

TRANSMISSION

News and features from the Anglican Communion

Summer 2017

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 UNITED SOCIETY
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

USPG[†]

Cover: Fr Jai Kamur, of the Delhi Brotherhood, India

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.



MOVING ON

I have an important announcement: this is the last edition of *Transmission* for which I will be writing the editorial because I have decided to step down as Chief Executive of USPG and move into retirement.

It has been a real honour to help steer USPG over these past six years with the support of a very able and committed team of colleagues. And it has been a privilege to work alongside you, the partners, volunteers and supporters of USPG, without whom our common mission would be impossible.

I believe USPG and our partners in the Anglican Communion are at the cutting edge of mission today. Together we have brought in people from the margins to share their prophetic, pastoral and compassionate dimensions to mission.

I look forward to the next stage of my life, with all of the opportunities it brings for time to spend with family, friends and local community, but I will continue to watch and support USPG with great interest, helping in whatever ways I can as USPG continues to encourage churches to play their part in fulfilling God's global mission.

Janette O'Neill

Chief Executive, USPG

If you'd like to receive *Transmission* on a regular basis, please email eunicek@uspg.org.uk

Churches respond as conflict and drought leave millions facing famine in South Sudan

USPG is part of a concerted effort of Anglicans around the world to support communities facing famine in South Sudan.

In March, we issued an appeal for donations when the severity of the situation came to light, with five million people in need of emergency food aid.

Donations to USPG from churches in Britain and Ireland are being channelled through Anglican Alliance to support the work of SUDRA, which is the relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan.

Drought in South Sudan has been made worse by ongoing conflict and violence, which has resulted in more than 1.5 million refugees fleeing South Sudan, with a further 2.1 million people internally displaced (UN).

The conflict arose after South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, which was followed by political infighting among the new ruling political party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The Revd Joseph El Haj, of SUDRA, said: 'Over half the people in South Sudan are on the verge of famine – due to drought and the security situation.

'In Yei and Kajo Keji many people have left their homes and harvests. They are now without food. In Kajo Kaji the markets don't have food. Many have already moved to Uganda. Others are staying around the churches for safety.'

Dr Janice Proud, of Anglican Alliance, said: 'As the humanitarian situation deteriorates, the church is with the people, sheltering those



who have fled their homes, reaching out to those in need of relief and comfort.

'Even in surrounding countries the church is responding, ministering to the displaced, providing relief support, but also offering psychosocial support and training in peace and reconciliation.' ■

YOUR DONATIONS COULD HELP

- £10 could buy a 20kg bag of rice
- £12 could buy a 35kg bag of maize flour
- £15 could buy 20 litres of cooking oil
- £25 could buy a 50kg bag of sugar

More at www.uspg.org.uk/southsudan

Top: Failed harvest in South Sudan.

Credit: USAID

Church in Peru reaches out to communities hit by flooding

Lives and livelihoods were lost and homes and infrastructure destroyed after torrential rains caused heavy landslides and flash flooding in Peru.

The disaster in March – which claimed 85 lives and destroyed or badly affected 28,000 homes – prompted an ongoing national emergency response.



The Anglican Church in Peru is playing its part, with support from USPG's Rapid Response Fund, but we desperately need your financial support to make a difference in this situation.

A few months on, initial relief efforts of many agencies have ended but long-term solutions have yet to be put in place. There are still major gaps, and this is where the church is focusing its efforts.

Paul Tester, of the Anglican Church in Peru, reported: 'Initial relief efforts [provided by the government and other agencies]

included temporary accommodation and water provision. Citizens and non-government agencies provided food and clothing.

'However, as this short-term help reduces, and while we wait for long-term solutions from local and national government, there is a clear need to help those most affected.'

Mr Tester said the Anglican Church had visited the most affected areas – which are near Catacaos, in the north of Peru, where the river Piura burst its banks – and had found small communities of around

75 people who had received initial help but who were then left on their own.

'Their homes and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged, and many lost most of their belongings,' said Mr Tester.

'The church is helping to meet these needs in communities, without significant support

from others. By providing tents, mattresses, cookers and pans, food and water, their needs are being met for a short period. We also aim to help children get back into school.'

