

Transmission

The quarterly newspaper of **USPG: Anglicans in World Mission**

SUMMER 2011

Anglicans respond to a world in crisis

USPG is supporting the rebuilding of communities in Japan, New Zealand and North Africa

Socialist Worker/Judith Orr



Demonstrators take to streets of Cairo, Egypt

Anglican Churches are at the heart of efforts to support and rebuild communities hit by natural disasters and political strife.

Since the last edition of *Transmission* we have seen earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand and fighting on the streets in Egypt and Libya, among other hot spots.

In each country, local Anglicans – with the support of USPG – have been reaching out to their neighbours, offering both practical and spiritual support, food aid and counselling.

Canon Edgar Ruddock, USPG's Director for Leadership Development, explained: 'Anglican churches are embedded into their communities. Before and after these tragedies occur, Anglican communities are among the first to respond to their neighbours with aid and a listening ear, offering encouragement and empowering communities to respond in ways that make most sense in the local context. These people are

USPG's church partners. In chaotic days like these it is a constant source of inspiration to witness their motivation, ingenuity and resilience.'

USPG has sent emergency grants to Japan and Egypt from our Rapid Response Fund. Your donations to this fund ensure that we are able to respond immediately when disasters strike. We have also been channelling donations from the UK to New Zealand (see our website for more details).

Japan

In Japan, the church's response has focused on the Diocese of Tohoku, which took the brunt of the tsunami on 11 March, leaving nearly 28,000 dead or missing. The unstable Fukushima nuclear power plant is also within the diocese.

USPG responded immediately with emergency funding. Our approach is to send funding only in response to requests from our partners – ensuring that the money can be put to be put to effective use immediately.

The Rt Revd John Hiromichi Kato, Bishop of Tohoku, told USPG: 'The tsunami and fire [at the nuclear power plant] have made our life miserable. In some areas, everything seems very normal, but in other parts people are suffering with a lack of gas, electric and water. The hardest hit are the elderly.'

'The challenge we are facing is to rebuild our diocese. With God's blessing I pray that we will accomplish this task.'

New Zealand

Lives were also lost in the New Zealand earthquake of 22 February. The church has responded by ministering to the bereaved and endeavouring to restore a Churches, church halls and vicarages were damaged beyond repair.

Preaching in a borrowed church building, the Revd Jay Behan, of St Stephen's, Shirley, Christchurch, said: 'Friends, if the earthquake reminds us of the uncertainty of this world and life and

points us to look forward to the sure and certain hope we have in Jesus, then that is a great thing indeed.'

The local Anglican Church has launched an appeal to support work to help people 'in the long process of rebuilding their lives, homes and communities'.

Egypt and Libya

In Egypt, peace has been restored following a political upheaval in February which saw President Mubarak eventually relinquish power. The Anglican Church responded immediately by distributing food to poor families who had been unable to work and earn money due to the riots.

The Most Revd Mouneer Anis, Bishop of Egypt, commented: 'Egypt's economic situation is going down-hill because of the many demonstrations and the cessation of work in many factories and companies. This has resulted in severe unemployment and subsequent poverty. The diocese has helped hundreds of poor families with food packages.'

In March, Anglicans in Tunisia worked with the Christian charity ACT (Association for Cooperation in Tunisia) to support refugees from troubled Libya who poured over the border, arriving poor and hungry.

Canon Edgar Ruddock, of USPG, said: 'In these difficult days it is heartening to know that our Anglican brothers and sisters are putting their faith into action in times of tragedy. Our role is to watch and pray, and offer support in any way we can.'

■ Bishop Mouneer is a key note speaker at USPG's Annual Conference on Tuesday 21 June. See back page for further details.
■ Make a donation to our Rapid Response Fund at www.uspg.org.uk/rapid

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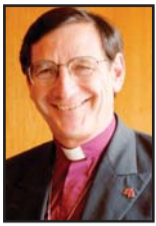


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From Bishop Michael

A message from Bishop Michael Doe, General Secretary, USPAG: Anglicans in World Mission

Partners and supporters

Our Annual Conference this year is all about 'Pushing Boundaries'. We will be challenged to look beyond the concerns and confines of our own churches, and see the mission of God all around the world.

We will be looking forward to new and different ways to carry through the two areas of work where USPAG's support for partner churches is now focused – developing leaders (which includes theological education) and working for health – always with the emphasis on the local church building up its own capacity.

At the end of conference I will be handing over to our new Chief Executive, Janette O'Neill, who comes with a great experience of world church and mission, especially in Africa. As I reflect on the last seven years, I am deeply grateful for what I have seen around the world. When I think of the Anglican Communion, my first thought is not about

conflicts and difficulties but faithful people in very different places engaged in the work to which God has called them.

I am also grateful for our faithful supporters in Britain and Ireland. I regret that more and more parishes and people want to choose to fund their own partners and projects, and so bypass mission agencies. But as I've travelled around the country I've also met so many people who have not given up on the greater, global vision. In the end USPAG depends on its supporters here in order to sustain relationships right across the world, and to help resource the churches who need it most, but always according to their priorities rather than ours.

I'm sure that under Janette's leadership this committed work will continue to go forward, and I pray that God will continue to bless USPAG in its vocation to uphold Anglicans in world mission.

Church promotes wildlife conservation in Madagascar

Protecting the environment is an important ministry of the Anglican Church in Madagascar, as USPAG Regional Manager Stephanie Mooney discovered during a recent trip.

During a tour of the church's

work on the island, Stephanie came face to face with a family of lemurs, which are only found in the wild in Madagascar. Of the 99 species that have been recorded to date, nearly all are classified as rare, vulnerable or endangered.

'They are very cute,' said Stephanie. 'When you hold one they feel like a teddy bear. But, unfortunately, their smell is not quite so pleasant!'

