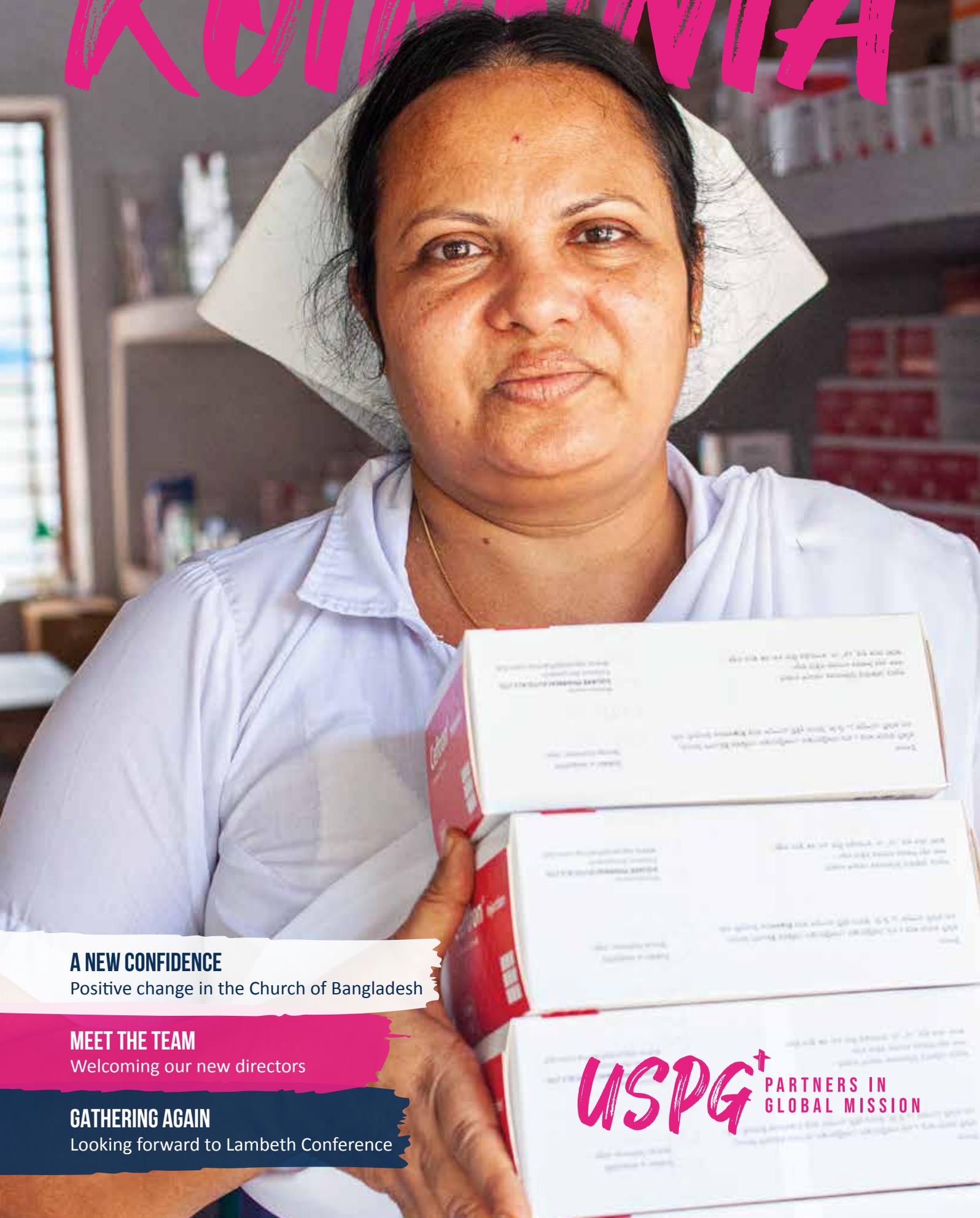


# KOINONIA



## A NEW CONFIDENCE

Positive change in the Church of Bangladesh

## MEET THE TEAM

Welcoming our new directors

## GATHERING AGAIN

Looking forward to Lambeth Conference

**USPG<sup>+</sup>** PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

# KOINONIA

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM USPG AND OUR ANGLICAN COMMUNION PARTNERS

Contributions are welcomed and should be emailed as a word document to [communications@USPG.org.uk](mailto:communications@USPG.org.uk). Please attach images (with captions) as high resolution JPEGs.

The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the official views of USPG or any of its employees.

Editors: Nathan Olsen, Nigel Varndell

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Cover: Nurse at Bollobhpur Mission Hospital

Credit: Rasel Chowdhury

USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

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The Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor

## EDITORIAL

By the Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor,  
General Secretary USPG

As we enter the second half of 2022, several important events loom on the horizon. The Lambeth Conference will be taking place this summer, 14 years since the last meeting. Likewise, the World Council of Churches' Assembly will be taking place at the end of August. These events offer opportunities for churches across the Anglican Communion and further afield to connect with each other and reflect on the challenges of the past few years. Perspectives from our partners across the world church on the Lambeth Conference are included in this edition of Koinonia while the Deputy General Secretary of the WCC offers some insights into his hopes for the Assembly.

It is also important for us as a USPG family to connect and reflect. After a couple of years with very few in-person events, it will be wonderful to meet with some of you again for the USPG conference at the end of July. You can find more information about the keynote speakers at the conference and how to book on to the event in these pages and on the USPG website.

Whilst the advent of remote technologies has enabled USPG to communicate with our partners over the last two years, this year we have been privileged to travel again. In March, I visited Bangladesh. It was deeply moving to witness the vital role of the Church of Bangladesh as they provide both spiritual and physical healing to local communities. I was particularly inspired by the dedication of Sister Gillian Rose and the nurses at Bollobhpur Hospital, as well as the transformative leadership of the Church of Bangladesh.

The conflict in Ukraine reminds us that many parts of the world need healing. Thanks to your generosity, USPG and the Diocese in Europe raised over £330,000 for the people of Ukraine. More information about how these funds are being used to support people in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries can be found in this edition of the magazine.

USPG's leadership has recently gone through a few changes. I am delighted to welcome Dr Eve Parker as our new Director of Global Mission and Dr Nigel Varndell as our new Director of Communication and Engagement. Eve and Nigel bring with them extensive experience in their respective fields and a clear passion for the world church. I look forward to working closely with them on our relationships with partners across the world church and supporters in the UK. Profiles of both Nigel and Eve can be found in this edition of the magazine.

Finally, I am thrilled to announce the re-launch of our Partners in Mission scheme. Through this initiative, churches in the UK can directly support our church partners across the Anglican Communion. This is just one of the many ways USPG continues to walk alongside our partners as they bounce back from the challenges of the past few years. We hope that you can support us in this.

The Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor,  
General Secretary USPG

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## GENDER JUSTICE ACROSS THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION



Transformative Gender Justice programme, Zambia

Unequal access to education, land and economic opportunities all contribute to gender inequality. Established gender roles in different cultures reinforce what is considered acceptable behaviour for men and women. The acceptance of male dominance over women is instilled in many institutions, such as homes, schools, religious institutions and society.

