

St. Mary's mission news

September 2008

Harvest Sunday 28th September

Feed the hungry

Hunger is a daily reality for millions of people in the developing world. At the moment East Africa is facing a severe food crisis. Tearfund Church Partners are already distributing food and have ongoing projects helping communities to be more resilient in drought.

As a Church we would like to support this work at Harvest this year, to play our part in helping to feed the starving. Please put your donation in a Tearfund envelope, (which you can find with this mission news, in a Church pew or at the back of church). Your donation can be given on any Sunday around Harvest time



Please see www.tearfund.org for more information about their work.

tearfund

"If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness..."

Isaiah 58:10,

The Message .

Help the homeless

This Harvest as a Church we are also aiming to help and bless the homeless and vulnerable here in our local area.

St. Paul's night shelter in Bournemouth, which offers those without homes somewhere to sleep overnight, has asked us to donate men's socks and men's toiletries (soap, shampoo) which they will then give away to those who visit the shelter.

In Ferndown, HYPED/DOORS helps vulnerable young people who would otherwise be homeless. They would appreciate donations of long life foods so that the youngsters can make hot meals. In particular they have requested: tinned meat -(steak, mince, chicken etc , but *no ham/spam type meat please*), tinned veg (but please no baked beans as they have lots of donations of these!) and pasta & pasta sauces.

Why not consider adding one of these items to your weekly shopping list to give away to someone who needs it?

If you do this, please bring it to Church for the Harvest service where we will collect the items and then pass them on to either the night shelter and HYPED/DOORS.

Please do prayerfully consider how you might participate with us in this.

News from our mission partners...

Stephen and Tabita Bell in Bosnia

Since Stephen visited St. Mary's in March good things have been happening. The Dubrava congregation has needed to rent another room because of the steadily increasing congregation size. They have increased their capacity from 85 to over 150!

He asks for prayer for a new church plant in Dugo Selo, near Zagreb "Pray for determination and blessing as we start a new house group and endeavour to open regular Sunday Meetings leading up to Christmas. It will be a big challenge for the Dubrava Christians who only just themselves "got out of their comfort zones" in planting the Dubrava church and leaving their mother church in central Zagreb. Now we have a "somewhat comfortable situation" in Dubrava and we are starting it over again in Dugo Selo! "



Evangelistic House group in Ivana Reka (Monday evenings) Ivan Reka is another town name for you to learn and pray for! Mladen and Zdenka, who were joyously converted in Spring, have equally joyfully opened their home to friends, neighbours and family! Since Josip and I started Christianity Explained courses in June, John has been responsible for visits during the summer. Now up to 13 regularly meet. Please pray for great things to happen. More conversions, growth in ministry gifts for Mladen & Zdenka and who knows, even a dynamic house group in this small town, 4km south of Tabita and me in Sesevete and some 8km from Dubrava?

Michael Green in Salt, Jordan

Since Michael's visit to St. Mary's in February 2008 he has returned to Jordan where he serves with CMS as a triage nurse.

This summer he has taught some first aid courses and been involved with a kids holiday programme. He thanks God for his good health and relationships he



had made locally and asks us to pray for more suitable accommodation, for healing of relationships in his Church and for general encouragement for himself.

News from St. Mary's teams going to:...

Sierra Leone

Nov 7th—Nov 18th 2008

On Nov 7th 5 members of St. Mary's (and Bill Frater from Hampreston Church) fly off to serve in Sierra Leone for 10 days with Mission Direct.

Please pray for Pauline Hobbs, Adele Pirrie, Hannah Hobbs, Tony Thornton, and Dick Stanbrook as they prepare for this trip,

Officially recognised as the poorest country in the world, there are huge needs. Since the war ended in 1999, the country has been struggling to lift itself out of poverty. The United Nations has brought peace and some stability to the country, but for ordinary people life is a daily struggle, with corruption rife and food and goods very expensive.