Stephanie explained that the church is working hard to reduce damage to the delicately balanced eco-diversity that exists in Madagascar.

She reported: 'I visited a sanctuary where lemurs are being taught to diversify their food sources to help them adapt for survival.'

'The church is also helping to raise awareness of the damage caused by traditional practices such as slash and burn farming, which are removing forest land.'

'The idea is to get everyone involved in conservation. This is quite a challenge. The people are very poor and don't realise the damage they're doing. The rosewood tree, for example, is a precious commodity – it's illegal to cut it down – but people are taking it for firewood. It's difficult to grow this tree, and many creatures depend on it for their survival, so the church is encouraging tree planting initiatives and encouraging rural communities to use other trees for fuel.'

'Being in Madagascar is to witness an extraordinary mixture of life, from plants and insects to animals and people, everything is interconnected. It's really easy to see how humans have a vital role and responsibility in maintaining the environment.'



Stephanie Mooney, USPAG Regional Manager, with a lemur friend

USPAG: Anglicans in World Mission exists to support the churches of the Anglican Communion as they engage in God's holistic mission. Founded in 1701, we are a major Anglican mission agency focused on sustaining relationships between churches and supporting our partners in growing the church's capacity for mission, particularly through leadership development and health work.

We have moved!

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USPAG/Leah Gordon

The best way to support USPAG

Making a regular monthly donation via direct debit is the best way you can support USPAG's work around the world.

Regular donations mean churches can plan ahead to build their own capacity and find sustainable solutions to transforming the communities they serve, in the certainty of guaranteed support.

<http://www.uspg.org.uk/donate>

USPG appoints new Chief Executive

Janette O'Neill has been appointed Chief Executive of USPG, replacing General Secretary Bishop Michael Doe when he retires this summer.

Since 2000, Mrs O'Neill has been a Senior Programme Officer with Episcopal Relief and Development – the international development arm of the Episcopal Church of the United States.

Born in Wales, Janette is the first woman to take the helm at USPG, and the Society's first non-ordained General Secretary since the early eighteenth century.

She has extensive experience



Janette O'Neill

of working with Anglican Churches in Africa. She helped to set up Hope Africa, the social development programme of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and co-designed the first phase of Nets for Life, a malaria control programme operating through 17 national churches in Africa.

Janette said: 'I am really excited about taking on the leadership of USPG. I have a passion to see people empowered to grasp the abundant life that is offered in Christ – for themselves, their families and their communities. I want USPG to support the world

church as it provides people in vulnerable situations with hope for the future.'

Canon Linda Ali, Chair of USPG's Trustees, said: 'Janette has an excellent academic background and an extensive track record of church mission programmes supporting the life and work of Anglican Churches around the world. She will be a great asset to USPG during these challenging times.'

Janette is married to Derek. They have two sons.

■ To read an in-depth interview with Janette, visit www.uspg.org.uk/janette

NEWS IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: The Church of Pakistan is reaching out to people of all faiths following last year's destructive floods, the country's worst since 1929. Younis Masih, a barber from Tarnab, in Peshawar, lost his house in the floods. Initially, his family had to sleep in the open. Now he is receiving help from the diocese. USPG sent the Church of Pakistan a grant of £5,000 from our Rapid Response Fund. Donations to this special fund came from generous churches and individuals, including the people of Bassenthwaite village, in Cumbria, where local group Travelling Light performed a fundraising concert on the village green.

• Please help us to replenish our Rapid Response Fund. Phone 0845 273 1701 to make a donation.

ZAMBIA: The Diocese of Northern Zambia has set up a farming and literacy project to support women widowed through AIDS.

Programme co-ordinator Esther Kabaso said: 'Zambia has been badly hit by HIV, with many women widowed; some are left with children to support without any means of survival. This project will reach out to women in need of food security and give them a sense of self-reliance.'

USPG has given £2,000 grant towards the project to buy fertilizer, seeds, hoes, books and pens.

BELIZE: Rebuilding is ongoing after Hurricane Richard tore through the centre of Belize last October. One fatality and dozens of injuries were reported after the storm created a 60-mile wide path of destruction, with people losing homes, crops and livelihoods.

Thousands of people took refuge in schools and churches. USPG sent a grant to support the church in its relief efforts.

The Rt Revd Philip Wright, Bishop of Belize, said: 'This district is already poor, but we must be prepared for more hardships in the near future. Thanks for your kind concern, prayers and assistance in helping to get our people back on their feet.'

MADAGASCAR: USPG has sent an emergency grant to the Diocese of Fianrantsoa to help provide relief in the wake of destruction caused by Cyclone Bingiza in February. The grant will provide food and clothing and new roofs for homes and church buildings.

Help us to reach £310,000 in our 310th year

A unique USPG fundraising campaign is being revamped as part of our 310th anniversary celebrations this year.

In 2001, as part of our 300th anniversary, USPG launched the 300 Plus Club. The aim was to encourage committed USPG supporters to each give £300 annually over a three-year period – and, to date, the club has raised a total of £230,000.

Now USPG is 310 years old – so we thought we'd set a new challenge: this year we want our 300 Plus Club fund to reach £310,000!

This means we're inviting our 100 existing members to increase their giving, new members to join, and other supporters to help us reach this target.

We can achieve this if each member of the 300 Plus Club increased their gift this year to £400, and 2,000 more



USPG/Leah Gordon

USPG funded training in sustainable farming for Bishop Saw Stylo

supporters gave just £20 each to the 300 Plus Club fund this year. To help us achieve this target, when you send us your gift please make sure you tell us

it's for the 300 Plus Club fund.

All donations will help local Anglican communities around the world to find practical solutions to the challenges they

face – with a particular emphasis on leadership development and health.

