USPG, who stood with them and declared that liberation was for everyone.' ■



# Emergency response in the West Indies

**USPG sent emergency grants to support relief work in the West Indies after Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused massive destruction in September.**

The two hurricanes hit islands in the West Indies within the space of two weeks.

Dozens of lives were claimed, towns were flattened, infrastructure was destroyed and thousands were left homeless.

Two of the worst-affected islands were Barbuda, from which all 1,200 inhabitants had to be relocated to Antigua, and Dominica where 95 per cent of buildings were destroyed or severely damaged.

Anglican churches were among the first to respond despite also feeling the impact, with congregation members affected and many church buildings destroyed.

Church members worked alongside local authorities and aid agencies to distribute medical supplies, food, water, clothing, building materials and bedding. In addition, churches organised counselling for those dealing with bereavement, shock and the loss of homes and livelihoods.

USPG stepped in by sending a grant from

our Rapid Response Fund.

The Most Revd John Holder, Archbishop of the West Indies, told the Anglican Communion News Service: 'We live in a region where we expect hurricanes every year. But no matter how accustomed you are, it can be very demoralising and debilitating.

'But there is a strong spirit of resilience. The people will count their losses, accept the help given, and try to rebuild. It will take many years, but with God's help we can do it.'

Please continue to pray for churches and communities in the West Indies. ■

**PLEASE DONATE**

Donations to our Rapid Response Fund will help ensure USPG can supply emergency grants to Anglican Churches when disasters happen. Visit [www.uspg.org.uk/donate](http://www.uspg.org.uk/donate)

**Pictured: Hurricane damage in the Caribbean.**

Credit: Ministry of Defense, Netherlands

## New era for Church of Bangladesh's mission

**Shalom is the new name for the Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP).**

USPG attended the September launch of the new initiative, which will see the church re-categorise its mission under seven themes, of which USPG will play a key role in supporting work under the theme of 'Health and nutrition'.

Naomi Herbert, USPG's International Programmes Director, said: "I was very encouraged to be there for the launch of Shalom and to hear about the strength, vision and mission of the church through this initiative. We are delighted to be supporting



Shalom's health and nutrition programme, which reaches the most vulnerable communities across the country.' ■

**Pictured: Healthcare in Bangladesh: nurse Monika Halden in North Dhamsor.**

Credit: USPG/Naomi Herbert

## Young theologians will reinterpret the gospel

**A pioneering theological programme has brought together 120 young Christians and 24 facilitators from all parts of the world, and all major Christian denominations, to reflect on how they can share God's love in an increasingly complex world.**

The intensive four-month online programme, which addresses the theme 'Translating the Word: Transforming the World', is intended to support young theologians as they consider how best to address global concerns.

USPG Theological Adviser Evie Vernon is one of the facilitators for the initiative, which is being organised by the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI).

She said: 'It is the task of Christians to re-imagine how God wants the world to be. This is

a daunting challenge that requires the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can reinterpret what it means to follow in Jesus' footsteps, showing love, and striving for justice for every human being and for all of Creation.'

Evie added: 'I think we are faced with two tasks. One is for Christians to re-evangelise ourselves so that we more truly imitate Christ. The second is to convince others that the evils done in the name of our religion were nothing to do with God's will.'

At the end of the programme, in March, the theologians and facilitators will gather in Tanzania to share their insights at the global Conference on Mission and Evangelism, which is organised every ten years by the International Mission Council (IMC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). ■



# ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

## USPG CONFERENCE 2018

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8SG  
2-4 July 2018

Discover how Anglican Churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America are engaging with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

With workshops and speakers from throughout the world church, our annual conference is an opportunity to explore how your church can play its part in tackling poverty, fighting inequality, campaigning for climate justice, and much more.

FREE for ordinands, Diocesan Representatives, Speaker Volunteers and *Journey With Us* participants.

To find out more and book a place, call Kathy McLeish on 020 7921 2202 or visit [www.uspg.org.uk/conference](http://www.uspg.org.uk/conference)

A full list of Speakers will be announced as they are confirmed in our email newsletter – sign up at [www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)



## 'I challenge any president to stay in a tent for one night.'

Young adults in Ritsona refugee camp, in Greece, have no access to education or employment, but a USPG-supported project is offering a lifeline.