USPG partners with churches across the Anglican Communion to help women and men realise their full potential and use their gifts for God's glory. We believe that we are all equal in the sight of the Lord.

- In Malawi, USPG is working with churches to address obstacles that prevent girls from going to school and succeeding, as well as stepping up as agents of change in their churches and communities. This initiative has given opportunities to over 2,100 girls to continue in school and complete their primary education. It has resulted in approximately equal enrolment levels of girls and boys in supported communities, ensuring that both boys and girls have equal access to education. Women can do incredible things with education: start businesses, become doctors, run schools, and lead governments, making the world a better place for everyone. Education for girls decreases child mortality, lifts families out of deprivation and promotes economic growth.

- In India, through the Delhi Brotherhood Helpline programme, women can speak up for their own safety. The establishment of men's support groups, the formation of teenage girls' groups and vocational training are all steps in the right direction. The programme has had a direct impact on 3,533 women, affording them safety and dignity.

- The 'Let My People Go' programme of the Church of North India affirms Dalit women's

dignity and self-esteem by encouraging them to join a community self-help group and providing economic support. Because of this programme, many women from Dalit backgrounds – the lowest caste in Indian society – are able to live with dignity and their future is ensured through regular income.

- The Anti Human Trafficking programme of the Diocese of Durgapur in the Church of North India has been at the forefront of protecting women from abuse. The Church is leading the way through prevention and rescue initiatives for vulnerable women who find themselves trapped in abusive situations due to extreme poverty.

- The Zambia Anglican Council is working to prevent gender-based violence by speaking out against abuse and providing training and information through Gender Action Groups. Since their Transformative Gender Justice programme launched in 2021, it has secured the safety of 4110 gender-based violence survivors in Zambia. The Church in Zambia can also push and campaign on gender justice in the public sphere, thanks to bishops being trained in promoting gender justice. ■

By Fran Mate, Regional Manager for Africa



Let My People Go programme, India



We are all equal in the sight of the Lord

# UKRAINE APPEAL

Thanks to your generous giving, USPG and the Diocese of Europe's joint Ukraine emergency appeal raised over £330,000. Below are a few ways this funding is helping the people of Ukraine.



Ukrainian refugees in Hungary  
Photo: Alexander Faludy

### UKRAINE

Through Caritas-Spes Ukraine (CSU), a Catholic humanitarian agency, your gifts are helping provide food and water to Ukrainians who have been forced to move out of their homes and into temporary accommodation in other parts of the country.

This support will help CSU to furnish refugee shelters and camps with bedding and household appliances, with some of the money also going towards personal hygiene items and medical supplies.

Combined with contributions from other humanitarian agencies, the funding USPG has given to CSU will help up to 27,000 families in Ukraine.

### POLAND

Ukrainian refugees fleeing the crisis and seeking to get to the UK can now get help with the costs of their flights through The Anglican Church of Poland.

Approximately three million refugees have fled Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion on 24 February, with over two million arriving in Poland. Most migrants entering Poland use the country as a staging post before continuing their journey to other countries in Western Europe, including the United Kingdom and Germany. Others remain in Poland for the long term.

Many of these refugees arriving in Poland speak no Polish but do speak English, making the UK a natural destination

for them until it is safe to return to Ukraine. The UK government scheme, 'Homes for Ukraine', is designed to help Ukrainians find homes in the UK. However, the process for Ukrainians to gain a visa under the scheme is complex; applicants must apply through the online registration system and provide documentation proving their connection to the war-stricken country.

Unfortunately, there is little official financial support available to help refugees during this process, so many charities and religious organisations have stepped in to provide accommodation, food and essentials for those in need, including our chaplaincy in Warsaw. One further obstacle to arriving in the UK remains: refugees often do not have the financial ability to pay the cost of airfare to the UK. No organisation is offering such funds to successful applicants, except, thanks to you, The Anglican Church in Poland.

### HUNGARY

Next Step Hungary helps refugees who have just arrived in the country. They run a delivery and pick-up centre where refugees receive non-perishable food items as well as regular hot meals. This funding will help up to 200 new arrivals every week for three months.

In particular, it will help refugees without permanent Ukrainian citizenship, who receive little support from the Hungarian government. These refugees are not entitled to the same level of financial aid as Ukrainian citizens, meaning they face urgent issues like finding food to eat and a place to stay. ■



Ukrainian refugees in Hungary  
Photo: Alexander Faludy

# DR EVE PARKER



Dr Eve Parker

USPG's new Director of Global Mission, Dr Eve Parker, experienced mission from a young age. 'One day, I was playing football on an estate in Manchester, and I met Richard, a Rwandan missionary working at the community church on the estate. He invited my friends and I to come to church that Sunday and that's when I started to attend. That was my first encounter with mission and the world church.'

As a teenager, Eve went on to play cricket for Lancashire County Cricket team and still follows sport closely. 'I'm more about watching than taking part in sports these days – I'm a big fan of Manchester City FC and Sale Sharks RFC'. Whilst she may have moved on from playing football, that first meeting with Richard was just the start of Eve's relationship with the world church.

'After university, I moved down to London to work at the Council for World Mission (CWM). Two weeks into the job, I was sent to work in Zambia for a month - it wasn't exactly a normal graduate job! During this time I worked at the United Theological College in Kitwe, on the CWM programmes, where everything I knew about theology was undone. I had to unlearn the Western theology I was taught at university and learn from the communities I was spending time with. From Zambia, I went to work on climate justice in Fiji and on programmes preventing gender violence in Jamaica.'

Eve recalls one of the many powerful moments she experienced whilst at CWM. 'I remember a really

difficult day in Fiji, where we had all been discussing the climate crisis and the fact that the island we were on was gradually sinking. At the end of the day, we gathered and watched on as members of the local community performed a fāgogo – a local parable from the island – about human greed and how we should treat the planet. It was a surreal and moving experience, an expression of hope and solidarity in the midst of despair.'

During this time, Eve encountered USPG. 'I came across USPG many times throughout my work in different roles across the world church. Programmes I worked on in India often involved USPG and its partner churches. As an Anglican working in mission, it feels like USPG is a spiritual home.'

'Right now, I think that USPG is on the brink of a potential Kairos moment (a crucial and decisive opportunity). Anyone involved in global mission has to hold up a mirror to their organisation's history and reflect on how they should move forward. USPG seems very willing to take this difficult journey. Global mission is changing – vaccine inequality and economic inequality are prevalent across the world and the climate crisis continues to rage on. USPG speaks out on these issues and has done for a long time. I call myself an Anglican liberation theologian because I firmly believe that you can be an Anglican and take the side of the oppressed. I think USPG is rooted in this kind of thinking.'

Alongside her practical engagement with the world church, Eve also has experience of theological education in the UK. 'Whilst working for the Council for World Mission, I completed a Masters degree in theology, focusing on the treatment of Dalit women in India. I moved back to London to study for a PhD in the same area of research. At the same time, I began working for the Global and Intercultural Ministries team at the United Reformed Church, relating the work of partner churches across the world to congregations in the UK. Once I completed my PhD, I moved north to be Director of Studies for the Diocese of Manchester. After that, it was up to Durham University to work with the Common Awards scheme (a partnership between Theological Education Institutions, the Church of England and Durham University). And now I'm here!'

