

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH MISSION POLICY

Our understanding of Mission:

- a) Mission is understood as God's work of extending the Kingdom of God by reconciling the whole of the created order to himself. This includes a humble and sensitive calling of people and communities to follow Christ as well as a commitment to work for peace, justice and other Christian values in our society and world. As disciples of Christ, mission is part of the servant calling of every Christian.
- b) We welcome and celebrate all Christian people offering themselves to be part of the mission of God in their daily lives. We rejoice that for most people this mission happens in their immediate context – their homes, families, friendships, neighbours and community. As a congregation we want to do everything we can to affirm and enable this calling to be part of Christ's work of transformation in our local area.
- c) As a church our main corporate expression of local mission is The Springfield Project for which we take responsibility through prayer, volunteering, giving, visiting and keeping ourselves informed.
- d) As a local congregation we are part of the wider church and work with others locally, across the city, nationally and internationally. We recognise that all these levels of partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ require a commitment to mission.

Our Mission Commitment:

- a) We acknowledge that because we are part of the "one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church" then we want to see people playing their part in the life of the local church wherever they may be called by God to serve. This means that we believe mission should be rooted in the local church and, wherever possible, facilitated by and accountable to the local church.
- b) Locally we are committed to working with our sisters and brothers across the local churches to express our common mission. We are also part of Birmingham Diocese and play our part in the mission of the diocese not only in paying our part of the annual Common Fund but also participating in diocesan initiatives such as Transforming Church. Nationally and internationally we are also partners with other churches, mission organisations and individual Christians.

- c) As a congregation we are committed to using 10% of our budget annual income (ie regular giving from the congregation) towards the work of mission outside our immediate parish context. This financial commitment includes gifts to our partner organisations as well as regular gifts towards the support of our Mission Partners.
- d) The Mission Steering Group will propose each year how this 10% will be allocated subject to final approval by the PCC. Financial considerations will therefore be analysed individually by the Mission Steering Group and recommendations will be made to the PCC. Occasionally one-off appeals/offerings may be made to the congregation to support a particular mission agency, situation or mission partner.
- e) As well as a financial commitment to our partner organisations and Mission Partners, we will also support in prayer, information gathering and whenever possible practical help.

The Mission Steering Group:

- a) The PCC delegates responsibility for overseeing the work of mission to the Mission Steering Group. This group holds the responsibility for keeping in touch with our Mission Partners and informing the church of their prayer and other needs. It should also take a lead in:
 - (i) Monitoring the church's commitments to our Mission Partners
 - (ii) Implementing our Mission Policy and engagement in mission as a church including our local work in evangelism and social justice
 - (iii) Encouraging members of St Christopher's in their own vocation to mission
 - (iv) Taking the lead in helping those asking for support to establish whether their sense of call is genuinely from God by meeting the criteria laid down in the policy on ***Potential Vocations To Short Or Long Term Mission Service.***
 - (v) Undertaking a annual review of this policy.
 - (vi) Joining with our brothers and sisters around the world to pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in different places and contexts and to ensuring this is part of the normal worshipping life of our congregation.