He told USPG: 'At this very difficult time for Peru we are bringing hope to victims of this disaster. Thank you for your solidarity and support.' ■

Photo: The River Piura, in the north of Peru, burst its banks, leaving villages wrecked.

Your gifts to USPG's Rapid Response Fund are supporting Anglican relief work in Peru and around the world. Visit www.uspg.org.uk/donate

Priests from Carlisle and Zululand study bible and grow their diocesan companion link

Four priests from Carlisle Diocese and seven priests from Zululand Diocese sat down together to use the USPG study course *A Heart for Mission*, which looks at the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission.

The meeting last May, at the Diocese of Zululand's retreat centre in Kwanzimela, happened during a visit to South Africa organised by the Carlisle-Zululand Diocesan Link.

The Revd Philip Dorling, who helped organise the visit, said: 'What was fascinating was the differences in our perspectives of mission across the globe.'

'In the Diocese of Zululand, they are strongly focused on the first mark of mission, which looks at the proclamation of the kingdom of God, because congregation growth is a huge priority in Zululand.'

'What surprised the Carlisle team more than this was the emphasis in Zululand on the fifth mark of mission, which focuses on care for Creation. In Carlisle, and in the wider church in England, we could learn a lot from their initiative.'

Philip added that the priests in Zululand were surprised to see a photograph in the USPG study booklet showing a bishop in Myanmar doing agricultural work. 'We all wondered if our bishops would get their hands in the soil in the same way - we agreed it would be a delightful idea!'

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Also in the 11-strong party from Carlisle were a doctor, two educational specialists, an agricultural chaplain and two members of the Mothers' Union; the collective aim was to create new opportunities for shared learning.

The team also visited a USPG-supported vegetable gardens initiative, at St Paul's

Anglican Church, Ewandeni. Over the next three years, the Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal will be raising funds to support programmes like this throughout Zululand.

Philip, who worked as a priest in Zululand between 2010 and 2013, said of the initiative: 'It will help communities to improve food security and restore farming skills that are being lost. We also hope our fundraising will help congregations in Carlisle to grow in their enthusiasm for global mission.' ■



Photo: Community food garden at St Cyprien's Parish, Zululand.

Credit: Hope Africa/Mari Lovotnen

Anglican Church in Swaziland is devising a new nationwide development programme

USPG and the Diocese of Swaziland are working together to create a new development programme, and supporters of USPG in Britain and Ireland will be invited to contribute to help make it happen.

This news will be of particular interest to USPG supporters in Ireland, who have established a special focus on Swaziland

in partnership with HOPE Africa, the development arm of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA).

Davidson Solanki, USPG International Programmes Manager, explained: 'The diocese has a particular concern to improve food security and provide communities with better access to healthcare and education.

'To this end, the dioceses will be working in selected parishes to pilot a new approach to development that focuses on local skills and resources to tackle local challenges. It's very exciting.'

Davidson added: 'At the same time, the diocese is keen to develop a green church programme to combat the impact of climate change. And any programmes we develop will incorporate a focus on protecting the health and rights of women.'

In addition, USPG is supporting leadership development in Swaziland and throughout ACSA.

At present, Nomkhosi Zulu is studying at the College of the Transfiguration, in Grahamstown, South Africa.

Nomkhosi told USPG: 'I have learned that transformation begins with oneself before it takes place in the lives of others. My aim is to be involved with the whole community, not just to be a "Sunday Priest", but to be available to the people for the whole week.' ■



in recent years. Indeed, now that USPG's operation in Ireland is being streamlined (see *Transmission* Winter 2016), we can assure churches in Ireland that our commitment to working with the Anglican Church in Swaziland will continue.

In April, USPG visited Swaziland to meet with the Rt Revd Ellinah Wamukoyah, Bishop of Swaziland and her colleagues.

While discussions are still ongoing, it is likely that USPG's engagement in Swaziland will focus on community development, education, support for women, and protecting the environment; and we will be working

Photo: The church is reaching out to vulnerable children, Ekupheleni, Swaziland.

Credit: USPG/Leah Gordon

Watch this space for more details about our work in Swaziland.

New advocacy pack will help churches in Britain and Ireland to take action on climate change

A new USPG advocacy pack will help churches in Britain and Ireland to engage more incisively with the issue of climate change.

The pack – entitled *Faith in a Changing Climate* – contains facts and figures alongside stories from the world church that highlight the devastating impact of climate change, such as food and water shortages.