To find out more about Eve's thoughts on theological education, you can read her new book, 'Trust in Theological Education', out now with SCM Press. ■

# DR NIGEL VARDELL

Nigel Varndell, USPG's new Director of Communications and Engagement, had his faith sparked by the Greenbelt Festival.



Dr Nigel Varndell

'I grew up in Colchester in Essex and like many of my peers, was sent off to Sunday school by my parents. I don't have a particular 'conversion story', it was more a case of drifting into the Church of England. I joined a youth club at the church of one of my school friends and it was that youth club that first took me to Greenbelt when I was 16. I've been to Greenbelt most years since – only missing the festival when I've been out of the country.' Since his first Greenbelt in 1986, Nigel has given talks on Israel/Palestine and interfaith activism at the festival, and has been on various on planning committees.

It is fair to say that Nigel ended up in the faith sector on a whim. 'I have a PhD in the evolution of insect behaviour from Imperial College London. My friend and I were chatting one day about career options after I completed my doctorate and I glibly said, 'Oh I'll go and work for Christian Aid'. It turns out that friend knew the head of Christian Aid in Wales at the time and connected the two of us. A couple of weeks later, I started volunteering at Christian Aid one day a week and my career took off from there. I spent time on various teams across the organisation, from Schools and Youth to the regional Asia team, until I settled in a permanent role.'

Nigel spent 15 years at Christian Aid, breaking new ground in the process. 'I was the first person Christian Aid assigned to interfaith work, having moved from Denominational Relations Manager to Inter-Community Initiatives Manager. I helped establish partnerships with Islamic international development agencies like Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid as well working on Christian Aid's climate change campaigns with Liberal Judaism.'

His time at Christian Aid and Embrace the Middle East gave Nigel a long-lasting interest in the Middle East. 'I spent a lot of time working on the Israel-Palestine brief at Christian Aid. As a result, USPG's partnership with the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East is something I'm particularly interested in. At the end of my time at Christian Aid, I took some time off and lived in Bethlehem for a few months working at Bethlehem Bible College, running the guesthouse.'

Closer to home, Nigel has extensive experience of the Church of England through his time at The Children's Society. 'I worked closely with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, diocesan bishops and Lords Spiritual. Due to the scale of the organisation, many people didn't know about the charity's Anglican roots. As Director of Church Partnerships, one of my jobs was to explain the Church of England to our staff, as well as providing any information about the Church of England that other staff needed.'

His time at The Children's Society also involved deep engagement with policymakers, including one of the highlights of his career. 'The policy agenda around children is much broader, involving more government ministries than international development. This means there are more levers of power to pull to bring about change. Back in 2012, the government was making reforms to the welfare system and I worked with the Lords Spiritual to make sure that the needs of children, especially those in poverty, were heard in parliament. It was a real privilege to be able to work with the Church of England on such an important issue and to see it splashed across the Sunday papers that weekend!'

Whilst he brings much experience to the role of Director of Communications and Engagement, Nigel is keen to note the differences between USPG and organisations like Christian Aid and Embrace. 'USPG is different from the other charities I've worked for because it is not an international development agency, it is a mission agency. This means that the breadth and complexity of what we do is almost endless - mission can mean lots of different things to different people.' ■



Mission can mean lots of different things to different people

# ‘A NEW CONFIDENCE’: THE CHURCH OF BANGLADESH



Medical examination at Bollobhpur ©Rasel Chowdhury

Five years ago, the Church of Bangladesh was finding it difficult to support clergy and diocesan staff. The Church lacked a vision for the future and sought guidance to become self-sustaining.

With the active engagement of USPG and the Anglican Communion Fund, the Church of Bangladesh created a 10-year strategic plan covering 2020 to 2030, which includes a clear vision and mission for the Church. By encouraging parishes to mobilise members and work with local partners, the Church of Bangladesh is now in a better financial position. They have cleared most of their debts and staff are being paid, despite the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. With a Strategic Development Programme in place, the Church of Bangladesh has found a new confidence.

And with their newly found confidence, the Church of Bangladesh has begun to play a greater role across South Asia. In recent months, the Church has started a conversation with partners in the Church of North India on human trafficking across the borders of Bangladesh and India. The Church of Bangladesh also gave £1000 to USPG’s Ukraine emergency appeal, as they are now able to support their

brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the Anglican Communion.

The Rev’d Davidson Solanki, USPG’s Regional Manager for Asia and the Middle East, reflects, ‘It gives me great joy to see the Church of Bangladesh thrive despite the challenges of recent years. It has been an immense privilege to journey with the Church as they found their way to self-sufficiency. USPG looks forward to walking alongside the Church of Bangladesh as they embrace new opportunities and learning from them, as they take the initiative on pressing issues in the region.’

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH

There are many places in Bangladesh where there are no hospitals or the only care available is expensive, private healthcare. In places like this, the Church of Bangladesh is providing health services, made up of community-based clinics and travelling medical staff. Davidson notes, ‘Medical intervention is one of the original forms of mission. The Church of Bangladesh is present where the government is unable to reach - some of the poorest, most marginalised areas in the country.’ ■

## A BEACON OF HOPE: VISITING BOLLOBHPUR MISSION HOSPITAL, BANGLADESH

‘Bollobhpur Mission Hospital truly is Christ’s love in action. The Church of Bangladesh is known in the local area because of the work that the hospital does. It is a beacon of hope in a remote, rural context’, notes the Rev’d Davidson Solanki, USPG’s Regional Manager for Asia and the Middle East.

Bollobhpur Mission Hospital is situated in the Diocese of Kushtiya. Supported by you, through USPG it is part of the Church of Bangladesh. Its Medical Director, Sister Gillian Rose has been working tirelessly at Bollobhpur for over 50 years.

‘I have a deep love for Bangladesh and the work of Bollobhpur Hospital is in my blood. When I arrived, some of the buildings were simply built from mud. Now, all of our buildings are made from bricks and mortar. I ‘retired’ when I was 60 years old yet I am still working here!’

Bollobhpur Mission Hospital stands out from other local hospitals in more ways than one. Sister Gillian says, ‘What sets Bollobhpur apart from other hospitals in the area is the training we offer to nurses. We take great pride that nurses and technicians, who are mainly from rural communities, trained at Bollobhpur can be found working in hospitals across Bangladesh. We also offer a Christian witness to the

community. Hospital staff from all faiths come to our morning prayers each day. Whilst the majority who attend are Christian, we welcome Buddhists and Muslims too. Unfortunately, we are still unable to attend the local parish church, as new waves of Covid-19 keep coming.’

The medical training offered at Bollobhpur is not only high quality but aimed at those who may not receive it elsewhere. ‘We specialise in training junior nurses, who either do not have the education or funds to enrol in senior training. As well as helping the community, we are also helping these young girls to make something of their lives.’

