



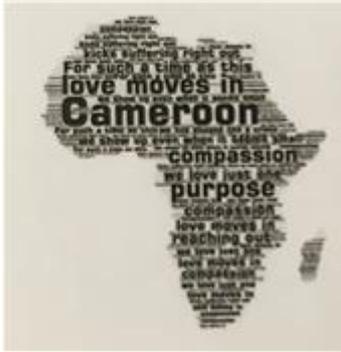
## **Send Committee Update November 2017**



**Read about some of our own church members as well as the organisations we regularly support!**

## MV Africa Mercy: September 2017

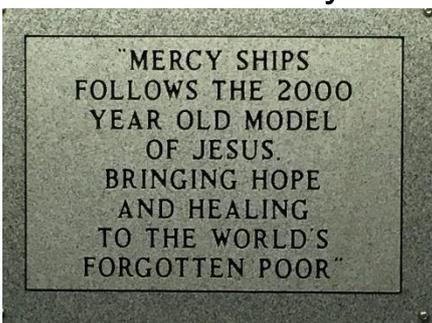
Mercy Ships, a Christian charity that has been delivering operations to third world countries since 1978, currently has one hospital ship – the motor vessel *Africa Mercy*. It is a fully equipped hospital with 5 operating theatres, and virtually all the 470 crew are volunteers. It has beds for about 80 patients at a time, and each patient may only stay for one or two weeks.



The hospital will berth in one location in one country for 10 months before moving on. This trip was my second, and it was the first time the ship had travelled to Cameroon. This country is, in all aspects, a poor country with a life expectancy of about 53 years.

The *Africa Mercy* will screen thousands of people each week, but can only offer surgery to a very few – usually about 45 operations per week. Additionally, on-board eye surgery can offer sight to about 100 people each week, and there is an extensive dental care practice that goes into the community. I worked on the ship for 3 weeks during which 107 operations were performed. Each operation is life-changing, and often life-saving. My time was divided between maxillofacial surgery (facial cancer or cleft palates), orthopaedics (usually to straighten legs) and gynaecology (repairing damage occurring during childbirth). The ship is based on the work of Jesus, giving hope and healing: it does not restrict surgery to Christians but treats everyone equally regardless of their belief.

Each week begins with a ship-wide time of prayer and update on the work achieved before surgery starts. Twice per week everyone within the theatre meet in the corridor for a short time of prayer and praise. Every morning each operating team will discuss their patients for that day, with a prayer said for each patient as their operation starts. The operations themselves can be challenging, but to experience the sheer joy of the patients and their families every night certainly makes you realise that all the effort by everyone on board is fantastic. The patients' Sunday morning worship is awesome! Although only a few patients receive surgery, the effect on their friends and family is dramatic. When talking to the local people it is clearly



stated by every volunteer that they are working thanks to the grace of God. Mercy Ships follows the teaching of Jesus: they bring hope and healing to those most in need. I will always be grateful that I have been able to help in their mission.

**Mike Ferguson**

## Meg Longman

Since August this year I've been living in the Middle East and working for a small Christian firm who do the architectural design for Christian NGOs and ministries across the Middle East and North Africa Region.



Firstly, I'm extremely grateful for the support, prayers and encouragement I've received from Rothley. I've often found myself humbled and amazed that people at home are praying for me and have certainly felt God's hand over my time here so far.

In the office I've been working on an aquaponics greenhouse and training centre for BAM (Business as Mission) in Central Asia. The project began with a trip to meet the clients, view the site and draft an initial design. It was a real privilege to learn of the ministry's vision for supporting pastors in Central Asia whilst working alongside a team of Christian design professionals from across the world.

I've been able to progress in Arabic study; meet locals and learn about their culture; become a part of the international church and get involved in work with Syrian refugees

*(picture: street-side English lesson).*



Praise:

- For the people God has put in my path here;
- for friendships with locals and opportunities to share my life and beliefs with them.
- For good health, a welcoming community and being able to adapt to life and language.

Prayer:

- For developing friendships, especially with the refugees.
- For ms we're reading the Book with, that they might have an open heart and mind. (Specifically: L, J, M and O)
- For wisdom about and provision for extending my stay here.

[Meg's internship has been extended until summer 2018, so she will need to continue to raise her own finance to enable her to stay.

**Please see separate flyer for information.]**

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

### **Mothers' Union in Sudan**

It is not easy to be a Christian in Sudan, where the state religion is Islam. Many Christians find it hard to find employment, resulting in parents then struggling to support their children through school or even to feed them.



Against this incredibly difficult backdrop, the Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial Education Programme is making an enormous difference and has done so for the last 16 years! Where women have had no hope or opportunities to work, they are now starting businesses and sending their children to school. They have the opportunity to save their small salaries together and be encouraged, even when they can't get to church.