Thanks to this fund, USPG has been able to make a difference in impoverished communities – for example, by providing training for community leaders such as Bishop Stylo, in Myanmar, who went on to introduce income-generation fish farms and sustainable farming methods.

Bishop Bill Down, chair of the 300 Plus Club, said: 'The introduction of the 300 Plus Club was an excellent way of celebrating USPG's tercentenary and it has been a valuable source of support for the world church. It's not healthy, however, to look back constantly. It's time for 300 Plus to be renewed. As a member of the club from the beginning, I am delighted to commend myself afresh to USPG's wonderful work.'

Shock as Zimbabwe churches turned into brothels

USPG is standing by Anglicans in Zimbabwe who have been turned out of their churches – and seen church buildings 'desecrated', with some even turned into brothels.

At the source of the controversy is former bishop and Mugabe-supporter Norbert Kunonga, who was ex-communicated from the Anglican Province of Central Africa (CPCA) in 2007, then set himself up in opposition to the Anglican Church in Harare.

Since then, Kunonga has called on police to prevent worshippers entering churches by using tear gas and threatening violence.

The current Bishop of Harare, former USPG desk officer Chad Gandiya, said: 'We get very, very concerned and angry!'

'The most shocking news from reliable sources that boggles the mind is that two of our churches are being used as

brothels. When we eventually go back, we will have to cleanse all our church buildings. Our sacred space is daily being desecrated.'

According to Zimbabwe website News Day, the Anglican Cathedral in Harare is being used by three private colleges. In Highfield, St Paul's Church is being used as a commercial crèche and a college. In Bindura, St Peter's Church has been turned into a phone shop. In Marondera, St Peter's Church has become a sewing shop.

A court order issued in March 2010 ruled that Anglican buildings should be shared by Kunonga and the Diocese of Harare – but Kunonga ignored the ruling.

But despite these challenges, Bishop Chad said the church was growing.

He explained: 'We continue to be encouraged by the faithfulness and commitment of the people of our diocese

USPG/Leah Gordon



Bishop Chad Gandiya holds a service on the streets of Harare

despite the challenges that they face daily. The church is continuing to grow.'

The Revd Canon Edgar Ruddock, USPG's Director for Leadership Development, said: 'God is certainly teaching the Anglicans in Harare that the "church" is not the buildings, but the people of God. Their

continuing witness is a challenge to us all, and to how we view church in our own countries.'

■ The Church of Zimbabwe is featured in USPG's five-week study course *Growing the Church* – suitable for use throughout the year. Order copies using the form on page 11.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

'This place needs action, not sermons'

The church is reaching out to a poor settlement community

As a small boy, Reginald Makele liked to listen to the grown-ups talking and try to understand what would make their lives happier.

Now an ordained priest in his fourteenth year of ministry, Fr Reginald is still trying to work out how to make people happy – only now he has the inspiration of the gospel and the support of the church to help him.

Based in Morata, a settlement community with a population of 15,000, Fr Reginald admits that his ministry is not easy.

'My work is really tough because it is a squatter settlement and the people face all sorts of problems: domestic violence, child abuse, drug addiction, alcohol-related problems, and 'rascalism' [criminal activity].

'This place needs action, not sermons. The church is providing education and skills training – things that will help people to live better lives.'

Fr Reginald explained that people come to Morata from more rural parts of the country where there is little access to government services. But the hope of a better life rarely materialises. In the settlement the people are mostly unemployed or earning a small income. They have little to do and cannot afford to send their children to school.

Fr Reginald oversees St Aidan's Parish. The congregation is small, but they have embraced Fr Reginald's vision – a three-year



Fr Reginald Makele, with family, in St Aidan's Parish

'focus plan' to reach out to their community. The congregation is mostly made up young people, with no qualified leaders, but they do what they can. There is a crèche on Sundays, and a Mothers' Union that provides counselling for women facing domestic violence and teenagers with unexpected pregnancies.

Fr Reginald explained: 'The people really need tangible development, such as skills training for young people. It is challenging, but I feel that Christ has called me and my family to be here.'

To achieve his goals, Fr Reginald is drawing upon the skills he learned during four years

of training at the USPG-supported Newton Theological College.

'My training was very challenging, but I learned so many things,' he recalled, 'such as setting up a kitchen garden so that I could look after my family in a poor rural parish.'

Becoming a priest has satisfied Fr Reginald's desire to be of service to others. 'I remember when I first heard how Jesus sat with in the temple, listening to big people's stories and asking questions. Ah, I thought, just like me! This scene really sums up my desire to understand more fully what God wants for every individual person to live a good life.'

GHANA

Clinic is saving lives

USPG is helping to rebuild two much-needed rural clinics

John Darkwa, a rural farmer from Apendi, in Ghana's Diocese of Wiawso, has good reason to pay tribute to the USPG-supported Bodi Clinic – it saved his wife's life.

It was late at night when John's wife Diana was hit with a sudden attack of severe stomach cramps – diagnosis unknown.

John recalled: 'I panicked. I had no idea what to do. Even though it was late I ran out into the village shouting for help. Neighbours came to help, but to no avail. We tried all kinds of herbs, but they seemed to make the situation worse.'

'Since my wife's condition was deteriorating badly, we decided to take her to Bodi Clinic, two miles away, carrying her on an improvised wooden stretcher.'

'Thankfully there was a midwife on duty, so she was able to help, and my wife's life was saved. According to the midwife, if we had arrived even 20 minutes later my wife would not have survived.'

John added: 'My greatest respect goes to the clinic and its staff.'

Bodi Clinic, built by the Diocese of Wiawso, undertakes more than 1,000 consultations per month in an impoverished rural area. The clinic is now in disrepair, but a special USPG fund will help pay for a new purpose-built building.