The overall message is that the time to act is now! To this end, the booklet contains ideas on what you can do as an individual or as a church and how you can engage constructively with your local MP.

Rebecca Boardman, USPG Programmes Co-ordinator, said: 'This is a global problem but we all have the responsibility to act locally to make a difference.

'For a long time, our church partners have been describing changes in local weather patterns, including an increase in extreme events like cyclones and drought. These changes have had an impact on all parts of life: livelihoods, health and education. The tragedy is that the countries that suffer the most are those that do the least to pollute the planet.

'I hope this booklet will support Anglicans in their engagement with this issue.' ■



VOICES FROM THE WORLD CHURCH

'Being an island, our economic life is based on fishing, but rising sea temperatures mean fish are becoming scarce.'

— The Revd Canon Samitiana Jhonson
Provincial Secretary, Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

'Climate change is upon us and we can never go back. It is our task to stand in solidarity and speak to our political and cultural leaders.'

— The Rt Revd Apimeleki Qiliho
Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Polynesia

HOW TO ORDER

Order copies of the booklet by calling 020 7921 2200 or by visiting our website: www.uspg.org.uk/orders

Alternatively, you can download the booklet at www.uspg.org.uk/climate

Photo: Pangaimotu island, off the Tongan coast, photographed in summer 2016. Ten months earlier it was dry land.

Credit: USPG/Naomi Herbert

‘School is the right place to teach the values of sustainability.’

A Green Schools Programme run by the Church of South India (CSI), with support from USPG, is teaching students in nearly 2,000 schools about the importance of safeguarding the environment.



Creative activities and hands-on experience are helping pupils in India to learn about the importance of safeguarding the environment.

As part of CSI's Green Schools Programme, pupils carry out a 'green audit' of their school that draws on every subject on the curriculum.

In maths, pupils learn about waste management by measuring the amount of

rubbish generated by the school – they are then encouraged to come up with ideas for reducing waste.

In biology, pupils learn about composting. In English they write reports on the environment. In computing they complete online forms to record their findings. In social studies they undertake a campaign to raise awareness about green issues in their communities.

Prof Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackad,

Director of CSI's Department of Ecological Concerns, who set up the schools programme in 2006, explained: 'Ultimately, we want to kindle a spirit of environmental conservation among students, while also encouraging schools to become resource-efficient. And we hope this will lead to changes in school and education policies.'

He explained why he wanted the church to get more involved in environmental issues: 'Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than the planet can sustainably provide. Many of the earth's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change.'

'We don't have to wait until there is a law to compel us to act responsibly – our Christian values and principles can help us to make right choices. And the right place to teach the values of sustainability is in schools.'

PESTICIDE

Mundakayam Lower Primary School, which is taking part in the programme, has a particularly powerful story to tell because it is located in an area of Kerala State that has been exposed to the pesticide Endosulphan for over 25 years.

The pesticide has caused terrible contamination of the soil and water, which has given people cancer and seen children born with abnormalities. The school is reaching out to these children.

One school activity saw pupils write a puppet show, which they performed throughout Kerala to raise funds to buy kitchen equipment for schools that support the children. The school is also providing the children with books and is supporting an initiative to introduce the children into mainstream society with a sense of acceptance.

Students in Mundakayam are also promoting green ideas to local communities

as a whole. Recently they performed a street play to help raise awareness of green issues.

Teacher Ms Jolly said: 'In my school, teachers are facilitators more than teachers. We do things together with the students. We have a herbal garden and a kitchen garden. We arrive one hour before school starts and spend time gardening and planting with the students.'

GREEN INITIATIVES

The schools programme is just one part of a wider engagement with green issues by CSI.

One initiative involves distributing worship and bible study resources to inform and inspire congregations about the environment.

Another initiative has seen CSI working ecumenically to run a project that will plant 20 million plants over the next 10 years – something that will put nutrients in the soil, prevent soil erosion, stabilise river banks and reduce flooding.

In addition, there are projects to harvest rainwater, provide training in organic farming, and install solar energy in church buildings.