Samira is the elected Mothers' Union leader in the Diocese of Khartoum. She became literate in 2003, through a Mothers' Union literacy circle. Samira says that before she felt *"like she was blind. It's like my world has opened up."* Since then, she has improved her language skills, with her husband's help, and enrolled at a local Bible School, where she achieved her diploma. She now volunteers with Mothers' Union and is an articulate female leader. Alongside this she is running her own small business which supports her family.

Church leaders in the area say: *"Since the literacy programme started a lot has been achieved. You can see many literate women in our communities and the Savings and Credits programme has enabled many women to become self-reliant, even contributing at Church. When we hold meetings, the women now participate. They have confidence and they are really becoming strong. When we conduct home visits, their lives look very different. In the past their homes were sparse and some even didn't have a roof and were dilapidated. Now, they have beautiful homes that they have restored and created for themselves."*

**Church representative: Sue Wilson**

SOAR VALLEY COMMUNITY



## I was hungry and you fed me

The work of the Food Project continues to grow and develop and we are amazingly grateful to all those who support us in so many ways. Some of the highlights are:

- Blessed by fantastic donations of food, not only from the regular sources but also from many harvest festivals at local schools, churches and other groups
- Generous donations of money, including a £1,000 grant from the Mountsorrel Relief Fund
- Provided 445 food parcels in the last year, estimated value £12,000
- Continue to support people from across the Soar Valley, split Mountsorrel (33%), Rothley (20%) and Sileby (15%)
- Fantastically committed team who faithfully serve each week and support each other as well as the clients
- Support provided to clients including debt advice, budgeting, CV writing, benefits advice, school transfers, listening, praying and encouraging
- As well as food, also now providing clothes and other goods as donated
- Extended the work in Birstall with support from Churches there. New collection point at Birstall Coop and food parcels being provided for distribution from Birstall Methodist Church

There are some amazing stories from the people we support about the impact the work has on their lives, bringing hope at their darkest moments, listening to them and enabling them to have a better future. Your continued prayer and support is so valuable and the work would not happen without it.



Please pray especially that Waitrose would allow a collection point in their store and that the work in Birstall would grow into something significant.

**Church representatives:  
Pauline Sheppard and Jean Arkley**

## Advocacy

This month we welcome Billie Anderson from Tearfund's Advocacy Team - but what does advocacy mean for Tearfund? The following quote comes from Tearfund's website:

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark teal rectangular background.

*Our Advocacy Team works with people in the UK and around the world to address the underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development. We do this by helping people change their own lifestyles, challenging unfair systems and structures, and by influencing the policies and practices of powerful decision-makers.*

*Advocacy can mean many different things around the world. In the UK, Tearfund encourages people to speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, whether directly with politicians or by sharing petitions with their churches.*

*Around the world, the Advocacy Team works with individuals and churches to help them demonstrate their faith through actions and lifestyle changes that challenge destructive policies and practices.*

One of the most recent campaigns mentioned by Billie is *Renew our World*, which lobbies for developing countries to have more access to sources of renewable energy (such as solar panels).

In other campaigns, Tearfund is urging us to reduce food waste and also to encourage governments around the world to keep to their climate change pledges made in Paris in 2015.

You can easily take action in support of the campaigns by going on the website and signing the petitions at [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org). Click on 'get involved' then 'action'.

## Kenya

You will probably have heard news reports about Kenya's current political uncertainty following the disputed General Election in August and the re-run which was boycotted by the main opposition party.

Tearfund urges us to pray for this situation to be quickly resolved in order to avoid the violence that the country has suffered after previous elections.

Please pray particularly for our partners in Mount Kenya East at this time.



**Church representative: Ros Taylor**

# **Diocesan Link with Tanzania**

## **Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro & Kiteto**

The Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro has been amazingly successful in evangelism and building new church communities.

### **The inspiring story of an Evangelist**

**Toloha** is a remote Masai village deep in the bush 150km east of Arusha, near the border of Kenya, a six hour drive from Arusha on both smooth and rough roads. It is a village with many small houses made from mud and sticks. It is near a mountainous game park, and wild animals roam.

Jasper is an educated man with the potential to live a comfortable life with his family in a developed city. But he trained as an Evangelist, and several years ago heard God's call to get on a bus and head out into rural lands far from his home and people, and build Christ's church.

He arrived in Toloha and felt this was the place God wanted him to be. He agreed a price for the land with the Masai and moved his family there, his wife Mary and four children. They camped out in a tent for three months, preaching to the local people, and holding services in the open air or under an awning.

After spending three months living in a tent, Jasper and Mary built their own house. Two years later the diocese helped build a church, and there are now around 60 church members and an infant school. Many children travel miles to attend the school and all are extremely poor.