Thirty miles away, in Subiri, St Mark's Clinic, built in 1984, is in an even worse state of repair. USPG's special fund will also provide new facilities here.

The new clinics will mean more success stories, such as the one told by Joyce Bernie, who four years ago was bitten by a snake while farming the fields. Joyce set off for home to treat the bite with herbs, but her condition deteriorated rapidly, with her leg becoming badly swollen.

She recalled: 'Fortunately, a relative found me on the road and quickly carried me on his back to St Mark's. By now my condition was even worse, but the nurse-in-charge knew what to do and I was saved.'

'I am always grateful to God that the clinic was built to save helpless people like me. I give thanks to those who built this clinic.'

■ One of USPG's London Marathon runners has raised money for these clinics – see page 8. Our target is £80,000. Please add to the total by calling USPG today on 0845 273 1701.



St Mark's Clinic, Subiri

TANZANIA

Church is making an impact with solar power

A new business initiative will help the church move towards self-sustainability

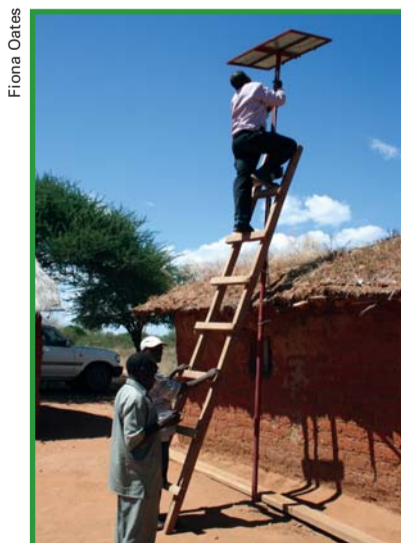
A business initiative being set up by the Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) aims to supply solar power to schools and rural villages – and will hopefully generate a profit to fund mission work.

Entitled *Watu na Nuru* –

meaning People of the Light – the scheme will sell equipment and services including solar adaptors for radios, solar panels for schools and home-owners, solar-powered desk lamps so that students can study at night, and mobile phone chargers.

One key benefit is that solar power is a healthier way to light houses than using smoky kerosene lamps, which are expensive to use and a potential fire hazard.

USPG Mission Companion Martin Canning, who is developing the scheme, said: 'It is rare to find an initiative to benefit so many people and at



Fiona Oates

the same time generate income for the church. I have seen houses, classrooms and dormitories lit by these systems. There is a huge untapped demand.'

The initiative has been set up with a £110,000 charitable loan, which Martin hopes to pay back in three years, with a profit left over to boost church work. The equipment is being supplied by the Australian social enterprise Barefoot Power.

Last year, the Diocese of Ruaha set up a successful pilot scheme, with two shops selling solar products. More shops are due to open in the Dioceses of

Mara, Kagera, South West Tanganyika and Tarime, and an associated charitable scheme is providing solar lighting for pastors' houses.

It is hoped the scheme will inspire entrepreneurs. For example, more than half of Tanzania's adult population has mobile phones, but charging them is expensive and difficult due to erratic electricity supplies. So businesses providing alternative sources of supply for phone-charging and other services should do well – with ACT selling the hardware.

Left: Solar panel installed at the pastor's house in Magozi

MALAWI

Mothers seek escape from sex trade

USPG-supported St Luke's Hospital, in Malosa, is supporting women at risk of HIV

Having never been to school, 27-year-old Ziona was determined that her own children should receive an education and a strong start in life.

However, education is expensive. School uniforms need to be bought for her two youngest children at primary school, and fees must be paid for her eldest child at secondary school. Paying these bills became even more difficult for Ziona when her husband suddenly fled the family home.



Sex workers at an HIV workshop run by St Luke's Hospital

With no education or qualifications, Ziona's options were extremely limited, so she reluctantly started to work as a commercial sex worker in the bars at a nearby trading centre.

Sex work has become the most common form of

employment among girls from her village. Ziona dislikes the trade, but believes she has no other option if she wants to provide a better future for her children.

To make matters more complicated, Ziona is HIV-

positive, and so is her youngest child, aged 5. Both receive treatment at the USPG-supported St Luke's Hospital, in Malosa.

The hospital recently held a two-day workshop for local sex workers to try and find better ways to tackle the complex situation faced by people like Ziona. The women told facilitators that they rarely used condoms because they were difficult to obtain. It also became clear that most of the 30 women at the workshop didn't know how to use condoms, while others said clients preferred not to use them.

The women concluded that they would no longer work without condoms – and at a follow-up meeting they reported sticking to this policy, as well as telling their friends about the issue and distributing condoms. Some of the women even staged a drama in the community to raise awareness of HIV and

condom-use.

At the request of the women, there are now plans for vocational training in the hope that they can acquire alternative means of earning an income.

USPG Mission Companion Dr Susannah Woodd said: 'It has been really gratifying to see these women taking more control of their lives, but they were not the only ones to learn and change. Through the interaction, the staff at St Luke's have become less judgemental and now have a greater respect for these women, recognising them as God's children and equal in his eyes.'

■ Thanks go to Dr Susannah Woodd and Mildred Undulu, at St Luke's, for the information in this article. Ziona is not her real name. Susannah is returning to the UK this summer. Your donations will help ensure a smooth hand over to her colleagues in Malosa. To make a donation, call 0845 273 1701.

BANGLADESH

'I am welcomed with an openness rarely seen in the UK'

USPG Mission Companion Pat Jamison reports on a community health initiative

Increasingly, the prevailing philosophy in nursing is to focus on prevention because early detection is preferable to treating people when they are seriously ill.

Certainly this is the case back home in Northern Ireland, with its well-equipped and up-to-date NHS. But Bangladesh has no NHS, so developing a programme of early diagnosis has been a challenge.