Bishop Thomas K Oommen, Moderator of the Church of South India, explained: 'God created all living and non-living things to coexist in rhythm and equilibrium, which we call ecological balance. Ecological disasters befall us when this balance is lost.' ■

Opposite: The vegetable garden at Mundakayam Lower Primary School, Kerala, India.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

USPG has committed to give £14,000 a year to the Green Schools programme until 2021. Your church can choose to support this programme as *Partners in Mission*. See www.uspg.org/pim

‘We need to think deeply about climate change and take action.’



The Revd Canon Samitiana Jhonson, Provincial Secretary of Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, looks at how climate change is impacting on Madagascar and suggest how the church can respond.

In my experience as a Malagasy person, it's very unusual to have so many cyclones. Every year, during the hot season, we have at least three or four cyclones. They form near the equator and when they reach Madagascar they are immense in speed and power.

At the same time, it is getting hotter and the south part of the island is becoming drier. So we have drought for nine months of the year, then cyclones that destroy everything during the last three months.

We have even lost life. The Bishop of Toliara held a christening for a number of children at a church in the south, and a week later we heard that five of the children had died due to a lack of food and drinking water.

The food problem is having a huge impact. Because we are an island people, the economy of coastal communities is based on fishing, but the sea is getting warmer and warmer so fish are becoming scarce. It means fishermen need to go further out to sea and go to a deeper level to catch fish, which is dangerous and their livelihoods are suffering.

Inland, in rural areas, the people are reliant on agriculture and farming. But due to the lack of rain the harvests are suffering.

One major impact is that children are kept home from school. This is partly because they are needed to help the family work and find food. Also, parents are usually required to send children to school with their meals, which they aren't able to do. Another difficulty is that, during the rainy season, water levels are so high the children cannot cross the rivers to get to school.

The church response depends on the region. For example, in coastal areas, some churches have been helping to provide bigger boats so fishermen can venture out into deeper seas.

We need to think how we can help people to protect the land, how to manage the water, how to help people to be more resilient to the cyclones. We have started. We are receiving some training from USPG.

Meanwhile, another thing the church can do is just to open our doors to help the people, perhaps even to provide accommodation while they are rebuilding their homes after a cyclone or a flood.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Globally, we are all facing the effects of climate change to some extent. But we know that some parts of the globe are much more exposed to climate change than others. As a global community, I think we need to make more effort to raise awareness of these issues and help each other.

There are parts of the world – like in Fiji – where the impact of climate change is visible and very real because islands are sinking. We need to help these people.

In Madagascar, we are also suffering. How can the people survive when they're being hit by three cyclones or more every year? Our basic way of life is being destroyed. When the people rebuild their homes, they only build small and simple houses because they know

that, in a few months, their homes will be destroyed again. It's a life-destroying cycle.

Clearly, to be resilient to disaster is not enough. We need to think deeply about climate change and take action together. It's about raising global awareness and respecting our global inter-connectedness. ■

Opposite: Harvesting salt in Toliara, Madagascar.

Credit: USPG/Naomi Herbert

CHURCH RESPONDS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities in Madagascar and around the world are feeling the devastating effects of climate change, which means poor harvests, poor fishing and food insecurity.

Where traditional fishing has been badly affected by rising sea temperatures, and farming damaged by droughts and cyclones, communities have been experimenting with salt harvesting and coffee farming to generate an income.

Coastal communities are learning to harvest salt. Pits are dug (about the size of small swimming pools) then filled with sea water. The water evaporates in the hot sun leaving behind a thick salt residue that can be collected and sold.

Inland, the church has been supporting some communities to farm coffee beans, which grow well on the island and can generate a healthy profit because it is one of the country's key exports.

Through this willingness to diversify, communities are responding as best they can to climate change.

Our Harvest appeal and church resources for 2017 explore climate change in Madagascar in more depth – see page 19.



‘My challenge: To grow my church in the Gambia by 20 per cent’

The Revd Solomon Neequaye, from Ghana, has been appointed to work with the Diocese of the Gambia through USPG’s *Exchanging Places* programme. He reports that his focus is on church growth.

Let me say, it has been my philosophy since adolescence to always try to make my mark, and I have carried this principle into my priesthood ministry.

As a rule of thumb, I work hard in the hope that, by the grace of God, the churches where

I work might grow by at least 20 per cent – and this has been my aim in the Gambia. So, from the moment I was introduced to the church, I started contemplating on this cherished idea.

