

## **Mission Committee Report – APCM 2018**

The full Mission Committee complement consists of nine members plus Rev. John Fry. We currently have one vacancy, which we are advertising to fill. We hold three main meetings per year to consider fund raising activities, but often tuck in an additional meeting in late summer to deal with the planning for Harvest Soup Lunch and Mission Sunday event.

We regularly support the following charities:

Alison and Mozi (Logos Studios, Albania), Pan African Institute of Community Health (Diocese of Aru), The Manna Centre, St. Clare Hospice, Aquabox, Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers, The Box, Epping, Chelmsford, Church Missionary Society, Bible Society, Mercy Ships, Church Army, Operation Christmas Child and Embrace Me.

The receipts from our fund-raising activities are distributed to our chosen charities using a percentage formula, with larger sums being distributed to those charities which have a more limited financial support structure. Last year we raised and distributed a total of £5,847.

Last year's November Soup lunches were very successful, raising £1,238.59. Some of this money helped fund Operation Christmas Child. Cash donations were also received which helped pay for the transportation costs. The rest went to the Manna Centre and Mission to Seafarers.

We have begun 2018 on a positive note with our Lent Soup lunches. These have been very popular, and we are grateful to long-standing and new helpers who have made soups and puddings, helped in the kitchen and generally supported us, not forgetting those of you who come along as customers. These Lunches raised an overall total of £2,318.

Your support has been particularly appreciated this time round. As you know, we lost Vicky Hicks, our Soup Lunch leader, last year. Vicky left St Mary's following the resignation of the Junior Church leader. Vicky is much missed by the Mission Committee, both in committee and in the kitchen.

We also celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight in February, which coincided with our first soup lunch of the season dedicated to promoting Fairtrade products. We are delighted to welcome Marie Cable to the Mission Committee as our Fairtrade representative and are grateful for her hard work and inspiration.

Going forward, we are planning to hand out our Bags for Lives in June, to be brought back in the Autumn. We are inviting a speaker from one of the organisations we support for Mission Sunday later this year and we will be holding our usual Harvest and November Soup lunches.

Due to an unforeseen loss of funding, the PCC agreed at the March meeting to make a special grant of £370 to Alison Kotroci (Logos Studios) on the basis that she is a Link Missionary. This grant will also be made in 2019.

Members of the Mission Committee have enjoyed an active and successful year, supported of course by the PCC and congregation, without whose financial support the Mission Committee could not exist. As chairman, I would like to thank all members of the Mission Committee for their extraordinary devotion to Mission. Their energy is extraordinary.

John Eaton Chairman 1.04.18