I am based in Jobarpar, a rural region in southern Bangladesh. The people are poor, surviving on subsistence farming and fishing. The nearest health facilities are a 50-minute ride on a *vangarry* [rickshaw-type bicycle] and are very basic: no procedures are offered and, even though the service is free, patients must pay for all medicines, with an administration fee on top.

Fortunately, there is hope. I am working with a community health team set up by the Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme.

Raising awareness is the key to our work. Unlike in Northern



Pat Jamison (right) with a member of the community health team

Ireland, in Bangladesh I can walk freely from house to house, giving advice, handing out information, providing treatment and prescribing medication. No-one has refused to open their door or turned down information. In fact, I am welcomed with an openness and respect that I rarely, if ever, received in the UK. I am seen as a friend, a helper, a healer, someone who brings hope – not as a foreigner, an intruder or a busy body. I am humbled by the graciousness of the people and the kindness they show me and the other nursing staff.

Most villagers live in small

homes and have very little, yet they always find a chair for me and I am offered tea and snacks.

The people I've encountered are keen to learn how they can become healthier and live longer without incurring medical fees they cannot afford. They never tire of hearing similar messages again and again.

I could not do what I am doing without the faith I have in my Lord and Saviour.

■ USPG is a long-term supporter of healthcare run by the Church of Bangladesh. To find out how you can support this work, call 0845 273 1701.

MALAWI

Leadership training included cleaning toilets

USPG funded the Revd Macdonald Banda, from Malawi, to study at the Asian Rural Institute, in Japan

At the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) I encountered a totally different approach to leadership. In fact, it was the first time I'd heard the phrase 'servant leadership'.

I was expecting academic lessons, but instead I found myself cleaning offices, feeding the animals, and cleaning up animal dung. In Malawi these jobs would be done by a lowly paid labourer, but, at ARI, even the director washes dishes and cleans the toilets. I felt so challenged by this experience.

The most important lesson I learned is that actions – not words – are at the heart of servant leadership. We were taught about Jesus' leadership style: not telling others what to do, but leading by example. We learned that being a servant leader means getting your hands dirty.

I learned that effective community development means involving people fully. The church in Malawi has been carrying out many developmental projects, but our approach has been top-down and, as a result, I realised the people don't feel they

own the projects. This is because sometimes we don't listen, so we don't give people what they need.

Back home in Malawi, I have changed. I have been cleaning my dishes, which came as quite a shock to my family!

Even at work, where people carry my bags when I arrive, I say I can do things for myself. I'm trying to teach people that we should do things together.

However, I understand this will take a while. I had to travel miles to Japan to undergo this transformation, so I recognise it will take others some time.

My main challenge is to tackle poverty by teaching people to use organic fertilizer, plant different types of crops throughout the year, and keep chickens and other animals.

I am so grateful for the support of USPG. Without it my diocese could not have afforded to send me to the ARI. I see my training as an investment that will benefit others.



The Revd Macdonald Banda



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£20 can pay for school meals for nursery children in Tanzania.

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USPG/Leah Gordon



How a fundraising event brought a congregation together

Sarah Smith and Fr Brett Ward thought a fundraising event based on the TV show *Come Dine with Me* would just be a bit of fun – they didn't realise the huge impact it was going to have on their congregation.

Entitled *Come Dine with USPG*, the event at Holy Trinity, in Eltham, London, was launched with a Sunday Eucharist and a bring and share meal for the whole church.

The congregation was then encouraged to spend the next three weeks hosting their own

culinary fundraising events.

Sarah explained what happened next: 'There were 20 events, including dinner parties, lunches, coffee mornings and afternoon teas. There was also an after school party attended by 50 parents and children.'

'People said they had been speaking to people in the congregation for the first time – and this was happening across the age gap. The event was bringing people together.'

'One elderly parishioner said the meal he attended was the

best night out he'd had in years – and that scenario repeated itself many times. It was a real coming together.'

Each Sunday, a weekly tally was announced in church – and greeted with applause. Eventually, the church reached a total of £2,553, ranging from £350 at one dinner party to £15 for two friends who enjoyed a cup of tea.

'People have been really buoyed by the way in which the generosity has simply oozed out,' said Sarah.

'At Holy Trinity we are good at hospitality. Eating together is a way of bringing people together – it's an act of fellowship and of prayer – it has a spiritual dimension.'

Fr Brett Ward explained: 'The parish has supported USPG for years. It broadens our vision and helps us to realise that the church is much bigger than our local experience. It puts our own challenges into perspective by emphasising that we belong to a worldwide Communion, not just something that's local

or national.'

He added: '*Come Dine with USPG* gave us an opportunity to take advantage of something we are good at – hospitality – and use it for the kingdom.'

■ Use the coupon on page 11 to order copies of our FREE *Come Dine with USPG* flier, or find ideas and resources at www.uspg.org.uk/comedine

Pictured above: Dining in style! The congregation at Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, London

Church-goers tear up *Transmission!*

Normally we wouldn't approve of people ripping USPG's magazine *Transmission* to shreds – but on this occasion it was in a good cause!

USPG Associate Mission Advisers (AMAs) Tom and Diane Thubron, of All Saints, in Wheatley Hill, near Durham, held a curry dinner night for 30 people to raise funds for USPG.

For an ice-breaker, Diane cut

articles out of *Transmission* magazines and pinned them up on the walls around her home. She then gave her guests a list of questions which they could only answer by finding and reading the articles.

Diane said: 'It went really well. Guests worked in pairs to locate and read a selection of articles – which is more fun than just handing out copies of the magazine. We then had an

answer session that provoked some very useful discussion and questions.'