Christ Church in Serrekunda, where I am based as the priest-in-charge, is

sited between two charismatic churches. Compared with these two churches, our mass seems dull and uninspiring, and it was not attracting new converts. So I set myself the challenge of making our church services more vibrant and lively.

I introduced praise and adoration in the 9am service every first Sunday of the month. This went well, and we now have these services every Sunday. Secondly, I plan to raise funds to buy musical instruments to form a gospel band. This will go a long way to transform the service and sustain the youth, who have a great interest in gospel music.

Alongside the music, I have been teaching Anglican doctrine, which has been embraced by the faithful. Indeed, I have been asked whether the teachings could be compiled as a book – and I notice that church attendance is growing, so these are positive signs.

Less encouraging, has been the response of the youth to the teaching side of my ministry. However, Rome was not built in a day, so I will keep praying and hope there will be a change of heart.

I am also introducing services for evangelism and healing.

APPROVAL


In all these things I first seek the approval of Bishop James Odico to ensure I am keeping within diocesan policy. So far, approval has been given and the initiatives have taken off.

My vision and conviction is for the church in the Gambia to grow, which depends on the work of the Holy Spirit because we can do very little except by the power of the Holy

Spirit. To this end, I am very optimistic and can confidently say that there is a bright future for the Anglican Church in the Gambia.

The Bible says, 'Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number' (Acts 5:14). This is God's desire, that his church should grow with more converts added. This is only possible if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in what we do.

My point is this: church growth requires human resources and priests who are



Church growth needs people who are ready to follow Jesus and suffer for his sake. Church growth needs people who will sacrifice everything.

committed to their calling. Church growth needs people who are ready to follow Jesus and suffer for his sake. Church growth needs people who will sacrifice everything. This is the biggest challenge facing the Diocese of the Gambia. And this was the primary reason that USPG arranged for me to come to the Gambia to serve as the Director of the School of Evangelism, where I am helping to train ministers to work in the Lord's vineyard. At the moment, we have 13 students. Hopefully, of this number, five will be ready for ordination very soon. ■

Opposite: The Revd Solomon Neequaye conducts a christening at Christ Church, in Serrekunda, The Gambia.

USPG's *Exchanging Places* scheme enables partner churches within the same region to support each other through sharing skilled personnel.



Support for Anglican bishops: How to be a servant leader

Bishops are a crucial part of the Anglican Communion, yet they can often find themselves as isolated figures. The Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) recognises this and organises training for bishops and their spouses, with support from USPG.

This report is written by the CAPA trainers.

As bishops in the Anglican Communion, we understand that our role is a central factor in God's mission for the transformation of communities and society. For this reason, it is good for us to set time aside to explore together how we can engage in transformational leadership.

Our model is Jesus, the servant leader, who asked questions wherever he went, forever prompting people to break free from whatever held them back. Jesus did not

believe in 'business as usual' and, similarly, as bishops we are called to help people break out of their comfort zones.

The first requirement for a bishop is to have faith in Jesus Christ; it is a call to holiness, oneness, obedience, forgiveness and service. So our first priority is to let the Lord change our lives so that we can become agents of change. We must nurture this calling.

The role of bishop can be very demanding, so it is vital to prioritise duties.

We need to discern the relative importance of each competing demand. The truth is, sometimes we might appear busy, but in reality nothing is happening because we might be putting our energy into matters that are not important. This is something to be mindful of.

In particular, as we prioritise our duties, we must not neglect our own household. Our relationships with our spouse and children have a huge bearing on our work and well-being. Therefore, we must always fulfil our responsibility to our family in spite of the many things we have to do. This is challenging because we also have to make ourselves accessible and approachable for our congregations, so the trick is to try and find a healthy balance.

In all our decision-making as bishops, we need to be guided by Scriptures first, and then by Tradition, Reason and Experience – as is in keeping with the Anglican tradition. We must avoid the temptation to make decisions that might lead to popularity and, instead, in all matters, seek God's wisdom and speak the truth in love.

We are called to be visionaries and to present our vision with clarity. What do we hope to achieve? It is important to dream about what you wish for your diocese during your time as leader. And the primary vision must be about proclaiming the gospel and discipleship.

One cannot work in isolation. We need other people to achieve these goals and objectives of the diocese. This means establishing partnerships and teamwork, whether we are working with colleagues, other provinces, dioceses or parishes, or with other organisations, such as mission agencies. In many cases, the bishop is likely to be the key link to enable something to happen.

