

Terms of Reference

Vision

The World Church Team's purpose is to be at the forefront of our church vision of "Loving all in God's world", and to build a heart for all in God's world within all the members of St Paul's. Our objective is to build strong links with mission partners and for everyone to have an understanding of their work. From this we aim to encourage more people to get personally involved with mission, be it locally, elsewhere in the UK, or overseas.

To help achieve our purpose, we have set out the following actions:

- Ensure we are supporting mission partners for a positive reason.
- Encourage strong links between small groups and mission partners.
- Request frequent updates from mission partners.
- Encourage regular visits from mission partners.
- Have continuous prayer interaction across the whole church and mission partners.
- Manage donations to mission, whether long term, short term, overseas or in the UK.
- Provide monthly newsletters, and if necessary extra updates in specific situations.

Reason for these terms of reference

We have produced these terms of reference to ensure that we achieve our objectives and also to ensure that we use the same criteria to make fair, reasonable and Godly decisions. They also exist so that it is clear to everyone who is interested, and in particular the PCC, the basis upon which decisions will be made, and how they can be involved in guiding the team where appropriate.

Funding

Funding for World Church mission exists to support our vision, and so has been woven clearly into these terms of reference. We are taught not to view money as our own but as God's not to use as we wish but as He wishes. Mal 3:10. Our mission therefore is to be good stewards of the money given by the church family to fund our partners and finance other identified needs. We need to ensure that the money available is used to enhance and spread the Word, helps those in need and encourages us all.

In October each year, or as requested by the Treasurer, the chair will give the PCC a proposed budget, agreed by the whole World Church Team, for the following year's expenditure. At the end of each financial year the World Church Team will analyse expenditure for the previous year and will be available to give information on how well the proposed benefits for the expenditure have been realised

The World Church Team

Each person's membership of the team will last for up to 3 years. After that and if the member wishes to continue as part of the team, consideration by the rest of the team will decide whether to renew membership.

Members of the congregation may be invited to join by the existing team or by recommendation of the PCC. Any change or addition in membership will be agreed by a quorum of the team.

A quorum for any decision will be of 4 members

If any vote is tied then the chair will have the deciding vote.

Other people may be invited to attend meeting for specific discussions but will not have a vote.

If any decision involves making donations, whether long term or one off, changing regular donations or cancelling agreements these must be agreed by the PCC before implemented.

The remit of the World Church Team is divided into 4 areas, shown below. Anything that the World Church Team proposes to support will have an identifiable difference achieved as a result of our involvement.

1. Mission Partners

Mission Partners are supported on an on-going basis. We do not expect Mission Partners to be in any regular paid employment.

- It is the team's responsibility to decide how, when and how much support is given to individuals or organisations.
- Support will usually be offered for a term of up to 3 years, with each partnership reviewed during the third year.
- All support will be dependent on the funds being available. If there are not enough funds to support all our mission partners then the World Church Team will decide how to allocate the funds available.

- All existing and prospective partners will be required to explain how our support is helping them to achieve their mission goals.
- If those supported change country, their role or return to the UK then our commitment to them will be reviewed at that time.
- Partners may be based in any country.
- Their work must have a Christian basis. If they are working for an organisation it must be a registered Christian Charity. If they are unsupported by a charity then they must show to the team that their work has a Christian basis.
- Their work doesn't have to be exclusively of mission and may have a technical or specialist aspect. i.e. medical, teaching, food distribution etc.
- They will be expected to speak at St Paul's on all their visits to the UK, unless it is an emergency visit due to sickness or bereavement; ideally speaking to the congregation, to the children and attending a social event to allow the church family to meet with them on a more informal basis.
- They will be encouraged to send regular prayer requests and project information (which could be in the form of newsletters) to the World Church Team. Prayer requests should be provided as often as possible but preferable at least once per month and project updates once per month.
- Normally agreed funds will be paid in two tranches each year however, if currency exchange costs are high the WCT will only pay those effected once per annum.

If an individual is nominated to be a Mission Liaison with a partner, they are expected to:

- Keep in regular contact with the World Church Team, if not a member of the Team they may be invited to attend specific meetings.
- Keep in regular contact with their allocated mission partners.
- Encourage and distribute regular newsletters and Prayer Requests.
- Liaise with any supporting homegroups, keeping them abreast of all information regarding their partners and encouraging regular catch-ups.
- Co-ordinate visits to the UK, liaising with the leadership team for dates and events to take place during the visit. Assist with those events.

2. One off financial support

The team will also take responsibility for any one-off requests and appeals for emergency support. These may be to individuals or charities who are raising funds for a specific emergency situation, or for charities that the Team decide would benefit from funds for a specific project with identifiable purposes. As in 1 above all donations would only go to projects run by Christian individual and organisations.

One off support will be provided on the firm understanding by the recipient that there is no expectation of future support. Whilst it may be that someone receiving one off support will eventually become a Mission Partner, this will only come about if based on a separate and future proposal.

- Any 'one off' suggestions for support provided by individuals should also include literature or web references to the charity proposed.
- All donations should be to fund Christian activities.
- Donations should NEVER be given to overseas governments.
- Applications will be required to detail the benefits that will be gained from the receipt of the funds.
- In all emergency situations the PCC Exec will make a decision on behalf of the PCC.

3. Gap Year Bursary

The Gap Year Bursary exists as a separate fund aimed at young people wanting to participate on a Gap Year activity. Please refer to the separate Terms of Reference for Gap Year Bursaries which has been agreed by the donors and the PCC Exec Team. The nominated member of the World Church Team and the Church Youth Worker will aim to talk to CYFA each year to advise them of the bursary and issue all those interested with a copy of the Terms of Reference and application form. Once a completed form is received the GYB Representative will meet with the rest of the World Church Team, present the application and advise the team of their recommendation. Any requests that are approved by the WCT will be passed to the PCC for confirmation.

4. Special Service Collections

Some special services raise funds for specific purposes. The World Church Team will propose the beneficiaries as well as make suggestions on which services could be allocated for each purpose. Beneficiaries of any collected funds received at Special Services will be allocated following liaison between the WCT and the Incumbent.