■ Please send us your fundraising and awareness-raising ideas. We are also looking for keen USPG supporters to become AMAs to promote the work of USPG in the dioceses. For more information, call Steve Chapman on 01142 745 499 or email stevec@uspg.org.uk

Tanzanian bishop spoke with sincerity

All Saints, Margaret Street, London, enjoyed a visit from Bishop Patrick Mwachiko, of Tanzania's Masasi Diocese.

The bishop was in England for meetings and took the opportunity to speak in churches on behalf of USPG.

He explained: 'For me, it is very important to promote the work of USPG. The relationship my diocese has with USPG is one of working together in partnership, supporting each other. And that is the message I want to share with the churches in England.'

'USPG is helping people worldwide, which means supporting USPG will result in changed lives. Indeed, through the healthcare it is funding, USPG is literally saving lives.'

During his time in England, Bishop Patrick spoke at churches in Worcester, Hereford, Cambridge and London.

At All Saints, Bishop Patrick enjoyed a reunion with Jean Castledine, who was a nursing sister with UMCA (now part of USPG) in Masasi in the 1950s and 1960s – helping to train Bishop Patrick, who was then a student nurse.

'It was wonderful to have a visit from Bishop Patrick and his wife Emmy,' said Jean. 'It makes a really big impact to have a speaker from a part of the world church that we are supporting, and to hear how our donations are making a difference.'

'Bishop Patrick spoke with great sincerity. The radiance of his Christian love really came over.'

'What really struck me was that we have so much, and the people in Tanzania have so little, but they seem to make more of their little than we do of our most!'

Marathon runners raise funds

Congratulations go to Noah Evans and Tony Attwood who ran the London Marathon for USPG last month.

Noah, a London-based architecture student who was competing in his first ever marathon, finished in 4 hr 7 min and raised over £500 for rural health clinics in Ghana.

'It was a really good experience,' he said. 'The crowd was amazing. My name was on my running vest and having people shout out your name was really encouraging.'

The Revd Tony Attwood, from Dudley, was running in

his sixth marathon – his fourth for USPG. He finished in 5 hr 58 min and raised over £500 for children's work in Peru.

After finishing the race, Tony dashed back home to complete packing for a new phase in his ministry. Tony is joining USPG Mission Companion Bishop Bill Godfrey in Peru, where he will work as an auxiliary mission priest.

■ Contact Mike Brooks if you would like to run the London Marathon for USPG in 2012. Email mikeb@uspg.org.uk or call 020 7921 2224.



Tony Attwood



Noah Evans

USPG/Mike Brooks

FOCUS ON HIV

Church can do more to combat HIV stigma

A prominent AIDS activist is asking theologians to do more to combat HIV

A new theology of mission is needed if the church is to help combat the stigma that surrounds HIV and AIDS around the world.

So says the Revd Canon Dr Gideon Byamugisha, who was the guest speaker for this year's Bray Lectures, which are organised jointly by USPG and SPCK every two years in honour of our founder, the Revd Thomas Bray.

Canon Gideon is always keen to stress the enormous potential within the church for having a positive impact – but nor does he shy away from the painful truth that the church has often played a part in perpetuating the sense of stigma that exists.

For example, in his lecture, Canon Gideon quoted a UNAIDS report that read: 'Christian theology has, sometimes unintentionally,



USPG/Leah Gordon

HIV training at the USPG-supported Women Workers' Training Centre, Nagalapuram, India

operated in such a way as to reinforce the stigma, and to increase the likelihood of discrimination.'

He added: 'The global church constitutes a community capable of halting, reversing and overcoming the fatal stigma among communities confronting AIDS.'

But then comes the crunch: 'What attracts suspicion is why the victory is taking us so long!'

This is where the theology comes in. Canon Gideon asks: 'Could it be that behind the visible AIDS crisis there remains a permanent stigma because we have not allowed Missio Dei [the mission of God] to bear on

the HIV and AIDS problem, preferring to treat it as either a medical or self-inflicted problem?'

Canon Gideon is no stranger to the stigma that surrounds HIV: in 1992, after losing his wife to the virus, he became the first practising religious leader in Africa to publicly declare

himself HIV-positive. Now Canon Gideon is issuing a wake-up call. He wants theologians to be open to 'constant reconstruction and renewal in the light of new understandings of what God is doing in the world'.

He says theologies of mission need to take more seriously 'the virtue of listening to each other's life stories... accepting dialogue and conversation... and treasuring human solidarity and mutuality'.

Why? Because 'defeating AIDS-related stigma [is achievable] in light of the good news of love, life and justice proclaimed by Jesus. [A] respect for life, health, peace, humanity and God demands that no human being be despised, rejected, abandoned or humiliated by nurture of stigma or discrimination on any basis.'

■ *Church Communities Confronting HIV and AIDS* by the Revd Canon Dr Gideon Byamugisha is out now, published by SPCK.

■ USPG has a DVD and resource pack to help churches that want to support work that tackles HIV. For more information, phone 0845 273 1701 or email enquiries@uspg.org.uk

EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Born HIV-positive, teenager Harriet now lay dying...

An encounter with an HIV-positive teenager had a profound impact on a USPG volunteer in Zambia

Harriet was born HIV-positive and was only 16 when she died. Though she didn't really have a chance, but her life touched so many people – and she had a deep impact on me, writes Adam North, who spent a year in Zambia with USPG's Experience Exchange Programme.

I was in Ndola on a routine hospital visit when I first met her. I saw a sick patient, a stranger. We made small talk – I held her hand and prayed. This lasted just ten minutes. But as I left I started to wonder about this girl who was certain to die in the next few months. What could I do?

