

ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, GUILDFORD

MISSION POLICY

A. OUR AIM

Our aim is to obey the command of Christ: **“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”** (Matthew 28v19-20). For this the Holy Spirit has empowered the church: **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”** (Acts 1v8). The church is thus commanded by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be mission minded in sending, supporting, receiving and working in partnership with Christians both at home and across the world.

For St Saviour's *partnership* is central. We recognise that all mission involves practical human engagement at a local level, and that we need each other's wisdom, resources and spiritual energy to fulfil our calling in mission. When we send a member of our community to another part of the world they go as *mission partners* to work alongside Christians in that locality. Likewise we need to receive *mission partners* to enrich us in our ministry.

Thus we aim to play our part in serving God's mission in the world in partnership with the worldwide church.

B. THE PRINCIPLES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MISSION

1. **We share the following principles for mission, widely embraced in the Anglican Communion.**
 - (a) there is one mission in all the world;
 - (b) it is shared by the worldwide Christian community;
 - (c) it involves a process of giving and receiving in which all have gifts to offer and needs to be met - mutual responsibility and inter-dependence is the basis of authentic partnership;
 - (d) the local church in each place is primarily responsible for mission in that place and needs to be respected as such; although as part of the universal church, it has gifts to offer others, as well as advice and resources to receive.
2. The five-fold understanding of mission developed by the Anglican Communion and endorsed at the 1988 Lambeth Conference provides a touchstone by which local priorities in mission can be assessed. These five characteristics of mission are:
 - (a) to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
 - (b) to teach, baptise and nurture new believers;

(c) to respond to human need by loving service;

(d) to seek to transform unjust structures of society;

(e) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth.

We seek to assess St Saviour's involvement in mission against these 5 Marks of Mission.

C. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR MISSION SUPPORT

Our purpose is to promote and support those churches, organisations and people whose primary aim is to proclaim Jesus as Christ, Saviour and Lord, and who show the faith, love and hope of Christ in action. This will be through partnership that encourages understanding, involvement, prayer and financial support in accordance with our aim and the principles set out in the previous section.

St Saviour's will aim to enter medium to long-term partnerships with both individuals (Mission Partners), and organisations (Mission Partnerships). We will also aim to provide support for members of the church involved in short term mission activities. Formal Mission Partners and Partnerships will normally but not necessarily be characterised by the provision of financial support.

D. OBJECTIVES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Mission Ministry Group considers adoption and financial support for partners and partnership that are in harmony with the 5 Marks of Mission and fall within the following broad areas:

1. Churches and ministries in areas where we have established or are developing partnerships;
2. Our Mission Partners: their organisation and as individuals;
3. The translation and distribution of the Bible and Christian literature;
4. Work with UK and international students;
5. National and international work with vulnerable and disadvantaged people;
6. Work promoting Biblical perspectives on issues of spirituality, morality, justice and the environment, including the work of Christians in the Arts;
7. St. Saviour's people on short-term mission and development projects;
8. Missions and societies where St. Saviour's members are working or have a particular interest;
9. Outreach work in the Guildford area;
10. Theological and mission education, research and training.

Annual allocations for each of these objectives are considered by the Mission Ministry Group , and recommended to the Parochial Church Council for approval.