Sister Gillian wanted to thank you for your support, which has recently enabled the renovation of the hospital. ‘I never ask for anything in my prayers but I seem to receive everything I need! We work and prepare for the worst, but support always arrives.’ ■



Sister Gillian Rose with staff from Bollobhpur and USPG ©Rasel Chowdhury



We are helping these young girls to make something of their lives

## PEOPLE MATTER: THE EXCHANGING PLACES PROGRAMME



The Noketshe family

People matter and the value of sharing resources and expertise through the exchanges of people in mission is at the heart of USPG work dating back three centuries. USPG's *Exchanging Places* programme is a scheme that promotes this ethos and encourages partner churches to share their resources and expertise with each other through the *sending* and *receiving* of personnel in mission. USPG offers its vast experience in the movement of people to support partner churches.

USPG's role is to set up introductions between *sending* and *receiving* partner churches, manage the recruitment and preparation of personnel, provide logistic support, and when it is necessary, make a financial contribution to enable the appointment to take place. Partner churches taking part in this unique collaboration agree to share resources and contribute financially towards the budget for the appointment. Appointments are also made jointly between USPG partner churches and other ecumenical partners and mission agencies. Only nationals from partner churches outside Europe are permitted to serve under the scheme, as its aim is to build relationships between churches in the Global South.

There have been 25 appointments between 45 Dioceses and partner churches since the *Exchanging Places* programme began. Appointments have involved laity and clergy from a wide range of professional backgrounds: health workers, theological tutors, youth workers, administrators, information technology specialists and priests. Appointments are usually for a term of 3 years but some are shorter depending on the requirements of the *Receiving Church*.

Fr Obed Baiden was sent to the Diocese of The Gambia by the Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana. He has been instrumental in the launch of the *Africana* project – a building complex comprising a church hall, parish offices, conference facilities and a parsonage. Fr Obed's ministry has also seen a remarkable increase in youth participation in church, resulting in the

election of youth leaders, the introduction of a monthly youth service and the appointment of a Youth Coordinator. The Bishop of The Gambia writes, 'Fr Obed admirably led his parish to transform some of the threats of the pandemic into opportunities. To say the least, USPG's *Exchanging Places* programme has added value to our ministry. We thank USPG for the programme, and the Diocese of Cape Coast for seconding Fr. Obed to us.'

Rev'd Thanduxolo Noketshe and his family from the Diocese of Port Elizabeth in the Anglican Church of South Africa (ACSA) were sent to serve for 2 years in St Kitts, Diocese of North East Caribbean and Aruba (NECA) in the Church of the Province of West Indies. Rev'd Noketshe remarked on arrival, 'We have been overwhelmed by the welcome and reception at every stage of the journey and are sincerely grateful to everyone who has made this journey possible.' Bishop Ernest Flemming of NECA, said, 'Thanks to USPG, the Noketshe family arrived safely in the West Indies. We look forward to a good Caribbean ministry for all of them.'

Another example of this partnership between partner churches is the appointment of the Rev'd Fr Justice Apo Tetteh sent by the Diocese of Accra, Ghana to the Diocese of the Windward Islands, West Indies. The request for a priest from Ghana came from Bishop Leopold Friday of the Diocese of The Windward Islands to bishops from Ghana. Many people in the Windward Islands trace their roots to Ghana and so it seemed appropriate to have a priest from Ghana to serve in the Diocese. Bishop Leopold says, 'Fr Apo has made a great impression on our community and our parishioners are very grateful for his service. His ministry has helped us to appreciate the diversity of the Anglican Communion and how we can learn from each other.' It is hoped that a priest from the West Indies will also go and serve in West Africa in due course. ■



Father Obed Baiden

## GET INVOLVED WITH PARTNERS IN MISSION

Partners in Mission allows you to support one of seven churches around the world in serving their local communities in the love of Jesus.

Each of our partner churches runs life-changing local programmes, responding to important needs such as food security, health inequality and gender-based violence. When you partner with a church, 100% of your donations will go towards funding these vital programmes.

And... We're currently working hard to make the scheme even more engaging and enable you, our generous Partners in Mission supporters, to really get to know your partners.

If you are already a Partner in Mission, you will now have access to a special website for your partner church, where you can find the latest programme updates, prayer requests and real stories from local people who lives have been changed by your donations. If you aren't yet a Partner in Mission but want to be, there are two ways to join: you can support a church partner as an individual, or you can join the scheme as a church to fund your partner's vital programmes. ■

If you'd like to join Partners in Mission and start transforming lives across the world through God's love, you can sign up at [www.uspg.org.uk/partners-in-mission](http://www.uspg.org.uk/partners-in-mission)



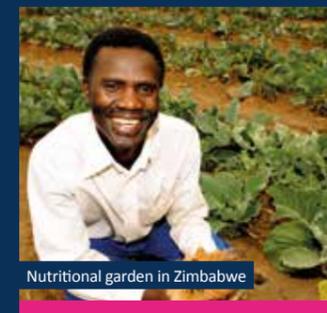
Arulrajh

### THE WORK OF THE CHURCH OF CEYLON IN SRI LANKA - ARULRAJH'S STORY

Arulrajh is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts, Jaffna University. His father works as a day labourer and his mother is a tea plucker on the estate where they live. His mother suffers painful headaches when she carries the heavy sacks of tea leaves on her head.

The Sri Lanka Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM) stepped in to support his education, a programme run by the Church of Colombo, one of USPG's valued church partners. He said that 'In my life, I didn't expect one day I would enter university'. He completed A Levels instead of going straight into work, and afterwards he taught at the Gonakalle ECDM centre as a volunteer teacher.

During the Covid pandemic, Arulrajh saw children and young adults he knew resorting to alcohol and drugs. He decided to stay and encourage them to pursue their studies. He now plans to start teaching at Gallula estate, which lacks a proper school. He would also like to share his experiences and motivate children at the ECDM through awareness programmes.



Nutritional garden in Zimbabwe

### THE WORK OF THE CHURCH OF ZIMBABWE - THE 'HIV STIGMA REDUCTION' PROGRAMME

HIV remains a serious stigma for those who live with it. Men and women living with HIV face daily discrimination and social exclusion; the stigma surrounding their status has a profound effect on their lives. They can suffer a breakdown in family relationships, feel isolated and depressed, and even suicidal.

With the support of USPG and their Partners in Mission, the Anglican Church of Zimbabwe developed the HIV Stigma Reduction Programme to improve the lives of people living with HIV. They established nutritional gardens and home-based care visits and in one diocese alone, 1,200 people were helped in the first six months of the programme. More people are now willing to disclose their HIV status, and communities are becoming more accepting.

With the help of the donations they receive, they continue to be active in their communities and are excited to enter the second phase of the programme.



100% of your donations will go towards funding these vital programmes

## LAMBETH CONFERENCE

The Lambeth Conference is a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion for prayer and reflection, fellowship and dialogue on church and world affairs. The 2022 gathering will be the fifteenth such meeting and the first since 2008. The conference will be held in various venues across the University of Kent, Canterbury Cathedral and Lambeth Palace. This year's conference theme is 'God's Church for God's World - walking, listening and witnessing together.'

In the following pages, you can read thoughts and reflections from our partners on the conference, how it affects them and their churches. You can also get an insider's perspective on running a Lambeth Conference from Peter Crumpler.



