

Transmission

The magazine of Us (the new name for USPG). Founded 1701.

Spring 2016

Hope for refugees in Greece

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Us.

every person
every community
a full life

Cover: Refugees coming ashore near Pharos Lighthouse, Lesvos, Greece (Lighthouse Refugee Relief/Samuel Nacar)

We are Us. We are an Anglican mission agency working in partnership with churches around the world. Together, we work alongside local communities to improve health, put children in school, tackle discrimination, nurture leaders, give a voice to women, and much more. Founded 1701.

Us in Britain

Us., Harling House, 47-51 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BS
020 7921 2200
info@weareUs.org.uk
www.weareUs.org.uk
facebook.com/UsWorldwide
twitter.com/weareUs_tweets
Registered charity number 234518

Us in Ireland

Us in Ireland, Egan House, St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7
+353 (0)86 858 6337
Us@ireland.anglican.org
www.weareUs.ie
Charity numbers: CHY 7988 (in Ireland), XT 26530 (in Northern Ireland).

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Not forgotten

In this edition of *Transmission*, we revisit a number of our previous appeal stories.

There is an update from Greece, where we are working with the Diocese in Europe to support refugees who have escaped war and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere. We have an update from the Philippines, where we are helping the church to build new homes for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, and we pay a visit to the tea plantation communities in Sri Lanka, where the church is supporting education. We also meet the team at Al Ahli Hospital, which is reaching out to people of all faiths in Gaza, and take a fresh look at the church's outreach among vulnerable women in Delhi.

It is your donations that enable Us to support this work. And once one of our appeals is over, I can assure you these vulnerable communities are not forgotten.

Janette O'Neill

Chief Executive, Us

You can subscribe to receive *Transmission* by post or email. You can also order copies for your church. Call Eunice Kasirye on 020 7921 2211 or email eunicek@weareUs.org.uk, letting us know your full name, title and postal address.

After Ebola: Helping to rebuild communities in West Africa

Anglican Churches in West Africa are working with Us to devise a united strategy for helping communities rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Ebola.

In February, we met with Bishops Emmanuel Tucker and Thomas Wilson, from Sierra Leone, and Bishop Jacques Boston, of Guinea and Guinea Bissau.

Together we are devising a plan to reach out to communities where lives and livelihoods were lost, and where the people are anxious that another virus could strike – either a repeat of Ebola or an outbreak of the Zika virus.

The Ebola outbreak was first reported in March 2014, taking everyone by surprise. Over 21 months, the virus claimed 11,300 lives in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. However, in January this year, the World Health Organisation declared all three countries, to be Ebola-free.

Looking back, the church leaders described how the outbreak quickly overwhelmed overstretched health services, with medical personnel among the climbing death toll.

Fear gripped communities, exacerbated by the frightening appearance of health workers in uniforms and soldiers trying to locate people infected by Ebola.

To halt the spread of the virus, people urgently needed to understand what they could do protect their families. So the church stepped in, working with many agencies to raise awareness of how to combat the virus – such as increasing hand-washing, not

shaking hands, and not touching the dead.

Not all church leaders survived the outbreak, but they showed immense courage in travelling to the most remote communities to spread a message of hope.

Following the church's intervention, the rate of Ebola infection dropped dramatically.

Today, the church is grappling with specific challenges, such as a huge increase in pregnant teenagers, an effect of schools being closed. These girls now face the double challenge of being



mothers while also wanting to pursue their education.

Us International Programme Manager Davidson Solanki said: 'The virus is controlled, but is not going anywhere. Churches are encouraging people not to be complacent.'

In the immediate future, Us is hoping to provide financial support for a provincial-wide strategy for post-Ebola work, including diocesan programmes in health, hygiene and education. ■

↑ **The Rt Revd Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Freetown, Sierra Leone. (Us/Leah Gordon)**

Lives are being saved as refugees risk perilous sea crossings

Thanks to your donations, Us and the Diocese in Europe have been able to offer support to refugees as they arrive in Greece.

During 2015, over a million refugees fled conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries and made the perilous sea crossing from Turkey to Greece in the hope of finding sanctuary in Europe.

And in 2016, the number of refugees making this journey shows no sign of slowing down.

The following report is just one example of how Us, the Diocese in Europe and other organisations are working together and saving lives.