**T**he days are long for the young people stranded in Ritsona refugee camp, north of Athens. Most stay here from six months to a year awaiting asylum in Greece or elsewhere in Europe.

They have little to do because they are too old for secondary school and have little or no access to higher education or jobs.

Recognising a need, the charity Lighthouse Relief set up the Youth Engagement Space (YES), which received funding from USPG.

YES started as an arts project but has developed into a drop-in programme that provides a safe place for young people aged between 16 and 25.

As well as providing arts materials, YES

has a café, offers guitar lessons, runs a magazine, and facilitates discussion groups. It is a healing space where young people can feel productive and find mutual support.

YES manager Daphne Morgen explained: 'These young people are brimming with creativity and potential but are unable to work or study so they spend their days in limbo. This state of uncertainty causes stress and leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, violence and substance abuse. This is especially true for young men.

'As well as offering activities and resources, we encourage teamwork and curiosity. We want to help these young people retain a sense of purpose and inspire them to reach their full potential.'

Daphne added: 'Our approach advocates engaging with camp residents not as refugees, but as human beings: real people with talent, hope and aspiration.'

The YES initiative has proved so successful that Lighthouse is exploring how they might roll out similar projects in other refugee camps.

## STRANDED

At the time of writing, there were around 54,000 asylum seekers in Greece, mostly from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Ritsona Camp hosts about 750 refugees, most of whom are Syrian, including about 150 young adults.

The positive impact of the YES initiative can be seen throughout the camp. The formerly bare walls of the isoboxes (shipping containers) that house the refugees are now decorated with paintings, drawings, essays and poems produced by the young people.

The success of the project can also be heard. Guitar lessons, led by local volunteer tutors, have proved popular. A refugee camp resident said: 'Guitar is one of my favourite activities. It helps me to forget, to focus and to create something beautiful.'

Inspired by the YES initiative, one young refugee was moved to start a football team, which he called Ritsona United, explaining that he chose the name 'united' deliberately because 'it does not matter what your nationality, race or religion is'.

Another success is a self-published magazine. As well as encouraging teamwork, writing for the magazine is a healing activity that helps the young refugees to make sense of their situation.

Speaking about life in the camp, one young person wrote: 'During the day, children play freely and don't know what they are waiting for. Young people are hoping for a better future. Men sit and think about what to do for their children; they can do nothing, only collect wood to make a fire and keep their

children warm. We are waiting for someone to say to us: "Come and share our place with us. This world is for all people."'

Another explained: 'I was cut off from education two years ago. But we are determined to hold onto any opportunity to learn and develop ourselves. I insist on succeeding! I am grateful to those who are kind and generous – those who have pushed me to look for a life full of happiness and success.'

Another wrote an open letter to the United Nations and the world's governments, asking: 'Where is the justice? In this camp, children wait in a queue for a meal or drinking water. Where are the treaties that all the nations signed for human rights? I challenge any president of any country to stay in a tent for one night if they can.' ■



**Opposite: Young refugees and facilitators in Ritsona Camp.**

**Top: Magazine production workshop in the Youth Engagement Space, Ritsona Camp, Greece.**

Credit: Lighthouse Relief

**USPG IS SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Goal 16 calls for peace and justice for all.  
More at [www.uspg.org.uk/lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/lent)

# 'It's special for us to know we're part of a global family.'

The Anglican Church in Ghana is supporting communities through its Poverty Alleviation Project, which receives funding from USPG. This article is based on interviews with two of the project's beneficiaries.



## JOSEPH'S STORY

I live in a village called Benim. I'm married with three children, aged 6 to 15. I'm a catechist in the local Anglican church and a vegetable farmer.

I'm very pleased that I've learned how to grow vegetables all year around, in the dry season as well as the rainy season. I have found a way to draw water from the river so I can water the plants in the dry season. I mostly grow okra and peppers.