E. PROMOTING VISION, UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR MISSION

1. Our aim is to widen our vision as a church, to draw attention to what God is doing throughout the world, how the gospel is changing lives and communities and how Christians are serving the Lord and people. It is also to give news of people from St. Saviour's who are serving the Lord both in this country and overseas for whom St. Saviour's is their home church. This develops awareness and understanding, and encourages prayer, care and support for them.
2. A stimulating programme of mission education together with well-presented and up-to-date information is essential for developing awareness, understanding and support. This is available through:
 - a) clearly visible display boards in the church, providing information about St. Saviour's members involved in mission and the situation they work in, Christians and churches we support both at home and abroad, and mission societies supported by and within the church;
 - b) Regularly updated pages on the church web site
 - c) prayer letters and newsletters from St. Saviour's members involved in mission.
 - d) appropriate news being mentioned in church notice sheets and publicity
 - e) prayer for our Mission Partners being included on a monthly basis in Sunday intercessions;
 - e) services on Sundays occasionally having a focus on a mission activity with a visiting speaker or an interview;
 - f) opportunities for St. Saviour's to learn from and be ministered to by the churches and individuals with whom we have partnerships;
 - g) regular Mission Sundays at St Saviour's
 - h) support groups within the church for particular Mission Partners and partner organisations. These groups provide a link between the society or individuals and the wider church, and may also be linked with a particular Life Group . They also promote awareness of the partner or partnership at St Saviour's.
 - i) specific activities to develop mission interest and support among young people;
 - (j) the development of a bank of information about resource materials (including literature, videos etc.) available for individuals and groups.
3. 'Champions' are chosen from within the Mission Ministry Group to promote awareness of each Mission Partner in the St Saviour's community.

F. ADVICE AND PASTORAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS CONSIDERING OR INVOLVED IN MISSION

1. The church has a role in encouraging and prompting its members to seek God's purpose for them in the worldwide church, whether on a short-term or a longer-term basis (Acts 11v22 and 13v1-4). Individuals may also sense that some form of mission service is God's will for them, and may have a clear calling to this (Acts 26v16-18).
2. The flowchart and detail in Appendix One represent the stages of the journey that a Mission Partner may take with St Saviour's: the Mission Partner Lifecycle. This provides, in effect, the implementation in practice of the Mission Policy. The Mission Ministry Group has developed a "Mission Partner Covenant" to promote the care of our mission partners and provide guidance on the relationship and mutual commitments of the church and the mission partner.

G. SUPPORT FOR SHORT-TERM MISSION

St Saviour's and the Mission Ministry Group want to encourage as many people as possible of all ages to gain experience of cross-cultural mission through the great variety of opportunities for short term mission that are available through a great range of organisations. We recognise that an initial short term experience can lead on to a longer term engagement in God's mission in a more strategic way.

To assist members of St Saviour's to have a positive experience:

- One of the members of the MMG will be a "Short term Mission Advisor"
- The STM advisor will work with the Mission Pastor to raise awareness, interest and involvement in STM across the whole church.
- The STM Advisor will gather current information from a limited range of organisations in which we have confidence and make it available to those interested.
- MMG seeks to maintain a regular updated "Short Term Mission Handbook" containing advice on all aspects of short term mission experience.

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H. PRINCIPLES FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH ORGANISATIONS

In the first place St Saviour's aims to support those individuals who have gone out from our fellowship to support and encourage the church in other places as they engage in God's mission locally. In addition we aim to discern and support a limited number of churches, ministries, organisations in other places to whom we feel called in partnership. These partnerships are divided roughly between Guildford, the United Kingdom and "World-wide."

In identifying and supporting any such church or organisation:

1. MMG will seek, in prayer and discussion, and in discernment within St Saviour's, those partnerships to which God is directing our attention and stirring up interest and response.
2. We will seek to maintain an appropriate balance between Guildford-based, UK-based and international bodies.
3. Our intention is that each partnership will be genuinely mutual, so that learning, encouragement and spiritual benefit will flow in both directions so that through such partnership our mission in Guildford may be enriched.
4. These partnerships will be reviewed with the partners on a regular basis as are the mission partners. We would be open to such Partnerships running their course and reaching a point where quite appropriately and with mutual agreement they might be terminated.
5. Broadly and collectively, the partnerships will engage with mission in the 5-fold manner described by the "5 Marks of Mission" (p.2.)

I. THE MISSION MINISTRY GROUP

The Parochial Church Council appoints the Mission Ministry Group (MMG). Its function is to ensure that this Mission Policy, and associated activities are carried out and to recommend financial support allocations to the Parochial Church Council for their approval.