Brendan Woodhouse is a volunteer with the Us-supported charity Lighthouse Refugee Relief, which provides care for refugees arriving on the Greek island of Lesbos. Here, he recalls how he helped to save the life of a baby

after a boat carrying refugees capsized at night in freezing water about 30 metres from the shore.

He writes: 'People in the water were hysterical, screaming, sobbing and frightened. One sound in particular I will never forget: the screams of a mother who had lost her baby.

'While everyone else was facing the shore shouting for help, she was facing out to sea. She shouted at me and pointed out to sea. About 15 metres away I could see a little black dot, bobbing up and down in the water.

'I swam as fast as I could, knowing I was putting my life in danger as I'm not the greatest of swimmers. Eventually I reached it: a five-month-old baby girl, wrapped in a blanket, face down in the water, with no lifejacket. I grabbed her and looked at her face. Her eyes were rolled back.

This Old Master painting was generously donated to Us by a supporter in Derby for auction at Sotheby's. The painting – *A Grotto in the Gulf of Salerno* by Joseph Wright of Derby – raised £535,000 for our work with refugees. ↓ (Sotheby's)





She was not breathing. She was as white as can be, but I knew she stood a chance.

'I swam backstroke, facing the stars, with the little baby on my chest. I kicked as fast as I could. With my left arm I paddled, and with my right arm I pressed up and down on her chest.

'I swam past people screaming for help. I swam with everything I had and more. I prayed to God, begging for her life.

'Eventually, I reached down with my feet and touched rock. I balanced as best as I could and gave her five rescue breaths. After the second breath, she sicked up

water from her lungs and started to cry. It was the most beautiful sound in the world because I knew I had breathed life back into her.'

Brendan reached the shore where other volunteers took over. The baby's condition was stabilised. Then she was reunited with her mother and rushed to hospital, where she made a full recovery.

Henry Hartley, of Lighthouse Refugee Relief, said: 'The funding we have received from Us is directly responsible for saving lives.'

Find out more and make a donation to support this work at www.weareUs.org.uk/europe ■

↑ A refugee carries her child in Idomeni, Greece. (Us/ Max McClellan)

How your donations to Us are supporting refugees:

- On the Island of Lesbos, we are assisting refugees who arrive by boat from Turkey. They arrive wet, tired, cold and hungry. Many are distraught and need medical attention.
- On the Island of Samos, we are working with Greek non-profit organisation Medical Intervention to provide refugees with shelter, sleeping bags, food, healthcare and psychosocial care.
- In Athens, we are supporting Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Orthodox Church of Greece, and the Salvation Army as they provide food, shelter, clothes and medicines to refugees, prioritising children, the elderly and those in poor health.

Explore the life and mission of the world church

Throughout the year we provide opportunities for people to undertake short-term placements with the world church. We provide training in cross-cultural mission.

Our *Journey with Us* programme is an opportunity to experience the life and mission of the church in another culture. It offers placements of up to one year for self-funding volunteers from Britain and Ireland aged 18 to 80. You can find out more at our Discernment and Selection Weekends in Birmingham on 8-10 April and 21-23 October this year.

Also in Birmingham, we are hosting a special week-long training programme in cross-cultural mission (22-30 July), which is ideal for anyone going overseas



on short-term mission.

For more information, email Habib Nader on habibn@weareUs.org.uk, call 020 7921 2215 or visit www.weareUs.org.uk/travel ■

↑ ***Journey with Us* volunteer Adam North in Zambia. (Us/Adam North)**

New report on FTSE 100 will help ethical investors

A new report into FTSE 100 companies offers valuable information for anyone concerned about ethical investment.

Entitled *Forced Labour, Human Trafficking & The FTSE 100*, the report has been compiled by Us, Finance Against Trafficking, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) and Rathbone Greenbank Investments.

Us Director for Global Relations Rachel Parry explained: 'The report looks at how companies might be exposed to trafficking in their supply chains, and suggests how such risks can be minimised.'

'For those concerned about investing ethically, the report gives guidance on the sort of questions investors could ask investment managers or companies.'

'The report also offers practical

guidance for how companies can improve their efforts to monitor and manage their supply chains.'

According to the International Labour Organisation, 21 million people around the globe are currently working under conditions of forced labour. Many were tricked by recruiters into taking jobs in other countries, only to be forced into working long hours with little or no pay or employment rights.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: 'This report highlights that, in our globalised economy, any business can be exposed to slavery through its supply chain. Companies that have conducted audits have been shocked to discover that they have been unwitting beneficiaries of slave labour.'