Jasper was ordained to the ministry in December 2016. He now has a motorbike donated by Leicester Diocese which greatly aids his work. He is now also supported by Cora, a children's worker. Bishop Stanley has plans to establish a primary school there.

Jasper and Mary now have dreams to plant more churches and schools in order to make disciples and spread the gospel.

**Pray for them, and all the evangelists! Their story is a challenge to us all, who are loath to disturb our own comfort and make real sacrifices for Jesus.**

**Church representative: Margaret Leverment**



## Triangle Homeless Project, Leicester

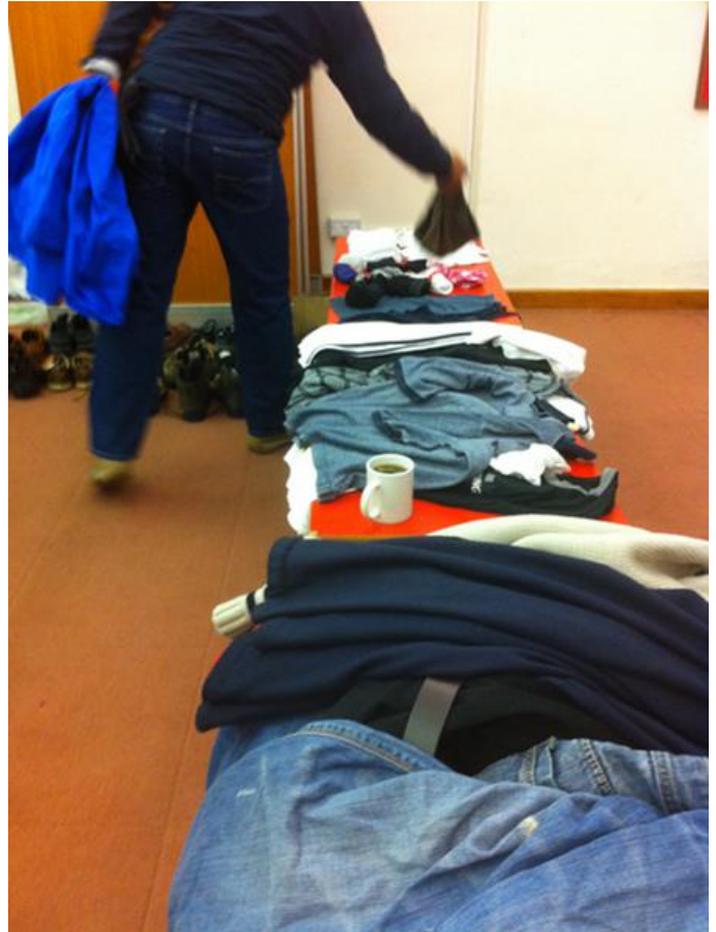
We continue to support Triangle, a Holy Trinity Church Leicester programme. On Friday nights a hot meal is provided for at least 50 homeless or vulnerably-housed people. Guests are given toiletries, clothes and bedding.

Some people will also be given a free food parcel which can help feed them for a few days.

The 8.30pm “God Slot” is well attended and people join in with Bible study, open discussion and prayer. A key part of what Triangle offers is a safe place, friendship, a listening ear and the chance for guests to encounter God for themselves.

Over the summer Triangle took a group of 9 men to Derby for three days to continue building relationships. The next job is to prepare many shoe boxes to be given out at the Christmas party.

Nathan has been an intern at Holy Trinity for the last 10 months and has been working on the Triangle team. Nathan says: “I’ve seen God move and heal old emotional wounds, lift broken people and set them on a path to recovery... At its heart Triangle is the church in action. It’s a group of people seeing where God is working in people’s lives and partnering with that and doing our bit to help just as Jesus would do. Thank you – without your support both in prayer and in giving we would not be able to do what we do.”



**Church representative: Kathryn Garnett**

# Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)



## Making Mission Possible

Helping churches across the UK and Ireland take the good news of Jesus Christ to every door is at the heart of what CPAS is about. It provides a wide range of resources to parishes to enable this aspiration to become a reality. In particular, it emphasises the importance of effective local leadership for both laity and clergy in what is an increasingly secularised world. We at Rothley have benefited enormously from visits from CPAS staff over many years, and in June 2018 its General Director, Revd John Dunnett, will be spending a Sunday with us to further strengthen our focus on mission and evangelism - more details of this will be available in the New Year.

For many years, a number of youngsters from this parish have attended



CPAS Ventures during the summer holidays and these have been enriching times for those concerned. In an exciting development, from Easter 2018 a new initiative enthusiastically supported by Bishop Martyn Snow, School Ventures, is being offered by CPAS to church primary schools in Leicestershire. These are two-night residentials that help pupils investigate the core concepts of the Christian faith, explore their own personal response and connect with the local church's children's programme. Half a dozen schools in the Diocese, including Rothley Primary, have shown interest in participating in this initiative. This is a really important development. Please pray that this wonderful opportunity for youngsters from our local primary

school to hear the good news of Jesus Christ will come to fruition.