I was helped by the Poverty Alleviation

Project. Last year, I received a small loan which I used to buy a hose pipe so I could pump water through to my farm. This changed everything!

Before we had to fetch water in buckets, which took a long time and meant we could only water a small area of land. But now I'm able to water a much larger area. We've been able to increase our harvests and we're earning more money, which has brought our financial problems under control.

Before, I was growing and selling about

one basket of vegetables a week. But now I have more land and I can sell seven baskets a week.

The project also taught me how to handle money. I used to keep my money at home, but now I save it in the credit union. I've already paid off the original loan.

At my church, the congregation has seen the change in my life and this is encouraging them to explore what they can do. It's slow progress but they are building up their experience as they go.

Also, because I'm now able to bring in more income for my family, I no longer rely on the tithes of my congregation, which means I'm no longer a burden to them. This is like Paul's advice when he describes how he worked night and day in order not to be a financial burden on the churches where he preached.

It's very special for us to know this project has the involvement of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It reminds us that we're part of one global family.

## RACHAEL'S STORY

I am married with two children, a girl who is one-and-a-half and a boy who is four years old.

My husband works in construction. I trained as a hairdresser but I haven't been able to do this because it's expensive to buy the products to set yourself up. We try to earn enough money to take care of our home and our children and to pay school fees and electricity bills. It's been difficult.

I was pleased when I heard in church about this programme offering microfinance. I applied and received a loan. My aim was to start selling cocktail drinks that use traditional ingredients. I have been doing this and it brings in a small income.

I've already made 11 of the monthly loan repayments, with just one month to go. Now I'm planning to get another loan so I can buy things to start hairdressing also.



I'm learning a lot. I'm hopeful. It's good that the church wants to help people to do something to support their lives. I've only been able to do this because of the church. I've not been able to take out a bank loan because the interest rates are much too high. ■

**Opposite: Joseph (third from left) and family members with their chilli plants. Top: Rachael proudly shows the bottled drinks she produced with support from the church.**

Credit: USPG/Emma Bridger

**USPG IS SUPPORTING THE  
UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty.  
More at [www.uspg.org.uk/lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/lent)



# ‘Before we stayed in our homes. Now we’re helping each other.’

A USPG-supported programme in Bangladesh is helping to empower women and girls.

**A**

vulnerable community in Karikorpara village, Bangladesh, is learning that knowledge is power.

Through the Jobarpar Community Health Programme, which is run by the Church of Bangladesh with support from USPG, villagers are learning about sanitation, nutrition, childcare and women’s rights.

Since the programme started three years ago there has been a drop in illness and child mortality and an increase in girls’ education and in peer support among women. Women and girls have also been made aware of the tricks and techniques used by traffickers. In addition, the programme is helping the elderly and people with disabilities to access government benefits.

The following stories are based on interviews carried out through an interpreter by USPG International Programmes Director Naomi Herbert when she visited the village in October.

## **KOHENUR'S STORY**

I was married at 17. I lost my first two children very quickly and suffered a huge amount because of that. At that time, I didn’t know how to access healthcare and I didn’t know anything about sanitation.

But now I have a different story. Now I have two healthy children, aged 5 and 10, and I feel empowered.

Monika [a Church of Bangladesh community nurse] comes to visit and we have lots of support. We know how to get an

ambulance. All our children are vaccinated. We've learned about our rights. We've learned about access to healthcare and education for our children. We've learned why young girls shouldn't be married while they are still young. Girls are taught about sanitary towels. Boys are taught how to treat girls.

I'm very happy to be getting this education. We share it with whomever we can. We sing about it to help spread the message.

I'm excited because women are becoming empowered. Before we used to stay in our homes and we didn't talk to each other. We would collect water and go about our business, but women didn't meet up. Now we're talking together and helping each other. We can be up to 40 women together - this was unheard of before.

We're very concerned about our girl children. We want to support them and set a good example. Before, most girls were dropping out of school, but now girls are staying in school until they are 15, and we hope they will go on to higher education.

### SELINA'S STORY

I have a baby who is now six months old and a boy who is five years old.

The important thing I've learned is about hygiene and nutritious food.