Download the report at www.weareUs.org.uk/ftse ■

Refining how we communicate who we are

In 2012, we changed our name from USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) to Us (also known as The United Society). Last year we began an investigation into how that change has been received by supporters, the church and our global partners.

More than a thousand people were invited to take part in this research, and we would like to express our thanks to everyone who has shared their thoughts with us.

We have learned a great deal, and this will inform how we refine and refresh our style of communication. All will be revealed in the next edition of *Transmission!* ■

Philippines: Families in typhoon-hit village move into their new homes

Genaro and Shirlan have been living in their new home since November last year.

When Typhoon Haiyan hit the fishing village of Buenavista in 2013, Shirlan grabbed her young son Gelan and took refuge in the small church opposite their home.

But then the roof blew off the church, so they sought shelter with one of their neighbours.

After the storm, Genaro built a make-shift shelter out of debris and the remnants of their home.

Thanks to those who supported our 2015 Lent appeal, the Philippine Independent Church (PIC) stepped in to build new homes. To date, ten houses have been built for those families most in need. Men from each family helped with construction, with professional builders employed to carry out the skilled labour.

Near the completion of Genaro and Shirlan's house, a large branch from a typhoon-damaged tree fell onto their new home. Fortunately, the concrete-framed structure withstood the blow – a sign that



the new houses will be robust enough to withstand another storm should one strike.

The new houses are comprised of a single large room. There is a sink, electric lighting and an outside toilet. Screens are used to divide the space into bedrooms and a living area.

Without the support of Us and PIC, these families would not have been able to afford new homes.

House-recipient Ronelo told Us: 'If it wasn't for your help we would not have a house as beautiful as this. It is good to know I helped to build this house. It feels like a home of our own.' ■

↑ **One of the new homes built with support from Us in Buenavista. (Us/Tim Harford)**



‘To change communities we need access to education’

The Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM) was set up by the Church of Ceylon to support Sri Lanka’s marginalised tea plantation communities with education and other practical help. ECDM is supported by Us.



Ambishna’s story

My name is Ambishna. I live in Dunkeld, a small rural village

in central Sri Lanka, with my father, mother and sister.

My story is a good example of how the Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM) is motivating many girls from the tea plantations to gain an education.

In 2009, while at the girls’ college in Hatton, I found out

about ECDM and they offered extra lessons to help me with maths and science.

I did well for my O Levels, but then I started to struggle because my family was very poor. However, ECDM offered me a scholarship, so I was able to finish my A Levels.

After that, ECDM offered me a job as a management trainee. This meant I was learning professional skills and receiving a salary, which meant I could afford to attend additional classes.

I won a place at university

↑ Tea picking in the mountains above Kandy, Sri Lanka. (Us/ Leah Gordon)

to study management and accountancy, but my family's economic situation was becoming even worse. I didn't think I would be able to go to university, but ECDM again encouraged me and helped me, and now I am in the final year of my degree.

On the tea plantations, there are so many problems. In most places, like my village, there is no transport or electricity and no chance to send children to school.

If we want to change our communities we need to increase access to education. If only one person from a family receives an education then he or she could make a huge difference.

Eventually I hope to work for an NGO so I can help people from my community. On my own I can do little, but through an NGO I think I could do a lot.

Fr Lakshman, ECDM co-ordinator, writes:

The focus of Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM) is on education and nutrition.

In recent years, through our scholarships, there has been a gradual increase in the number of students going to university, and a number return to support their communities.

Because we are a church organisation, initially we were met with suspicion. But as time went



on, most of the people realised we were simply there to help.

Last year, a school asked if we could supply them with extra books and materials, which we did. At the end of the year, one of the children passed the scholarship exam – a first for the school. They were very happy and told us we had played a big part.

There are many stories like this, but the work is very challenging. The people are in need. There is a lot of abuse. Women and children are vulnerable. People are exploited by their employers. And sometimes the challenges come from within the home. It is in times like this that the church is called to be with the people. We remember that God is on the side of the widows, the poor, the orphans and the aliens, and this gives us strength to continue our work. ■

↑ Pupils at an Anglican-run school on a tea plantation near Hatton, Sri Lanka. (Us/ Leah Gordon)

Us Harvest Appeal 2016

This Harvest, we will be focusing on the work of the church among tea plantation communities in Sri Lanka, with a particular focus on nutrition for children.