Peter Crumpler

### REFLECTIONS NOT RESOLUTIONS: LAMBETH 2008

*Rev'd Peter Crumpler helped oversee communications to the media, from broadcasters to blogs, at the 2008 Lambeth Conference. He*

*was communications director for the CofE's Archbishops' Council from 2004 to 2011.*

During and after the event, I heard numerous bishops telling stories of conversations they had had with their episcopal colleagues from around the world. They were gaining new insights into other bishops' mission and ministry and being enriched by the experience.

This was exactly in line with the wishes of the then Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the conference design team. Sir Ellison Pogo, the Archbishop of Melanesia, who chaired the group set this out in the conference programme.

He wrote: 'Our task has been to deliver a conference which will have quite a different feel from previous conferences...it should resemble less a parliamentary debating chamber with a string of resolutions but rather provide time for the bishops' spiritual reflection, learning, sharing of experiences and time for discerning more fully the bishops' particular role in God's mission.'

Into this context came journalists and commentators from around the world, keen to take the temperature of an Anglican Communion that had been beset by division in the run-up to the conference.

Working with a team of professional communicators from around the world, we sought to provide the journalists with as much information as we could on the conference, while recognising that the design of the event meant that most of the proceedings would be for bishops alone. Only behind closed doors, it was felt, would the bishops feel able to discuss issues openly and without fixed agendas.

To help meet this perceived 'information gap,' the communications team organised a media briefing each morning during the conference, and a more formal press conference in the afternoon. We sought to brief the media on the topics being discussed each day and arrange for bishops who were expert in the subject to answer their questions. Archbishop Philip Aspinall of Australia ably chaired the afternoon sessions. Outside these events, we kept a press office open on site from early in the morning until late evening.

Looking back from a distance of 14 years, some of my personal highlights from the 2008 Lambeth Conference would be:

- Seeing hundreds of bishops and their spouses marching through central London to promote trade justice – and gaining widespread media coverage. A colleague recalled: 'It was a glorious day, the hottest of the year, and the sight of hundreds of cassocked bishops and their spouses clothed in national dress ahead of the Buckingham Palace garden party was truly one to behold.' Later, Prime Minister Gordon Brown told the bishops at Lambeth Palace that it was 'one of the greatest demonstrations of faith this country has ever seen.'
- Listening to Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks address the bishops and speak movingly of his education at a Church of England school. To see Rabbi Jonathan and Archbishop Rowan embrace warmly after the talk was a vivid demonstration of mutual friendship and respect. I was pleased too that we were able to gain access for the media for this and other evening gatherings.
- Watching Archbishop Rowan in action throughout the conference, seeking to build unity and understanding. His thoughtful, measured contributions helped steer the conference through to a conclusion regarded by many as successful.

A leader in The Times newspaper towards the end of the conference said of Archbishop Rowan, 'by focusing on the Anglican Communion as a Christian community and not

as a political organisation, he has ensured that the bulk of the discussion has been on those issues where Christians believe their message to be vital: poverty, global harmony, faith, prayer and charity.'

To see the spotlight being shone on those vital gospel issues made the time in Canterbury very well spent.

### How do you think this year's Lambeth Conference will impact your church life?



Dorothy

Knowing that a conference is being organised for our leaders to facilitate and grow the Church gives me confidence. I hope the conference will help us to address issues like migration, climate change, poverty and gender inequality; all issues young people face in Anglican churches in Africa. I pray that the Lambeth Conference will reignite our confidence and hope in the Church. - *Dorothy DeGraft Johnson, Anglican Church of Ghana*



Khushbakht

In the Church of Pakistan, Lambeth reminds us that there are others out there who think the same way that we do, who walk the same path that we walk. It gives us hope and encouragement to know that we are not alone. - *Khushbakht Peters, Church of Pakistan*



Marc

There is always a sense of interest in what the Lambeth Conference will bring to the Church. Anglicans are aware of issues that are causing difference in opinions within the Communion, and the impact this might have on the unity of the Church. Lambeth 2022 is an opportunity to shape how Anglicans all over the world feel about this unique global family we call the Anglican Communion. - *Marc Ranarivelo, Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean*

### How will the Lambeth Conference help the world church to rethink mission, energise churches and champion justice?

The Lambeth Conference is undoubtedly an important time to remember the history of the Church. This will be a great opportunity for our leaders to consider how the Church can draw people into Christ's Kingdom and be God's presence in a broken world. *Dorothy*

I hope this conference can provide a platform for us to renew our mission, which ought to be the same as that of our Messiah, who said, 'My kingdom is not of this world, I am here to be a source of joy, blessing and contentment for the total people of God'. *Khushbakht*

I believe the Church can be an active instrument of peace and justice. The love of God can overcome any barrier and as Anglicans, we should always be witnesses to this love. I hope that the Lambeth Conference will enable participants to think deeply and act with love. *Marc*

### How can the Lambeth Conference play a role in helping churches to restart and recover after the pandemic?

The Lambeth Conference will be a great opportunity to identify some of the setbacks experienced by Anglicans all over the world in light of Covid and plan how to help each other to recover from the effects of the pandemic. *Dorothy*

We are all aware of the impact that Covid has had on the entire world. Although the situation may have improved, allowing for the conference to go ahead, it is always best to keep in mind that Covid is still very much present. To adapt to our new way of 'living with Covid', it will be very important for conference participants to share experiences of how the pandemic has affected the lives of churches in different countries. *Marc*

### How do you think the Lambeth Conference can help churches across the world to be sources of transformation within their communities?

Policies developed at the conference should be centred on the individual needs of particular churches. There ought to be solutions that will bring growth and transformation to Anglican Churches based on their unique needs. This will facilitate better transformation in communities rather than have generalized policies that may not apply to all. *Dorothy*

This year's Lambeth Conference has the potential to positively impact the lives of churches across the Communion. It is vital that all voices are listened to, so that each participant may feel empowered to return from the conference and prepared to face the challenges of life in their particular community. *Marc*



Primates of the Anglican Communion  
Photo: Anglican Communion News Service

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The Church can be an active instrument of peace and justice

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN ARGENTINA



Sam Grenfell

Sam Grenfell went to work in a children's home in Argentina as part of a placement with the Church Mission Society. USPG provided a grant to help support Sam's placement. He reflects on his time in Argentina.

'My name is Sam, I'm 18 years old and I have been working as a volunteer at Hogar El Alba, a children's home just outside Buenos Aires, Argentina. I arrived in late January 2022 and my work has involved leading English language and guitar classes for children in the home as well as helping with literacy workshops.

'I hadn't spoken Spanish for at least three years when I first arrived here, so I knew it might be difficult settling in. Anyone who has lived and worked in a second language knows just how challenging it can be at times. However, after a few months I have progressed from not knowing how many words someone is saying to me to holding a conversation.