The MMG has a particular responsibility to ensure that the church is well informed on mission issues so that those involved in mission service are effectively and well supported by the church as a whole.

A simple Role Description outlining the responsibilities of MMG members has been developed. This should be referred to by anyone considering undertaking a role on the MMG, in order to be able to make the necessary commitments for both St Saviour's and our Mission Partners and partner organisations.

Mission Ministry Group and Parochial Church Council
Written February 1996
Amended April 2009

Appendix One: Mission Partner lifecycle

Specific notes on each stage of the process are below:

Stage One:

Individual(s) who are considering mission service are advised to make contact with Andy Wheeler, or a member of the Mission Ministry Group (MMG) at the outset of their exploration.

Stage Two:

The church has a responsibility to give advice when individuals are considering mission service, to pray with them, to examine and test what God's will is and to ensure continuing pastoral support and guidance. At this stage the individual(s) may be invited to join the Thinking of Ministry Group, led by Andy Wheeler.

Stage Three:

An initial meeting with representatives from the MMG may be arranged, for an exploratory discussion and prayer at an early stage and as the process develops. This would be an Exploratory Trio, a meeting between three members of the MMG and the individual(s). In this way the Holy Spirit guides both the individual and the church (Acts 13v1-4). Evaluation of the potential new partnership should take into account the range of existing Mission Partnership commitments that St Saviours has, to consider the bigger picture of the connections which have been developed.

Stage Four and Five:

At an appropriate point during this process the individual(s) and St Saviour's will make a decision about the potential Mission Partnership. If this is agreed, the MMG Chair will inform the PCC of the decision. The individual(s) may make an application to a mission society or organisation.

Stage Six:

Following a formal decision to support a new Mission Partner, a Preparatory Trio meeting with the MMG should be set up to begin discussions about relevant preparations. At this stage a key MMG contact will be identified to act as the main connection with the Mission Partner(s). The key MMG contact is accountable to the MMG as a whole for this relationship. A variety of preparatory activities may be agreed.

In many cases it is advisable for individual(s) to undertake a period of training. This may be arranged in conjunction with a mission society or organisation. Experience of service in the local church at St. Saviour's is also important both for the benefit of the individual and so that other members of the church can get to know the person better. This is invaluable in developing effective support for the future.

Where the church has agreed to support an individual there is a continuing responsibility to give pastoral, prayer and financial support. The Preparatory Trio conversation should cover the question of what existing support groups the Mission Partner(s) have, and to connect them with a Lifegroup for support if necessary.

Stage Seven:

The MMG agree upon the level of financial support that St Saviour's would be able to offer.

Stage Eight:

The church will commission the Mission Partner(s) in a service prior to their departure, this should include a commitment to the Mission Covenant by both the Mission Partner(s) and the church.

Stage Nine:

Whilst on mission, the Mission Partner(s) will be invited to have an Annual Check-in Trio with members of the MMG to review objectives, successes and learning points. If possible, this can be reported back to the church at an evening meeting. The key MMG contact will take responsibility for organising the Annual Check-in Trio and ensuring the completion of the Annual Mission Partner Plan document, and this feedback to the wider church.

Stage Ten - Twelve:

The church has a responsibility for pastoral and practical support for our Mission Partners when they return home following a period of mission service. A Review Trio should take place to ensure that both St Saviour's and the Mission Partner(s) have the opportunity to celebrate the mission service, and to review learnings from the partner relationship. Opportunities should also be given for Mission Partner(s) to share with the whole church what God has done during their recent period of mission service (Acts14v27). Mission Partners are encouraged to have a time of rest and refreshment, and to take part in the regular life, activity and ministry of the church (Acts14v28, 15v35 and 18v22-23). The MMG may decide to offer the Mission Partner(s) a parting financial gift.

Appendix One: Mission Partner lifecycle