More details in the next edition of *Transmission* and www.weareUs.org.uk/harvest

Gaza: ‘Most of these families live on bread and tea.’

Linda Chambers, Director of Us in Ireland, reports from Al Ahli Anglican Hospital, in Gaza, which was the focus of the Us Advent Appeal in 2014.

We were warmly welcomed by Suhaila Tarazi, the director of Al Ahli Hospital, and her staff.

Suhaila told us about the situation in Gaza, and the challenges facing the hospital: 80 per cent of Gazans rely on food aid; 39 per cent live below the poverty line; unemployment is at 45 per cent due to the collapse of local manufacturing following a ban on the import of materials and a block on exports; many thousands have no running water; 80 per cent of drinking water doesn't meet WHO standards; the infant mortality rate is 22.4 per thousand and rising.

The erratic electricity supply is a challenge for everyone. Four hours supply per day is now considered normal, but there is no schedule, and power might only be available in the night. Many homes have no electricity at all. The hospital relies on generators, but fuel is expensive

and a huge drain on the hospital's finances.

I was taken on a tour of the hospital and was impressed by the dedication of staff and the warm co-operation between faiths.

‘The hospital's nutrition programme is supporting more than 700 malnourished children per year.’

A free medical mission was in progress. Hospital transport had collected mothers and babies from one of the poorer suburbs of Gaza and brought them to the hospital. About 30 women were waiting to see the doctor, most of them with malnourished children. They were given food for their babies and advice on appropriate diet. Most of these families live on bread and



← The Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. (Us/Linda Chambers)

tea because they have no healthy alternatives.

We visited medical and surgical wards and the burns unit. There are many burns injuries in Gaza as most people are forced to cook over an open fire.

We visited the new diagnostic centre, which is awaiting the installation of various scanning machines.

In every part of the hospital, staff and patients are eager to talk, and all greet Suhaila warmly.

Since my last visit in November 2014, donations to the hospital have funded a number of improvements. The accommodation for on-call doctors has been refurbished, so it's now a pleasant environment for staff when they stay overnight. All the furniture was made in Gaza, which helped to create some employment.

Solar panels have been installed on the hospital roof. This will help with the supply of electricity and save on fuel bills.

Travelling through the city at night is daunting due to the lack of electricity. With no streetlights or traffic lights, driving is not for the faint-hearted.

Down at the harbour, we met local fishermen. They cannot sail more than 3km from the shore due to Israeli-imposed fishing restrictions. The harbour wall is a gallery of graffiti expressing the anger of young people who feel trapped.

We also saw the fourth century monastery of St Hilarion, part of the Christian witness which has existed in this place since the time of Christ, and continues today through Al Ahli Hospital. At present there are about 1,200 Christians in Gaza out of a population of 1.8 million.

Help for Mohammed

Mohammed is the youngest of four siblings. His family is crammed into one room of the apartment they share with other families.

Mohammad's father and mother have not been able to find work for some time.

Aged seven-months, Mohammed became very weak so his parents brought him to Al Ahli Hospital where he was put on the hospital's malnutrition programme.



A dietician coached Mohammad's mother in breast-feeding and explained how to prepare nutritious meals within the household's means and resources. The family was also given milk and vitamin-fortified biscuits and cereal.

Mohammad's mother said: 'My son gained weight and grew taller. I am very grateful. I cannot imagine what would have happened if it were not for the hospital.'

The hospital's malnutrition programme is aimed at children aged 6 to 12 months from all parts of Gaza, especially remote areas with minimal access to healthcare.

Each child is closely monitored for at least three months, with the hospital supporting more than 700 malnourished children per year. ■

↑ A baby who is benefiting from the nutrition programme at Al Ahli Hospital. (Us/Linda Chambers)



Emergency support for women who face daily fear of abuse

The Delhi Brotherhood Society continues to support vulnerable women through its helpline and legal services.

Women in Delhi, India, live with the daily fear of being abused, especially those from under-privileged communities.

With support from Us, the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) runs a range of services, including a helpline, legal support, medical help, emergency shelter, and women's councils in Seemapuri and Mandoli that aim to resolve cases through community engagement.