It is important that we learn how to present Jesus to ordinary people. Our core mission should focus on the challenges our

ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME ENCOURAGES BISHOPS

Another initiative of USPG to support bishops is our Episcopal Accompaniment Programme, which offers a unique opportunity for the bishops in a region to gather for a guided retreat to explore their ministry.

During 2016, we facilitated gatherings in response to requests from the Anglican Churches in Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as holding a follow-up gathering for bishops in the Province of the Indian Ocean.

The programme was initiated in response to a request from bishops, who find themselves alone in their jobs, having no circle of support to encourage them when they encounter difficulties, and who are therefore in need of support of a particular kind.

In every case, the bishops report benefiting greatly from having an opportunity to speak candidly and share time with colleagues going through the same experiences.

people face in their daily lives so we might endeavour to transform lives spiritually, socially and economically. ■

Opposite: Bishops gather for training organised by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA).

JOIN THE BRAY CIRCLE

As a patron or member of USPG's Bray Circle, you can invest in the leadership of the world church. More at www.uspg.org.uk/bray

'Congregation in Athens has a great heart for mission'

Former police officers Diana and Roger Boyles, from Nantwich, spent ten weeks in Greece with our *Journey With Us* placement programme. Diana reports.

We discovered USPG at the Greenbelt arts festival last year. We found ourselves listening to a talk by Fr Malcolm Bradshaw, formerly senior chaplain at St Paul's Church in Athens.

Fr Malcolm explained how 60,000 refugees had arrived in Greece, having fled war and other dangers, only to find themselves living in appalling conditions. Additionally, we learned that the Greek financial crisis of 2007 had left thousands of Greeks in near-poverty.

Also at Greenbelt, we heard about USPG's *Journey With Us* programme. We made enquiries, and eventually found ourselves on a ten-week placement at St Paul's.

We spent a lot of time at a Salvation Army day centre where we met families from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Eritrea, as well as local Greek families in need. Without exception, everyone had a traumatic story to tell. Many had been separated from family members, some of whom were still facing dangers in their countries of origin.

We also spent a week on the island of Lesbos with the Lighthouse Relief refugee project. Lesbos is very close to Turkey and one of the islands where large numbers of refugees landed having crossed the Aegean Sea. Lighthouse has been welcoming and supporting refugees as they arrive.

The St Paul's congregation certainly has a heart for mission. For example, the church



is supporting the 'Church in the Streets' programme, which offers two hot meals a day to whoever comes and queues – a service that has been running since the financial crash without missing a single day.

Most of the refugees didn't plan to live in Greece but, due to closed borders and a complicated asylum process, they have little opportunity to go elsewhere. Many are in camps that provide inadequate accommodation because they were only conceived as a short-term solution. The Greek refugee situation might not be making the headlines at the moment, but clearly the crisis is not over.

God is at work among those of all faiths who are trying to make the situation better, but there is an opportunity for so much more.

This was a powerful and enriching experience for both Roger and I. ■

JOURNEY WITH US

Our *Journey With Us* programme provides opportunities to experience the life and mission of the world church.

Come to our next Exploration and Selection Weekend, in Birmingham, on 6-8 October 2017.

More information from Habib Nader, email habibn@uspg.org.uk

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.

PILGRIMAGE FOR USPG

Richard Reade, who is the USPG Diocesan Representative for Derby, held his fourth annual 20-mile pilgrimage, from Derby Cathedral to All Saints' in Matlock Bank, in April and raised over £500 for USPG. Richard – who made the pilgrimage with June, Ron, Geoff, Len and Colin – said: 'It was a glorious day. We were sent off from Derby Cathedral with a blessing from Acting Dean Canon Sue Jones.' Richard will be walking again next year.

WALKING TOGETHER

Thank you to Una Barter, who is the USPG Parish Contact for St Boniface and St Martin in the Wood, Chandlers Ford, who took part in a 10 kilometre charity walk for USPG. Una reported: 'We were in the company of others who feel passionately about different causes, learning from each other.'

FULL OF BEANS

Chants of 'Eat the beans, eat the beans!' rang out from the children of St Mary's High School, Cheshunt, as the Bishop of Hertford Dr Michael Beasley took part in a world record attempt to eat the most baked beans in three minutes. The target was 166.