It's important to wash your hands and clean your pots and pans. We use soap and Dettol.

We used to go to the toilet just outside the village, but now we have pit latrines. We wear flip-flops so our feet don't get dirty.

Before Monika's visits we used to drink from ponds - especially after the monsoon when there's a lot of water, but it was stagnant and we got diarrhoea. But now we drink clean water and we get ill very rarely.

There was a lot of child mortality because things weren't sterilised. But now we're taught to breastfeed until six months. And we look after our own health because we know that if mothers are healthy they will have

good milk, which is all the child needs.

Before we might only feed our children rice because there was little else, but now we know we should cook nutritious food, like dahl.

We've also had help with the pump-wells in the village. We have nine of them. There is arsenic which occurs naturally in the soil at a certain depth, which is very dangerous. But the wells have now been tested and colour-coded: green wells are safe to drink from, while water from the red wells should only be used for washing ourselves or our clothes. ■



**Opposite: Kohenur with her sons, aged five and ten, North Dhamsor Village, Bangladesh.**

**Top: Selina with her youngest son, North Dhamsor Village, Bangladesh.**

Credit: USPG/Naomi Herbert

## USPG IS SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 3 calls for good health and well-being for all. More at [www.uspg.org.uk/lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/lent)

Your church can support Bangladesh through our *Partners In Mission* direct-giving scheme (see page 19).

# 'I am not alone. We can achieve more by sticking together.'



## A USPG-supported development programme in Malawi is supporting thousands of vulnerable households.

**P**overty is caused by many overlapping factors so any attempt to tackle poverty requires a holistic approach that takes every aspect of village life into account.

This is the basic principle underlying the Anglican Council of Malawi Community Integrated Intervention (ACMCII) project, which is benefiting communities in all four dioceses in Malawi.

ACMCII is focused on four thematic areas, namely education for girls, protecting livelihoods, caring for the environment, and hygiene and sanitation. There is also an across-the-board focus on gender equality and issues relating to HIV and AIDS.

The Rt Revd Alinafe, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Malawi, commented: 'This programme is life-giving, holistic and

addresses the socio-economic needs of the people. It is empowering and gives hope.'

The following stories, based on interviews with ACMCII beneficiaries, offer an insight into how the project works.

### **NDUZAYANI'S STORY**

I'm 13 years old. I come from Talavi village, in Chapananga Parish, and attend Dzinthenga Primary School. I'm the youngest of four siblings. We lost our mother when I was very young. My father remarried but our step-mother was very cruel to us.

When my father became sick, my step-mother ordered me and my siblings to do casual labour to earn money to support the family. So my elder brother dropped out of school to find work. Then, when my father died in January 2016, our step-mother left

us with nothing. Now our elder brother takes care of us. As well as doing casual labour, he is also a farmer.

Life has been very difficult. I used to go to school hungry. We depended on our brother, so when he couldn't find work we would all suffer. I had to miss school to help my brother so we could buy food. As a result, my school work suffered.

Life changed when we were selected as a vulnerable household to receive support from ACMCII. We were given maize seeds and fertiliser. At first we were only able to harvest a little because there was a drought. But, fortunately, the programme was able to provide food relief for three months.

I've been helped in other ways. I've been able to attend an after-school support group which is run by some of the mothers who encourage me to stay in school despite the challenges we face. I've also been given a school uniform, schools materials and sanitary pads.

Thanks to ACMCII, I can go to school regularly. I was even chosen as one of the best students at my school. Before I was often sad because I was always thinking about my home situation and how difficult life was for my brother. But now I feel happier and I'm able to socialise with my friends.

My dream is to become a nurse. I want to care for sick people because whenever I see people suffering I remember my father who suffered such a lot when he was sick.

## MARIA'S STORY

I'm 33 years old. I come from Jana village. I'm married with two girls and two boys. I used to grow cotton, which I sold at market, but I stopped when the price dropped very low. So then I switched to selling vegetables and doughnuts.

Before ACMCII I had to walk a long distance to collect firewood, but this wasted a lot of time and meant I had little time to work on our smallholding or in the home. However, ACMCII



showed me how to make briquettes [alternative fuel made from compressed charcoal, sawdust, etc] which I use for cooking.