This work was featured in our recent Harvest Appeal – and thanks to your donations and prayers the work of DBS is being expanded to reach more women.

One Us supporter wrote to the women of Delhi: 'We send our love

and prayers. We pray that Christ's light will shine on you all.'

Hema's story

Hema lost her parents at an early age and was brought up in her uncle's house, which is where she was living when she was married to Kailash in 2014.

Early on in the marriage, when Kailash went to work, Hema's father-in-law started visiting the house and walking uninvited into Hema's room.

One day, the father-in-law made a sexual assault on Hema. She screamed and ran out of the house. Later, when she told her family, she was shocked that,

↑ Women's community court at the Mahila Panchayat Women's Empowerment Centre, Seemapuri, Delhi. (Us/ Leah Gordon)

→

instead of helping, her mother-in-law and brother-in-law shouted at her and told her not to say anything because it would ruin the reputation of the family.

When she reported the matter to her husband that evening, he also shouted at her, claiming she was telling lies.

In disbelief, Hema fled to her neighbours and with their help phoned the DBS helpline, and a legal case was registered against Hema's father-in-law.

Hema is now living in sheltered accommodation provided by DBS and the case is being pursued.

Rajni's story

Rajni, aged 25, lives with her husband Amar, who drinks every day and is frequently violent.

Most days, Amar's friend Sunil would visit the house and the two men would drink together. But one evening Sunil visited while Amar was out and he raped Rajni.

When Rajni told her husband, he turned on his wife, telling her she must have been encouraging his friend so it was her fault.

Traumatised and physically wounded, Rajni called the DBS helpline. The helpline worker responded immediately, arranging for a medical check-up and registering Rajni's case with the police, who arrested Sunil.

Rajni is now being cared for by DBS while the police investigate.

A successful year

Speaking about the work of DBS among women, Dr Monodeep Daniel, of DBS, said: 'Help is mostly provided to women who are the victims of domestic violence. The solutions are never simple because each case presents its own unique difficulties.'

'For some women, a session of



'For some women, a session of counselling is enough, but other cases require the intervention of the police and legal procedures. We also help with food, clothing and shelter for those who flee their homes.'

counselling is enough, but other cases require the intervention of the police and legal procedures. We also help with food, clothing and shelter for those who flee their homes.

'One encouraging sign in 2015 was the increase in support for our work from men.' ■

In 2015, the DBS women's helpline operated a round-the-clock service:

- 820 calls answered
- Emergency response provided in 200 cases
- Emergency shelter provided in 96 cases
- 45 cases resolved without police intervention (which means no expensive legal bills)
- 28 community training sessions to raise awareness of women's issues

Community programme is supporting families in Malawi

An Us-supported programme run by the Church of Malawi is feeding families, putting children in school and more. Programme co-ordinator Tamara Khisimisi reports.

The Anglican Church's Community Integrated Interventions (ACCII) programme operates according to the principle that all the challenges facing a community are inter-linked.

For this reason, we take a holistic approach, looking simultaneously at a wide range of issues, including girls' education, income-generation, agriculture, sanitation, protecting the environment, and care for those affected by HIV. We also involve people at all levels: villagers, local leaders and government officials. It's important to get everyone on board if we are to make a difference.

The intervention of the church is especially vital right now due to the severe food shortages in the country following a period of droughts and floods.

Here are just a few success stories from the ACCII programme.

Ireen's story

Ireen lives in Chauheni village, close to Lake Malawi. She is 35 years old and HIV-positive. Her husband left home when Ireen

'We take a holistic approach, looking at education, income generation, the environment, sanitation, agriculture and HIV.'

became sick, leaving her to care for their six children, two of whom are also HIV-positive.

Due to ill health, in 2014 Ireen was able to harvest only three bags of maize from her smallholding. Sometimes Ireen's brother was



← Ireen Banda and villagers in Chauheni, Malawi. (Tamara Khisimisi)

able to offer financial support, which meant she could feed her children. But at other times her children went to bed hungry. And sometimes her children were sent home from school because Ireen couldn't pay the school fees.

Ireen did her best to survive by selling dried *usipa* fish and home-made *mandasi* cakes at the market.

Then Ireen's village was visited by the ACCII team, which receives support from Us.

Ireen was given a grant to cover school fees and the children were given uniforms and learning materials. Ireen was then shown how to maximise the use of her smallholding, which meant she could grow more food, with a surplus to sell at market.