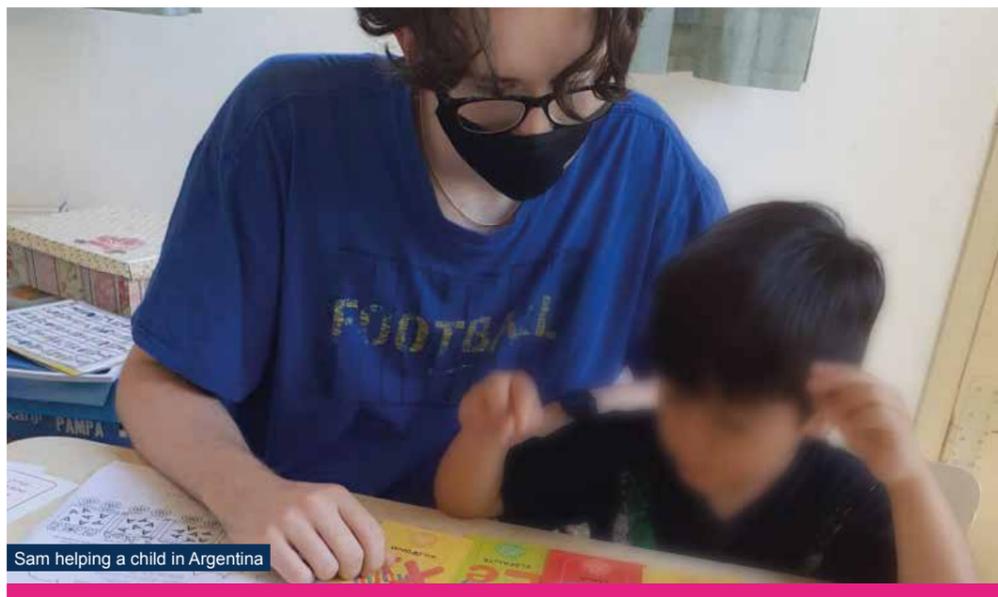
'In Taller, which means 'workshop', we work mostly with young children, many of whom have been lockdown learning at home with limited resources for the last two years. Unlike in the UK, there has been no back and forth over restrictions for schools in Argentina. The children went back to school in March 2022 for the first time in two years. As a result, many

have fallen behind with their reading, writing, and motor skills. In Taller, we aim to provide extra help and support for the children in the home after they have returned from school in the afternoon.

'In the English lessons, we work on providing the basics for some of the older children who are eager to learn. I am not going to be working here for much longer but I am trying my best to help the children have a basic understanding of English. Hopefully, they can then build on this knowledge as they get older. In our guitar lessons, I practise with the kids for as long as it is fun and until our fingers begin to ache. We give the children chord sheets for them to keep and use in the future.

'The local community meets for church in their local sports hall on Sunday mornings. I have been very involved in the music at church. I have found it to be a good way of making myself useful and contributing to the life and work of the church. I previously underestimated how challenging it is to develop that feeling of belonging and growing in a church when you can't really understand all of what is being said. The amount of Spanish I know seems to count for little when mixed with the fuzzy sound system and echoes of the sports hall!

'As my time at Hogar El Alba comes to an end, I have been reflecting on living in this community and everything I have learnt during my time here. I am very grateful for this opportunity but also looking forward to going home and catching up with family and friends.' ■



Sam helping a child in Argentina



Anyone who has lived in a second language knows how difficult it is

## GROWING IN FAITH

By Mandy Spalding

In 1999, my life was totally changed by USPG. At the time I was a nanny, working with spoilt, rich children. I decided there must be more to life than that and felt a deep desire to help where I was really needed. I applied to various missionary societies, but to no avail. I was told that I was too old - despite only being in my late forties. I spoke to the minister at my church, and he put me in touch with USPG. That's where the journey began.

I went to Birmingham for an Exploration Weekend, to see if I really wanted to take part in the Experience Exchange Programme. After this, I travelled to London for a day of interviews. To my relief, I was accepted. There followed months of preparation, fundraising and a two-week training course. In September 1999, I set off for Zimbabwe to work at the Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Harare.

I stayed in Zimbabwe for 10 months. I loved the freedom, the relaxed, uncomplicated lifestyle, the sunshine and the chance to travel around both Zimbabwe and South Africa. Of course, there were lows too. I had a bout of homesickness early on - after two weeks there, it dawned on me that this was more than just a holiday. With a lot of prayer and support from other volunteers and friends back home, I soon got over these episodes, and got on with the job I was there to do.

I absolutely loved the experience. The children were amazing. They'd all had bad starts in life; that's why they were there. Yet, that didn't affect their spirit and zest for life. They had nothing in the material sense, but they were happy and content. A new pair of shoes, the only Christmas present many of the children received that year, was greeted with such excitement. I think the more privileged English children I had previously worked with could have learned a thing or two from them!



My life was totally changed by USPG



Mandy Spalding

There were 120 children at the home, all between the ages of 2 and 18. They lived in 'family' houses with a House Mother in charge. My work there was varied. I helped in the creche in the mornings, then after lunch, I went wherever I was needed, to the laundry or the sewing room. Sometimes I would drive the van into Harare to do the banking and run errands.

In July 2000, I came home. I found it hard at first to adjust to my old way of life, but things soon slipped back into place. I didn't realise at the time just how much the experience had changed me. It's only in hindsight that I can see I came back a totally different person. My faith grew in leaps and bounds and has done even more since then. Looking back, I can clearly see just how much God was with me at all times. I am so grateful to USPG for giving me this amazing opportunity. It's the best thing I've ever done. ■



## THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' ASSEMBLY

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is an ecumenical group made up of 352 churches from more than 120 countries, representing over 580 million Christians worldwide.

Every eight years or so, the WCC holds an assembly. This is the only time when the entire fellowship of member churches that makes up the WCC comes together in one place for prayer and celebration. This year's event has the theme, 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.'



The Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev'd Dr Odair Pedroso Mateus, shares his thoughts on the upcoming WCC Assembly.

### Can you tell us a little bit about the WCC Assembly?

The 1st World Council of Churches Assembly, in 1948, was held immediately after WWII under the theme "Man's Disorder and God's Design," and 351 representatives from 147 churches attended. Since then, WCC assemblies have been held about every seven years. The WCC 11th Assembly, after being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will occur this year under the theme 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.' This year's Assembly will be the first held in Europe since the 4th WCC Assembly, which was held in Uppsala, Sweden in 1968.

### Why do you think reconciliation and unity are important themes for the ecumenical movement at this time?

Our theme is an expression of faith and hope strongly rooted in the Christian tradition. The theme was created before the Covid-19 pandemic but has become even more vital in today's world. Christians and churches will meditate together and make plans for future common work, globally and in their respective contexts. We pursue unity because it offers the possibility and the chance for a new beginning in many ways. It is important that we stand together as a WCC fellowship on a foundation of hope built by reconciliation and peacebuilding.

**The forthcoming assembly in Karlsruhe will be the first assembly in Europe after**

### the Uppsala assembly 1968. How will this have an impact on our world given what is happening in Ukraine?

As we look around us at the cruel Russian aggression against Ukraine and other conflicts elsewhere in the world, taking thousands of innocent lives, and at increased militarization, political divisions and economic turmoil, it is important to remember that, ultimately, the God of life prevails. We continue to discern possible paths forward for the churches together in working for peace in the midst of war, not only through the WCC Assembly but before it and beyond it. We also need an opportunity to express our grief for the lives lost. We continue to work and pray for a secure and just peace.

### How has the Covid-19 pandemic reshaped preparations for the assembly? How will the assembly address the challenges posed and exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic?