The next day I decided to drop into the hospital. Harriet was asleep. I didn't want to

disturb her, but she woke up and gave a wonderful smile. I asked how she was feeling. She said she was fine but in a little pain. I asked if she felt scared and she confided that she did. Finally she opened up and told me about her fears and about the things she would never be able to do or see. She asked if I would visit again, and I promised I would. Then she commented on my prayer book, and I promised I would buy her one.

Later that day I remembered the words of Jesus: 'What you do for the least of these you do for me' – and I realised that Jesus was revealing himself through Harriet.

Early the next day I bought a copy of the prayer book, a magazine and some fruit, and went to see Harriet. Someone had plaited her hair. We looked through the magazine and spoke about how lonely it could be in hospital. I promised I would continue to visit her, and she confided that she felt people had forgotten her. We prayed together and again I had the feeling that Jesus was revealing himself to me.

I continued visiting Harriet until she was moved to Lusaka for specialist treatment, then we

kept in touch by phone. She said it felt good to talk openly about her situation.

As Harriet's condition worsened she was moved to another hospital, but we continued to keep in touch. We even dared to make plans for when she returned to Ndola, though I think we both knew she would never return.

At 10am on Sunday 19

September, Harriet Namonje passed away having never given up hope. She died with an immense faith and trust in Christ, a very brave young woman who touched the lives of everyone who met her.

I am continually grateful for the four months I was able to spend with Harriet. It strikes me that being aware of the certainty of death makes life even more

precious, and reminds us to treasure all the more those people we happen to meet on life's journey.

■ The USPG/Methodist-run Experience Exchange Programme places volunteers from Britain and Ireland with the church overseas for up to 12 months. For details, call Habib Nader on 020 7921 2215 or email habibn@uspg.org.uk



Adam North

Adam North teaching at the Anglican-run Hands of Compassion School

PROJECT 396: BOLLOBHPUR NURSING SCHOOL

Bangladesh nurses pledge before God to live holy lives



Deepa Roy, student nurse at Bollobhpur Hospital

It is the night before their final exams for 18 student nurses at the Preliminary Training School, based at the USPG-supported Bollobhpur Hospital.

Hospital director Sister Gillian Rose is doing her rounds when she passes the school's classroom – and finds all the girls practising bed-making even though it is 11 o'clock at night.

The scene demonstrates the commitment of the students,

many of whom are very poor; for these young women, qualifying in nursing will mean a livelihood and a route out of poverty for them and their families.

Sister Gillian writes: 'The girls all prepared busily for the exams, being eager to pass and wear their first uniforms.'

And there was good news. 'It is good to be able to report that all did well,' said Sister Gillian.

Three weeks later, the new nurses assembled in the local

parish church, next to the hospital, for a simple ceremony.

Sister Gillian described what happened. 'During a short afternoon service, the girls' caps were blessed and placed on their heads. While carrying lighted candles, they made the traditional Nightingale Pledge before God and the congregation, promising to live holy lives and to uphold the standards of nursing.'

She added: 'Please pray that the girls will go on to complete their training successfully and "do something with their lives", as they so often mention in their application letters for training.'

■ More than 60 per cent of Bangladesh's population has no access to health services, and the country has a low number of trained medical staff. By making a regular donation to the work of Bollobhpur Hospital and Bollobhpur Nursing School – both run by the Church of Bangladesh – you will be helping to ensure that impoverished communities can continue to access vital healthcare.

PROJECT 403: ST NICHOLAS' HOME, MALAYSIA

Home provides a safe environment for children

Munira was seven years old when she first arrived at St Nicholas' Home for the Blind, in Penang, Malaysia.

'Her father or brother would bring her on the back of a motorbike,' recalled Viki Helstrip, a long-standing supporter of the home. 'I remember seeing this small figure wearing a very large helmet. She loved her visits and cried when it was time to go.'

Munira is deaf and has very poor sight. Viki recalled that her grandmother was initially sceptical when the family started sending Munira to the home.

'She didn't think it was a good idea, so some of the staff visited to explain why it was to Munira's advantage.

'Then the grandmother started to see how much Munira was enjoying her time at the centre, and saw how she was developing academically and in terms of self-confidence, so she agreed Munira could board at St Nicholas.'

Munira is now 16 years old, having been a boarder at St Nicholas for seven years, occasionally returning to her

family for short holidays.

Viki said: 'She is a bright lively teenager. Because of her deafness her speaking abilities are minimal, but she can show that she enjoys the life around her and always gives visitors a really warm welcome.'

'Her time at St Nicholas' has taught her life skills and has encouraged her to develop social skills within the community.'

St Nicholas mostly cares for children, but there is a chance that Munira might stay on as an assistant on the staff.

'Munira is gentle and caring with the children and is capable of simple duties, such as washing and hanging out clothes, and helping the children at bedtime.'

St Nicholas has been a safe environment for Munira. She enjoys the tasks she is asked to do, loves the company of the other children, and is constantly developing her skills – with her family involved in all decisions.

■ Please support St Nicholas' Home so children like Munira can be given opportunities to develop.

PROJECT B04: NICHOLAS WHEELER IN BRAZIL

Sudden 'outbreak of happiness' was not all it seemed

There was a sudden outbreak of happiness in Cidade de Deus (City of God), one of the most disadvantaged communities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

But all was not what it seemed. The smiling faces on every street corner were grinning out from campaign posters put up by election candidates.

USPG Mission Companion Nicholas Wheeler, priest missionary for the Parish of Christ the King, reported on the election hullabaloo: 'Vans drove up and down the main roads all day long playing campaign songs, and elderly ladies were paid a pittance to stand on street corners distributing leaflets for candidates whose

leaflets they'd never read.'

He added: 'Cynicism about politicians runs deep among Brazilians.'

However, concerned to engage in the election process, Nicholas invited some of the local state candidates to take part in an organised debate in the church.