Joining the bishop were USPG's Richard Bartlett and Jeremy Pearce, of St Albans Diocese. The men were only allowed to eat one bean at a time with a single cocktail stick.

The bean-challenge signalled the launch of the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2017, which is raising money for a USPG-supported development programme in the Philippines that includes bean-growing.

The tension – and volume – rose as the three minutes were nearly up. Then the result was announced: the three contenders had just fallen short, with Richard coming closest with 108 beans.

Champion baked-bean-eater Richard said: 'I don't want to eat another baked bean for a long time! However, even as I was eating them, I was thinking of the immense value of St Albans' Harvest Campaign.'



Photo: Pupils attempting the bean eating record at St Mary's Church of England High School, Cheshunt.

Credit: Arun Kataria

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

Three theological trends that affect our global mission

This is an edited version of a talk given by the Venerable Dr John Perumbalath, Archdeacon of Barking, at USPG's *Rethinking Mission* conference in March.

I don't think we can speak anymore about a single global theology. There is a growing realisation that all theology is culturally conditioned and a plurality of approaches and methods can be discerned in the current theological world.

I would like to focus on three theological trends or movements. The first is from the universal to the contextual.

The rise of various theologies in the developing world has taught us that our theologies in the west are culturally conditioned and therefore not effective in non-Western contexts.

I remember during my first incumbency in India, I took a wedding where the couple wanted to include the custom of *mangalasutra* – which involves tying a locket around the neck of the bride. My colleague said this was not Christian. I had to ask him where in the Bible it said we should exchange rings at a wedding! We have made the western practice of exchanging rings a Christian rite and considered it universal.

Paying attention to the context means our theology can start addressing specific local issues, such as environmental degradation, gender violence and famine.

The second movement is from the imperial to the post-colonial.

Post-colonial theology is not just theology created in a post-colonial world, but a theology that is decolonised, which calls for a



new kind of relationship in mission. Specifically, we must rid ourselves of the traditional donor-receiver dynamic. Instead, we must acknowledge and celebrate our global interdependence.

My first incumbency was in Calcutta. When I moved to England in 2001 I thought I would need to learn a lot of new liturgy. But, in practice, almost everything was the same. I realised I had already been living in a 'western space' in Calcutta. Mission is not re-creating our space in another context but creating a new space wherever we are, here in our land or in another land.

Post-colonial theology requires a kind of 'unlearning' and a capacity to be critical of traditional mission practices and theologies which have too often negated the experience and understanding of local societies.

The third movement is from the modern to the postmodern.

The hallmarks of modernism were universal knowledge that was considered to be objective, certain and true for all time: a single unchanging expression of the truth that is relevant for all historical eras. But this way of thinking has not worked. We have learned that we change our minds and that we think very differently to our ancestors.

We are now in a postmodern era, which means we have an opportunity to hear stories that construe the world differently. This calls for a willingness to engage with diversity and the humility to accept that our personal approach might not be the best. ■



HARVEST IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

CHURCH AND SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR HARVEST 2017

What would you do if there wasn't going to be a harvest?

This is the dilemma facing communities in Madagascar. Drought and torrential rains have washed away farmland and depleted nutrients in the soil. This means the land can no longer yield a healthy harvest. At the same time in coastal regions, rising sea temperatures have reduced fish stocks, so fishermen must venture out into deeper and more dangerous waters.

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USPG REGIONAL DAYS

We are holding a series of Regional Days for anyone interested in the work of USPG. Please come and join us. This is an opportunity to meet other people who share a passion for world mission.

2017 DATES

Friday 13 October St Michael's College, Cardiff, CF5 2YJ

Friday 3 November Church of the Ascension, Grantham NG31 9QZ

Thursday 9 November Manchester Cathedral Visitor Centre, M3 1SQ

Saturday 18 November St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6RA

Friday 24 November Church of England Birmingham, B3 2BJ

Each day runs from 12 to 4pm, with a FREE lunch and refreshments.

More dates to follow in York, London, Oxford and St Albans in early 2018.

Details in next *Transmission*.

Booking and more information call Rebecca Woolgar
on 020 7921 2220 or email rebeccaw@uspg.org.uk

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