In addition to having to postpone the WCC 11th Assembly, we continue to make preparations that involve constantly monitoring the surges of Covid across the world. Covid will not keep us from having an assembly. In fact, across all programmatic areas, the WCC has creatively addressed people's needs and their participation in the worldwide fellowship online. At the WCC 11th Assembly – which will have both in-person and online participation – we will address how the pandemic exacerbated the world's existing injustices. What is needed now more than ever is to confirm our interdependence and solidarity.

### What are your hopes for the forthcoming assembly and its influence on the ecumenical movement at this point in history?

The WCC global fellowship will face the challenges of our time and step forth with ideas, commitments and witness to meet the day and to advance the cause of reconciliation and unity. We must transcend ethnic, partisan, and nationalistic confines in order to transform both the larger society and the churches themselves. Seeking to align with God's purpose for the whole creation, we can articulate foundational values that undergird and pertain directly to the public good and especially those on the margins. The WCC 11th Assembly will speak to the heart of our faith and the reason for our fellowship. ■

## FUTURE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Anglican theological institutions in many parts of Africa face a day-to-day struggle. These institutions are dealing with issues of funding, governance and management. Combined with the importance of theological education to the ministry and missional life of the church, these issues have sparked a conversation around what the future might hold.

That is why USPG is hosting a summit on the Future of Theological Education. It aims to bring together church leaders, theological educators and other leading voices in theological education and the church in Africa. We hope to map the current theological education landscape in different African contexts, identify

contemporary challenges, and reflect on ways to strengthen and sustain theological education in Africa.

The summit will be taking place in Botswana in November 2022. Provinces taking part include Central Africa, Indian Ocean, Southern Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola, Alexandria and West Africa.

Theological education is a key area for USPG and we look forward to the ideas and initiatives formed at this summit. Keep an eye out for updates on USPG's work on theological education in future editions of Koinonia and on our website. ■

# BOOK NOW FOR USPG CONFERENCE

**This year's USPG conference aims to create space for you, the USPG family to gather again, to celebrate and be inspired by the amazing mission activities of partner churches around the Communion and to hear more about USPG's unique contribution to the world church.**

Drawing on the theme of this year's Lent course, the conference will look at how we can be living stones offering a living hope to the world church.

#### Speakers include:

- The Rt Rev'd Reuben Mark, Deputy Moderator of the Church of South India
- Rev'd Suchitra Behera, theologian in the Church of Bangladesh
- Clifton Nedd, Caribbean Facilitator for the Anglican Alliance
- Basetsana Makena, Provincial Youth Representative of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa



The conference will also include plenty of time to connect with members of the USPG family and a council meeting to discuss USPG's plans for the next year. ■

**Book your place at our conference now:**  
[www.uspg.org.uk/uspgconference/](http://www.uspg.org.uk/uspgconference/)

## GUIDED BY GOD

By Adam North



Adam North

I grew up in difficult circumstances - abuse, neglect and foster care. By the time I was 19 I felt alone in the world. No prospects, no future, no hope. After a particularly horrible event in 2003, I found myself pledging to God that I was coming back to the Church. Fast forward two years to 2005, having just been offered a position at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I heard God calling me to be a minister.

**I was not overly impressed with this calling. I tried to argue that it was unfair - with everything I had gone through in life, and everything I thought I was about to achieve. However, it's pointless trying to fight God's plan.**

Unfortunately, I was rejected for ministry in the Church of England. Yet in 2009, I was accepted on what is now called the Journey With Us programme, USPG's overseas volunteer scheme for people from the UK. In light of my previous rejection, I thought USPG had made a mistake and I was a little unsure about it all.

I called with the intention of booking on to a discernment weekend later in the year. But one was running that weekend in Birmingham and

Habib Nader, People Programmes Manager at USPG, encouraged me to come along. From there I attended an interview and training for anyone coming into Journey With Us. And through that, lasting relationships were made.

Just after the training and returning from a couple of weeks in Taizé, I had a phone call to tell me that my estranged father had died. For me that was it - both of my parents dead, both of my siblings living their own lives. I was free to pursue the life I wanted. By December, I had left my council flat, discarded the majority of my possessions and had a ticket to fly to Zambia.

I went to live in the city of Ndola. It was here I would work with teenagers to set up a youth group at their school in the shanty compound of Chipulukusu. I received training in HIV/AIDS awareness and used this training to inform and encourage young people to keep safe and healthy.

I was based at the Anglican Cathedral in Ndola, living and worshipping there. I worked closely with the Very Reverend Sam Zulu, then Cathedral Dean, assisting him in services and pastoral work, hospital visits, taking home communion to those who had requested it, preaching and leading services at the Cathedral. I also assisted in running the diocesan guest house where I lived.

It was hard and sometimes emotionally draining work. Yet, with the love and support of my colleagues, friends and students and most of all, the grace of God, I was being formed in mission and ministry.

I grew into my gifts by being planted in the right place at the right time with the right people and I began to flourish.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime. I grew in awe of the young people I was serving and working with. The challenges and adversity they had faced in life that they had overcome helped me to understand my own adversities and how to draw on those experiences to help others.

I learned how important personal connection is, connection of community and the love that underpins all that we do. I learnt that my call to ministry was real, tangible and possible. I learnt to be less afraid of taking chances and opportunities. It wasn't all work - I had the opportunity to travel and to see some wonderful places as well, memories that will remain with me. The main thing I will forever treasure is the love with which I was welcomed. I gained far more from my placement than I gave.

Since returning from my placement 11 years ago, I moved to Birmingham. I studied theology and started ordination training but had to drop out due to my depression. I retrained as a Lay Reader in the Diocese of Birmingham and through all of it I have known the love and grace of God. I now have a wonderful, fulfilling ministry that takes me around to other churches to lead and preach, and a pastoral ministry that brings me into contact with those who are bereaved and grieving.

I have also remained involved with USPG, assisting in the discernment and training events of those going out on placement. This has been, and I hope will continue to be, a real blessing.

If the last two years of the pandemic have taught me anything, it has reminded me that if you wait for just the right time, it will never come. Just realise that it's God's time and God will guide you. There are no barriers or limitations made by humankind that God cannot overcome. The wounds which we carry in our lives are the starting point in our ministry to others - they are not a barrier to service but part of why we must serve. As the theologian Henri Nouwen notes in his classic *The Wounded Healer*, 'In our own woundedness, we can become a source of life for others'. ■



Adam teaching in Ndola, Zambia



It's pointless trying to fight God's plan

# VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW

## HELEN DAWE



**Despite growing up in a remote part of Cornwall, Helen Dawe has had an interest in the world church from a young age. 'I was born and raised in the far west of Cornwall. As a child, I went to St Michael's Church, Helston, which was quite engaged with the wider world church. During my youth, our church was very concerned with the political situation in Zimbabwe. Ever since my teenage years, I've followed events in the country closely and wanted to visit Zimbabwe.'**

After a long and fulfilling career as a social worker, Helen came across an opportunity to engage with the world church. 'In the late 2000s, I saw a USPG tent at Greenbelt, promoting the Experience Exchange programme. Immediately, I liked the look of the organisation and the Experience Exchange Programme seemed like a great opportunity for me. When I came across USPG, I was coming up to retirement so waited a couple of years before I took the plunge. At the discernment weekend for the Experience Exchange Programme in 2011, I expressed an interest in serving in Zimbabwe. However, the Zimbabwean government was engaged in a power struggle with the Anglican Church of Zimbabwe at that time - I wasn't expecting to be able to travel to the country. To my surprise, USPG staff said that their mission partners would be happy to have me!'