The CPAS website, <https://www.cpas.org.uk>, provides material on all aspects of the Society's work and is well worth looking at. We thank God for all those people employed by CPAS and for their commitment to equipping local churches to become more effective in serving our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Church representative: David Wilson**

We continue to support Jirka and Keira Kralovi, our Mission Partners working with Crosslinks in Olomouc, Czech Republic. They thank us for our prayer and support and hope we are well in the Lord Jesus.



**Jirka and Keira write,** *“We have had a very good year ministering to the students in Olomouc and we continue to see growth and deepening of faith in the students. They tell us that they are getting a lot out of these times. We are very excited to report that a young man who came with a friend to the April weekend away is now showing signs that he has become a Christian. Another*

*student is meeting up with Jirka and shows a great deal of interest and has met up with Jirka one-to-one four times recently. Please pray for him...”*

Jirka continues to lead mission events at the University in Olomouc. These events are specifically designed to reach out to people who have not heard or understood the gospel message.

Jirka has used a different approach to one-to-one evangelism. He asked the students how sinners could be justified before a holy God. The reward for a right answer was a bottled drink. 30 students had a go at explaining, and this gave an opportunity for Jirka to explain by sharing the gospel.

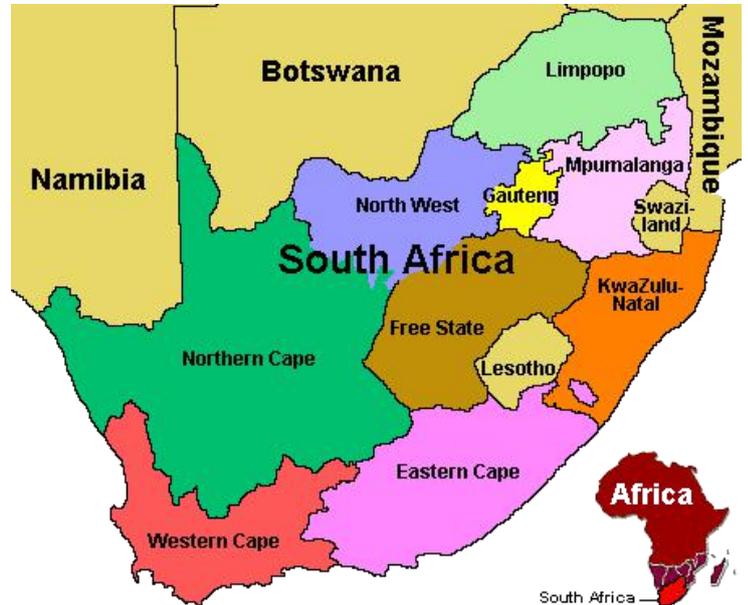
Please pray for the continuing work with the students in Olomouc, that through the work of Crosslinks, they may come to know the true Jesus Christ.

**Church representative: Wendy Ferguson**

## Wings of Love to People in Need

### From Paul and Cathy Middleton in South Africa:

In recent months a lot of Paul's flying trips have been supporting the work of ASAM in Mozambique. ASAM's mission is to love God and love the people of Mozambique so they can be empowered spiritually, physically and economically to help reach and teach their own people. Mercy Air is able to provide significant logistical support for materials and personnel in remote parts of Mozambique.



In the meantime, Cathy has been working to establish a clinic providing basic health care for non-registered migrants from Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique who have established a vast township on the edge of White River, where Mercy Air is located.

Please pray:

- For safety for Paul on his flights and for Cathy working in a very new and pretty lawless township
- For funding to secure the work of a permanent clinic in the township
- For Paul and Cathy's own discipleship and involvement in their local church
- For an openness to the gospel amongst those they serve in the township and in Mozambique
- For stable and uncorrupt government in South Africa

**Church representative: Rob Gladstone**

**The aim of the Send Committee** is to present to everyone in Rothley Parish Church the challenge of where and how we are seeking to serve the spread of the gospel beyond our immediate context. As members of the worldwide church we have God's heart for the nations and so seek to both send and support Christians so that others might hear and know God's love in Jesus.

We do this through:

- Raising awareness to keep us an outward-looking church, widening the horizons of the whole fellowship to life beyond Rothley
- Supporting organisations and individuals who promote the spread of the gospel, both as a church but also promoting the interest and involvement of individual church members
- Encouraging the sending out of individual members of the congregation to become personally involved in practical ways

This half-yearly update brings news from the societies we support as a church.