Mellina's story

Mellina, 48, lives in Kayoyo parish with her husband and seven children. Life is tough for Mellina because her husband drinks alcohol and takes what little money she earns from selling home-made *mandasi* cakes. She has a small plot of land, but the yields are not good because she can't afford fertilizer.

Mellina's youngest daughter Doreen attends primary school and wants to be a nurse, but it will be a challenge to fulfil this dream because Mellina cannot always afford to pay Doreen's school fees, and sometimes Doreen goes to school on an empty stomach.

Furthermore, there is little time for Doreen to study. Like many children, Doreen is unable to focus on her homework because there is work to do on the family plot.

Fortunately, there is hope for Doreen and her family thanks to the ACCII programme which has supplied Doreen with a

new uniform, school bag and learning materials, while Mellina is benefiting from training in income-generation.

Tree nurseries

Throughout Malawi, trees are being cut down for firewood and to create land for grazing, but local chiefs and government officials are doing little to address the problem.



However, ACCII has proposed a neat solution, and is currently rolling out a tree-planting programme in the parishes of Chintheche and Kayoyo. Villagers are being encouraged to plant trees in their own back yards, which means they have ownership so the trees will not be cut down.

Villagers have been supplied with msangu, cassias and msambafumu seedlings, and to date over 2,000 trees have been planted.

ACCII is also organising meetings at which local leaders are being invited to learn about the importance of maintaining a tree population to protect the environment.

Another benefit of this tree-planting initiative is that it will mean women and girls who fetch firewood will no longer need to walk long distances, which means they will be less susceptible to being assaulted. ■

↑ Mellina Mphalabungu and villagers in Kayoyo Parish, Malawi. (Tamara Khisimisi)

A mother in Myanmar finds hope for her deaf daughter

Ruth Pathi, an Us-supported health co-ordinator with the Church of Myanmar, reports on a moving encounter during a medical mission to Myitkyina.

For nearly two weeks last autumn, I took part in a medical mission to the Diocese of Myitkyina.

As part of a small team of professional and volunteer health workers, we saw hundreds of people in remote villages, offering treatment for coughs, joint pain, fevers, high blood pressure and malaria, among other complaints. All patients were offered basic health education and prayer, with the more complicated cases being referred to the nearest hospital.

One day we set up our clinic at the Anglican church in Kamine.

We were approached by Daw Mya Nyo, a Shan Buddhist and the mother of five. Daw Mya spoke about the many difficulties in her life, not least her concern for her 18-year-old daughter, Ma Mya Khyar Nyo, who had been deaf since birth.

Daw Mya explained that her daughter had struggled at school, though she had learned some sign language and now carried water to earn money for the family. The mother asked whether her daughter could be treated.

I looked carefully at Ma Mya, held her hand, and asked her to repeat a few sentences. She replied in sign language and used a few words, speaking very slowly. I then asked her to tell me her life story, and she managed to do so, again speaking very slowly.

This was clearly an unusual

response – it seemed Ma Mya had not communicated so much in years – and I noticed her mother’s face was shining with joy! Ma Mya was also smiling: she had been listened to! I prayed for her, and told her mother: ‘There is hope.’

I encouraged the mother to enrol her daughter on a sewing course so she could learn a new skill, and I sent her to a specialist doctor for support.

Today, the daughter is better able to communicate and more independent, and the mother no longer sees her daughter as a challenge.

This experience taught me that it is not only medicine that heals, but also love. ■

A clinic held at the Anglican Church in Kamine, Myitkyina, Myanmar.
↓ (Ruth Pathi)



Out and about

A look at your fundraising for Us.

Musical churches

Two fundraising music events were run by the parishes of Great and Little Gransden, Abbotsley and Waresley, on the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire border.

Families paid a donation to spend an afternoon enjoying a Family Music Workshop at which they tried various musical instruments and played samba.

And at a 'Come and Sing from The Messiah' event, participants rehearsed in the afternoon then gave a performance in the evening.

Jenny Wilkinson, who helped to co-ordinate the events with Douglas Coombes and Paul Bryan, said: 'We believe it is important to find out about issues around the world and support people in need.'

All year round

All Saints Church, Newport, is busy throughout the year raising funds for Us. At Christmas, the Alcan Singers, a group of not-so-young men, perform songs and jokes.