ACMCII also gave me training in farming which taught me how to increase crop production. Because we live in a drought-prone area, I was advised to plant drought-resistant crops, which I did. As a result, last year I was able to harvest 15 bags of sorghum and five bags of maize, which was a great improvement. It means my family has enough food for the whole year and I can sell any surplus at market.

Through ACMCII, I know I am not alone. There are other households that are struggling and we are being encouraged to work as a group because we can sell more by sticking together. ■

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**Opposite: Nduzayani dreams of becoming a nurse.**

**Top: Maria received agricultural training from the church.**

Credit: ACMCII

## USPG IS SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 8 calls for decent work and economic growth for all. More at [www.uspg.org.uk/lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/lent)

Your church can support Malawi through our *Partners In Mission* direct-giving scheme (see page 19).

# 'I immediately felt a sense of belonging and family love.'

Lucy Gray, a biomedical sciences graduate from Kendal, spent five months with our *Journey With Us* placement programme in Hanoi, Vietnam, where she taught English.

**A** swarm of motorbikes surge ahead with a great roar as the lights turn green. Horns blare as cyclists, with carefully balanced loads of fresh lychees, block the paths of family-bearing motorbikes, hotly pursued by huge monster trucks filled with livestock. All impatient, yet at home in this city of ceaseless noise, fumes and people.

As a pedestrian you are not even safe on the pavement, where overtaking bikes bounce over the uneven surface, swerving around the small plastic chairs and BBQs of the copious street cafes selling the noodle lunchtime favourite, Bun Cha.

I hear the sing-song sound of the bicycle bread sellers, harmonising with the surreal communist anthems bombarding the traffic as it weaves its way home. This is Hanoi, Vietnam, where I lived for five months to join a church, learn, share and encourage.

Most of my time was spent as an English teacher to small bouncy children and chatty teenagers in living rooms and classrooms. Despite the language barrier, restless students and hot classrooms, I learned such a lot. My admiration for teachers grew as I collapsed exhausted onto my bed after just three-and-a-half hours of managing a classroom. I marvelled at the energy of the children who came to my classes after starting school at 7:30am, with the prospect of extra lessons most evenings and weekends, instead of the sports or music clubs that we value so much in the UK.



I was particularly inspired by my hosts, Pastor Thai and Rebecca, who, after a long day planning the opening of a Christian school, sacrificed their evenings to teach English to children in their home.

I have been a part of several church communities over the years, but the Anglican Church of the True Light, Hanoi – part of the Diocese of Singapore – is the first where I immediately felt a sense of belonging and family love. I was overwhelmed by the friendliness of the young people, who made up most of the small congregation.

I visited several rural ethnic minority churches where I was struck by the leaders' faithfulness, despite their only guidance and encouragement being Christian radio broadcasts and visits like ours.

On becoming Christians in this communist country, they were persecuted by their government – moved to less productive land and not given the financial support they are entitled to.

I realised how free we are as western Christians to share our faith, open our doors and fight for justice; yet so often we shy away from our responsibilities – why? ■

Come to our next *Journey With Us* Discernment Weekend, 6-8 April 2018, in Birmingham. For more details, call Habib Nader on 020 7921 2215 or email [habibn@uspg.org.uk](mailto:habibn@uspg.org.uk)



SPECIAL PREVIEW FOR HARVEST 2018

# RECEIVERS TO GIVERS

Our Harvest resources for 2018 are already online. This year we are focusing on the *Receivers to Givers* programme, run by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

The programme provides loans so vulnerable communities can implement small business initiatives to achieve financial sustainability. From the profit they make, communities are able to pay back their loans with a little extra so other communities can also benefit. In this way, receivers are transformed into givers.

To date, income generation initiatives have included cultivating beans and mushrooms, making turmeric capsules, and creating sweet potato ice-cream.