He reported: 'Five candidates took part, and many who came to listen and ask questions said it was the first time they'd known such a thing to happen in their community.'

Engaging local people in community action is a key priority for Nicholas. In the last issue of *Transmission* we reported on the bible-themed murals that now adorn the



Election posters in the City of God

church's boundary walls.

Another initiative is a church gardening project. Nicholas's assistant pastor Luiz Coelho has converted a disused water tank

into a giant compost bin. Now refuse is being turned into fertilizer for the church garden.

Nicholas commented: 'We're trying to make a small step

forward by demonstrating that much of what we throw away can be recycled.'

'Few visitors to the City of God can fail to be struck by the amount of rubbish in the streets. Many people just never seem to have learned how to care for their environment. Mind you, given that the government forgot this community for 40 years, there wasn't much of an example to follow.'

The church is now planning to install a water butt to harvest rainwater for the church garden.

■ Please show your support for Nicholas Wheeler by using the couple below to start making a regular donation.

USPG PROJECTS SCHEME: REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION

Please use this form to request further information on Projects that are of specific interest to you.

Please send information on Project No. _____

Please send information on Projects in the following categories:

- Healthcare For All
- Building Communities
- Training Leaders
- Caring for Young Lives
- Action on HIV

Please send information on Projects in:

- Africa
- Latin America
- Asia
- Caribbean
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Or name countries: _____

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Please send information by email rather than post (tick box) My email: _____

I am requesting information on behalf of a church/group. Name: _____

Return form to USPG, FREEPOST RRKT-LTLB-LSUS, USPG: Anglicans in World Mission, 200 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YB

COME DINE WITH USPG



Come Dine with USPG

Come Dine with USPG is a fundraising event that is ideal to run at Harvest or at any other time of the year. The idea is for congregations to host a range of food-related events – dinner parties, bring and share meals, barbecues, coffee mornings – your imagination is the limit!



All funds raised will support the mission of USPG's world church partners.

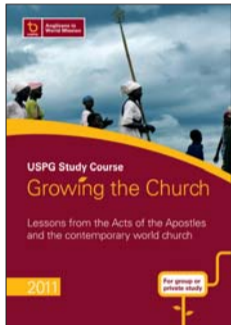
Resources to order

- *Come Dine with USPG* information leaflet
- *Come Dine with USPG* Gift Aid collection envelopes
- *Come Dine with USPG* placemats

Information and resources available at www.uspg.org.uk/comedine

- Invitations for guests
- Poster
- Church worship resources, including sermon notes, liturgy, bible study, all-age talk
- Recipes from the world church

GROWING THE CHURCH



Growing the Church

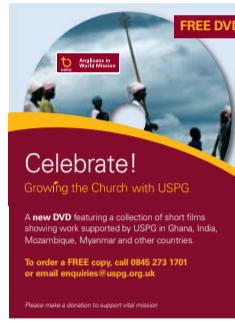
Growing the Church is a five-session study course looking at the mission of the world church today, drawing upon insights from the Acts of the Apostles and the work of the church in India, Japan, Mozambique, Myanmar, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The course can be used at any time of year – and is suitable for group or private study.

The course focuses on five topics:

- Growth in Numbers
- Growth in Depth
- Growth in the Community
- Growth in Generosity
- Growth in Learning

Also available:

- Growing the Church poster
- Collection boxes
- Collection envelopes



Celebrate! Growing the Church with USPG

This new DVD features a collection of short films looking at mission initiatives supported by USPG around the world, including the work of churches in Ghana, India, Mozambique, Myanmar, and more.

Photo exhibition

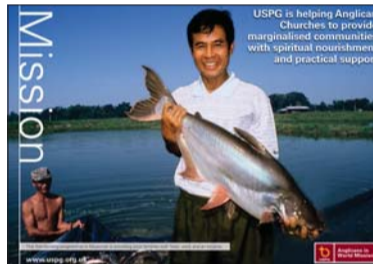
A 12-panel (A3) *Growing the Church* photo exhibition is available for free hire. Call 0845 273 1701.

FREE CHURCH RESOURCES



Mission is an Adventure

A booklet for church congregations introducing the work of USPG. Explains how the Society relates to the world church.



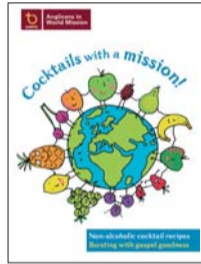
Poster set

A set of five posters highlighting the work of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission.



DVD: Introduction to USPG

An introduction to the work of USPG, with footage shot in Swaziland, Chile, India, Myanmar and Brazil.



Cocktails with a Mission

Host your own non-alcoholic cocktail party for USPG. Hand out our free booklet, containing cocktail recipes and information about the world church.



Action on HIV

Resource pack looking at how the world church is tackling the HIV pandemic, with worship resources, bible study, DVD, PowerPoint and poster.

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- Life-giving Gifts catalogue: Quantity _____

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USPG Annual Conference 2011

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts

Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 June

Come for the whole conference or for our special Day Conference on Tuesday 21 June

Theme: Pushing Boundaries in leadership development and health Talks and seminars exploring new thinking in Anglican global mission

Cost:

- Cost for Tuesday is £25 (includes lunch)
- Cost for three-day conference (20–22 June, lunchtime to lunchtime) is £130 (not sharing), £65 (sharing)
- FREE for those in training for ordained ministry

Special guests:

- The Most Revd Mouneer Anis, Bishop of Egypt
- The Rt Revd Trevor Mwamba, Bishop of Botswana
- The Rt Revd Paul S Sarker, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh
- The Most Revd Maurício Andrade, Primate of Brazil

Further information:

Contact Lyn Samms on 020 7921 2203 or email lyns@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk/events



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Photo: USPG/Leah Gordon

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