Each year, the church stages concerts by local singer Geoff Hooper, Newport City Jazz Band, Blaenavon Ladies Choir, and the church junior school choir. In

addition, there is a sponsored walk along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. In August, there is a car treasure hunt and cream tea.

Us Diocesan Representative Frances Jones paid tribute to church fundraiser Rose Tate, and added: 'We like it that Us helps people to help themselves and involves local churches.'



Pedal power

The Revd David Messer (above), who is the rector of eight parishes in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, is cycling the Camino de Santiago this June to raise funds for Us and other charities.

David says he hopes the 1,100km pilgrimage from France to Spain will raise £11,000.

More at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/david-messer>

Book an Us Speaker for your church

The Revd Debbie Davison, Associate Priest of St John's Church, Newbury said: 'The visit of the Us Speaker was a delight. We really valued and enjoyed hearing about the work of Us and the world church.'

Call David Brand on 020 7921 2210 or email davidb@weareUs.org.uk

Time to change how we view international development

Geography graduate Rebecca Boardman, 23, explains how a placement in the Philippines gave her a fresh insight into international development.

My degree in geography involved studying what we call international development, a subject I have come to feel passionate about.



It seemed to me that, for many people, international development is about giving a few pounds to people 'in need', giving ourselves a pat on the back, then going back to our regular lives. Somehow this didn't seem healthy. For example, while making a donation might make us feel good, I wondered how these donations were affecting the people on the receiving end. Surely, being on the receiving end of charity all the time – and being seen as people in need – must be disempowering and demoralising?

This was all to become clearer for me when I had the opportunity to visit the Philippines through the *Journey with Us* short-term placement programme.

I spent time with E-CARE, the development programme of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and I was impressed by what I saw.

E-CARE has an approach to development I hadn't encountered before – one that focuses on people's resources and skills rather than on their needs; it's a glass half-full attitude. The difference this simple shift in perception can make is amazing: people start to feel it is within their own power to

drive change themselves.

And not only that: it seems this approach is infectious. When people feel empowered, they want to share what they have received with others.

In Bantey, I met a group of villagers who received funds from the church to buy a rice mill so they could process rice for local farmers. The initiative was a great success – and the group reached out to a community in Loccong, providing funds so the people there

'People start to feel it is within their own power to drive change themselves.'

could also buy a rice mill. And, in time, the Loccong community will support another community.

ECP calls this approach to development 'Receivers to Givers'. When people discover they are able to give as well as receive, it is a huge boost to their self-esteem.

So, what does this mean for us here in Britain and Ireland, including the church? We tend to think of ourselves exclusively as 'givers', but in what ways could we also see ourselves as 'receivers'?

***Journey with Us* is opportunity to see the world from a new perspective. Find out more at www.weareUs.org.uk/journey ■**

Just One World

Us Conference
6-8 June 2016



The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Learn about issues of justice through the eyes of the world church, with a focus on migration, climate justice, human trafficking, poverty and gender equality, with workshops, talks, ideas to take back to your parish, and a chance to meet some of our world church partners.

Speakers announced so far:

- Fr Malcolm Bradshaw MBE, of the Diocese in Europe, will describe our work supporting refugees arriving in Greece;
- Ruth De Barros, of the Diocese of the Amazon, will focus on Us-supported work to tackle human trafficking;
- Nadine Daniel, of Liverpool Cathedral, will highlight the work of the Hope+ Foodbank to support refugees.

Book at www.weareUs.org.uk/conference



Us Lent Appeal 2016

Supporting refugees and tackling human trafficking

This year, our Lent study course and prayer diary looked at how the world church is grappling with the complex issues of migration, refugees and human trafficking. And your donations to our Lent Appeal are helping our Anglican church partners around the world to reach out to vulnerable communities, especially children.

- In Brazil, we are supporting the church as it raises awareness of human trafficking and helps to keep children safe.
- In Greece, we are supporting the Diocese in Europe as it provides shelter, food and healthcare to refugees fleeing war and persecution.
- In Bangladesh, we are supporting the church as it provides support and rehabilitation for the victims of human trafficking.

Please remember the plight of vulnerable migrants by making a donation to support the work listed above and more.

To make a donation, call **020 7921 2200**
or visit **www.weareUs.org.uk/lent**

Us. The new name for USPG

Us.
every person
every community
a full life