**The support of your church will make a world of difference.**

FREE Harvest resources are available now at [www.uspg.org.uk/harvest](http://www.uspg.org.uk/harvest)

- PowerPoint talk
- All-age PowerPoint talk
- Film: Receivers to Givers
- Prayer meditation film
- Fundraising ideas

# OUT AND ABOUT IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

USPG Volunteering Manager Rebecca Woollgar pays tribute to how churches and supporters are engaging with USPG and the world church.

## USPG IN EUROPE

USPG has a Diocesan Representative in Europe for the first time.

Marie De Coster (pictured) of St George's Memorial Church, Ieper, Belgium, will give talks in churches, organise mission-focused events, and raise awareness of the vital work being carried out by Anglican churches in Europe and around the world.

Marie said: 'I am very excited. For me, the main core value of USPG is that the people we are trying to help are not just names or faces in faraway lands, but real people who are part of our global family.'

## TIME FOR TEA

St Anne's, in Sale, has chosen to support the new USPG direct-funding scheme *Partners In Mission* (see page 19) – and launched their commitment with a weekend of activities.

The church has chosen to fund a programme to support marginalised tea plantation communities in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, activities during the weekend included learning a Sri Lankan hymn, tasting various types of tea loaf and, of course, drinking fairly traded Sri Lankan tea.

## USPG REGIONAL DAYS

Our tour of Britain is going really well. To date, we've hosted Regional Days in Cardiff, Grantham, Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham. One participant said: 'It was friendly, relaxed and informative. Thank you for sharing such interesting, inspiring content.' Another said: 'It was a very well put together day. I really enjoyed it and learned a lot.'



These are our next Regional Days:

- 22 January 2018: USPG office, London
- 2 February: Windhill Churches Centre, Bishop's Stortford
- 9 February: Emmanuel Church Bicester
- 15 February: St Olave's Hall, York

All are welcome. And why not bring a friend?

If you would like to attend, please email Rebecca Woollgar at [rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk](mailto:rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk) or call 020 7921 2220.

## EMERGENCY GIFTS

Thanks to Farndon Methodist Chapel, Crewe, for raising £110 for Rapid Response with a collection taken at a modern worship evening (pictured). Youth leader Adam Meredith said: 'We were impressed by the depth of work and mission of USPG and wanted to help in the light of recent events.'

Thanks also to St David's, Cardiff, for donating £205 to our Rapid Response Appeal for the West Indies (see page 5).



If you'd like to volunteer for USPG or book a speaker for your church, call Rebecca Woollgar on 020 7921 2220 or email [rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk](mailto:rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk)



# PARTNERS IN MISSION

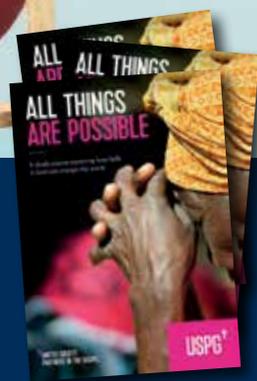
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Find out more at [www.uspg.org.uk/pim](http://www.uspg.org.uk/pim) or phone David Brand on 020 7921 2210 or email [pim@uspg.org.uk](mailto:pim@uspg.org.uk)



# USPG LENT 2018: STUDY COURSE AND APPEAL

**This Lent, our study course and appeal are focused on how Anglican Churches around the world are helping marginalised communities to find peace and prosperity.**

## **LENT APPEAL: HELP COMMUNITIES ESCAPE DEBT SLAVERY**

Our Lent appeal has a spotlight on India, where we are helping Dalit and tribal communities to escape bonded labour and debt slavery.

Your donations will support the Church of North India's *Let My People Go* programme which is training vulnerable families in income generation initiatives, such as beekeeping, sari-making and small-scale farming.

## **LENT STUDY COURSE: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

Our Lent study course – *All Things Are Possible* – looks at how Anglican Churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America are working to end extreme poverty, fight injustice and tackle climate change.

In particular, the course explores how Anglicans in Britain and Ireland, and around the world, have a vital role to play in fulfilling the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

This Lent, please support the church in India and around the world in our shared mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the communities we serve.

Order FREE study course booklets for your church and find out more at [www.uspg.org.uk/lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/lent)