Helen is still good friends with many of the people she met during her time in Zimbabwe. 'I spent a year in

Harare and since then have kept up strong links with my host family and those involved in the programmes I helped. I was very involved in the Tariro project, which was designed to help young people to get a good education. I also ran training workshops for women's groups, just like I had done in the UK throughout my career.' She also went on a trip to Malawi with USPG's Vice Chair of Trustees, Rev'd Canon Daphne Green. 'We visited the girl's education programmes there, spending time with Tamara Khisimisi, one of the coordinators of the Anglican Council of Malawi.'

Helen's experiences with the world church forced her to rethink how she approached church in the UK. 'When I lived in Zimbabwe, it was with an Anglican church under pressure from the government. It made me question how committed I was to church life.' Since coming back to the UK, Helen has thrown herself into volunteering for USPG. 'Being a volunteer for USPG is fun! I'm involved with the charity at a local level - as a parish contact for St Edward the Confessor, Dringhouses, and as a speaker for USPG, sharing my experience of the world church with churches near me. I also coordinate a group of USPG supporter churches in the Diocese of York, which meets every couple of months. In previous years, we organised a speaking event with Winston Halapua, then Archbishop of New Zealand, on the topic of climate justice. We have also held an evening about movement and migration, involving Refugee Action York and members of City of Sanctuary - which then led to a regional conference in Middlesbrough on the same subject.'

She also stresses that there is no set way of being a volunteer with USPG. 'You can be involved with and committed to USPG in lots of different ways - volunteering, fundraising and sharing experiences are all of value to the life of the Society.'

Helen now feels more connected to the world church than ever. 'Ever since my first encounter with USPG, I have felt part of the USPG family. The sense of connection and friendship between mission partners in Zimbabwe and USPG was really powerful to see. As Anglicans, we are all part of the Anglican Communion. We're all in this together!'

# TRUSTEE PROFILE

## SHEILA COOK



**'The breadth and complexity of the projects that USPG is involved in has both surprised and delighted me,' says Sheila, who became a trustee in July 2018. 'I didn't know much about the organisation before becoming a trustee, so the scope of its work has been a revelation.'**

Sheila joined the trustees at the suggestion of Trustee Chair John Neilson. 'John and I go to the same parish church,' she explains. 'The perception was that there was a need on the trustee board for someone whose skill set covered communications. I'm a broadcaster; I've worked for the BBC for 39 years, so I thought it would be great if I could be of use to the trustee body. I was happy to put myself forward for consideration.'

'Since becoming a trustee, I've felt we can do more at USPG to communicate to our supporters, our partners and the wider world what fantastic work is going on and what more we can do together.'

Sheila began her journalism career as a local newspaper reporter before joining the BBC. She produces current affairs programmes for the UK's national speech radio channel, Radio 4, including Analysis, A Point of View and Four Thought

and she produces the radio documentary series The Inquiry for the BBC World Service. 'Through my experience working for a national broadcaster, I have a fairly sound sense of what appeals to a UK domestic audience,' she says. 'I hope that this is useful for USPG's outreach and raising of its profile and broadening of its supporter base within and beyond Anglicanism.'

'Also, because of the BBC's mission to always give information that is trustworthy and communicated with integrity and honesty, I have a sense of how USPG's global communications strategy must always be rooted in honesty, reliability and trustworthiness - honesty

about our past, our present and where we're going in the future.' 'I think USPG is doing good work opening up the conversation about painful chapters in our past and I think it's important to let people know that's happening.'

Music plays a key role in Sheila's faith. 'The choral tradition of Anglican music is very dear to my heart,' she says. 'I am a member of my church's choir and I'm married to an organist. When I think about USPG and how it operates and how I fit into it, the thing that encapsulates it best for me is Richard Gillard's hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you'. It's a beautiful, simple hymn about people walking along the road together, sharing each other's burdens - the model of partnership that USPG does so well. We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear each other's load. For me this reflects USPG's focus on social justice - our concern over the impact of climate change, for gender equality and for marginalised people.'

'I've learnt a lot since I became a trustee, I am continually learning more and I hope I may be able to travel to visit USPG partners. I think the Anglican Communion needs to look beyond any divisions it may have in order to be stronger together to speak with a Christian voice to the non-Christian world. I hope that USPG will be able to play an increasingly important role in the development of the Anglican Communion.'

'For such an historic and well-established part of the Anglican Communion, I feel that USPG is not as well-known as it should be. I think we need to reach out and make ourselves better known, because what we have to offer could be very inspiring for many Christians who don't currently know about what we do.' 'The pandemic has brought immense challenges, but also new ways of communicating with one another. I was impressed by the way the USPG staff seized the initiative to produce online opportunities for worshipping together and exchanging ideas. I really admire the central premise of USPG of partnership with Anglicans around the world and hope that sense of mutual exchange will characterise our communications in the future.'

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## Keeping in touch

USPG would very much like to keep in touch with you to keep you updated on the work of USPG and our partner churches and communities worldwide.

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Yes, I am happy to be contacted by email

We may contact you by post and telephone. If you do not wish to hear from us, or have a preferred contact method, simply get in touch with us at [info@uspg.org.uk](mailto:info@uspg.org.uk)

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# GROWING FUTURES USPG HARVEST APPEAL 2022

Help raise money for The Anglican Council of Malawi through our Growing Futures Harvest appeal.

Your donations will provide life-changing training in sustainable farming skills and environmental management to local small-holders. Groups also receive the equipment and resources they need to provide fresh food for their families.

And this has a long-lasting effect. Once they are well-fed at home, children will no longer have to go to school hungry. They are more likely to finish school and be set up for success later in life.



Group of women in Malawi

## THE STORY OF THE TIKONDANE NTHAWISA FARMERS GROUP

The Tikondane group was set up by the Anglican Council of Malawi. The group receives training to make compost using locally available resources and manage small-scale businesses.

To ensure that the skills learned will produce long-term, sustainable improvements and equip the community for future challenges related to climate change, the programme provided the group with training in environmental management. The members also received training on how to use environmentally friendly stoves for cooking.

Following training in Village Savings and Loan activities, the group members started contributing shares for their

village bank and sharing the dividends between members.

The group has been selling their vegetables, and the proceeds from the sales are shared daily so that everyone benefits equally. Members also harvest fresh produce for their own families which has been incredibly fulfilling. Some have decided to invest the money into their small-scale businesses. Thanks to the amazing work of the Anglican Council of Malawi and funding from USPG's generous donors, the group have benefited enormously from the programme and many more will in the future through our Harvest appeal.

Visit [www.uspg.org.uk/harvest](http://www.uspg.org.uk/harvest) to find out more and support our Harvest Appeal.



# GROWING FUTURES

Support small-holder farmers in Malawi to change their lives. Donate to our Growing Futures Harvest appeal.

Visit [www.uspg.org.uk/harvest](http://www.uspg.org.uk/harvest) or scan the QR code to find out more and support our Harvest appeal.



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