The team will be helping towards building accommodation for street kids, a rescue and transformation Centre as well as visiting local churches to encourage and bless.



Above: Tony Thornton on a previous visit to Sierra Leone

Below: Debbie and Leah Austin

Durban

July 8th—July 21st 2009

400 young people are off to Durban between 8th and 21st July 2009 in a programme organised by Tearfund and Soul Survivor to show their love for God in practical ways by ministering to people in great need.

A group of 6 young people led by Debbie Austin will be going from St Marys - Nathan West, Rosie Priggen, Leah Austin, Lewis Crutchley, Rachel Edkins and Ollie Chipchase.

We will be supporting the ongoing work of churches and local projects which include serving in preschools, renovating buildings, helping community outreach projects and working with street children. The overall aim

of the project is to show God's

love by providing shelter, family care, education and a future to the people of Durban. To find out more visit the website www.soulinthecitydurban.com.

We have been fundraising for almost a year now and our total stands at just over £5000! We have also secured £250 worth of new sports equipment to take with us. Look out for our ongoing sales of handmade cards and homemade cakes as well as carwashes and a fashion show on 21st November.



The young people also have part time jobs which are helping to finance the mission.

Please pray for

our preparations that enough money will be raised to go.

That God prepares us physically, spiritually and emotionally for this very important work.

That God prepares the people in Durban to receive His love through this mission.

For safety and protection of the group.

MONEY GIVEN

Every quarter 12.5% of what you give to the Church goes directly to support mission activity worldwide. 90% of this is channeled regularly to the societies we have been supporting ; Tearfund, CMS, Bible Society, SAMS, CPAS, Leprosy Mission, Steven Bell.

In August from the remaining 10% St. Mary's gave a donation towards the project in Uganda Simon and Sue Morgan are serving on. We also gave to support Christians in Zimbabwe (via Tearfund) and to the Barnabas fund to support persecuted Christians world wide.

Thank you to everyone who gives to the Church to make this possible!

New at St. Mary's

Starting this Autumn there is a new Mission team at St. Mary's.

God has called his church to reach others for him, to seek to establish his justice on earth, to minister to the poor and needy and to shine his light in the darkness.

The new mission team will be considering varying ways that we at St. Mary's can participate in this call. The team consists of: Ron and Liz Bignell, Mandy Clark, Carolyn Couzens (leader), Judith and Peter Goldie, Simon Partridge, Sue Sanderson, Dick Stanbrook Bob Tedder, Jo White ,and Liz Wood.

If you have ideas for the mission team or are interested in going on a mission trip, please do speak with one of us

IDEA

Why not take some of the prayer requests from the centre pages and use them in your small group this week?

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for Simon and Sue Morgan during their mission trip to Uganda. Please also pray for the on going work of the school as they return home.

Blessing Bin

Did you know that you can give practically to those in need every week at St. Mary's and not just at harvest? At the back of Church, near the entrance door, there is a plastic box labeled 'the Blessing Bin'. Items donated here are regularly shared between St. Paul's night shelter for the homeless in Bournemouth and HYPED/DOORS which helps vulnerable young people in Ferndown. It's a great way for us to practically demonstrate God's love to those who are in difficult situations. Why not regularly add an item to your shopping list in order to bless someone else? (see the harvest appeal for ideas)

Mission prayer meeting

Would you like to meet with others to pray about some of the issues here and other mission related needs? A group meets in the Choir Vestry on the third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 pm for one hour, with a cuppa to follow . The next meetings are Wednesday 15th October and 19th November. You would be very welcome!

Fair trade shop

Another great way to show God's justice and assign his dignity to people is to buy fair trade products. You can do this at the local supermarket or at our own fair trade shop. It will be in the Church hall on Saturday 4th October. and Saturday 1st November

(If there is anyone who would like to join the Fair Trade team and make it possible for people to work on a rota basis, please contact the Parish office or speak with Liz Wood. Thanks).