

# ST MARY'S CHURCH

## Supporting God's mission around the world

God is at work everywhere.

We believe God, by the Holy Spirit is building the Kingdom of God in many ways. Jesus said his work is to bring Good News to the poor, proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free and that the time of the Lord's favour has come. (Luke 4.18-19).

We pray for these for Oxted and seek to join with God in serving our community. We also support others who are called by God to work in other places in many different ways. St Mary's Church are supporting 5 charities whose work is to fulfil the *missio dei* – the mission of God in the world.

The ways we are doing this are:

- donating money from PCC funds to the charities. In 2019 this was £9,500.
- raising awareness of their work within the church
- praying for the work of the charities within services & other church events and encouraging people to pray at other times
- inviting people from the charities to speak at services

If you would like to know more about these charities, look at their websites or for information in church publicity. You can also contact Valerie Adamson, David Cook or me for information.

Let's pray for "Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!"

**Rev. Mark Anderson**



**Their Voice** is an organisation founded on care and compassion for those who have suffered human trafficking and modern slavery. They passionately believe in the dignity and worth of every individual and provide essential practical gifts which are not provided through other sources.

They work in partnership with other agencies and NGOs, to raise awareness of the different forms of modern slavery.

Their Voice was started in 2015 by a social worker volunteering in a safe house for families who had been rescued from human trafficking and modern-day slavery. They make gift-wrapped baskets of essential toiletries, leaving them in the safe house bedrooms together with a hand-written card of welcome and encouragement. Providing basic practical necessities for birth and motherhood for women, who are heavily pregnant and recently rescued from sexual exploitation.

In addition, they now provide children's packs, consisting of a rucksack filled with age-related toys, books and stationery. These are given to every child who arrives at the safe house.

Their work has expanded and now case workers support many families in the community.



**Crosslight Advice** is an independent, community-focused charity working to alleviate poverty caused by problem debt and lack of financial capability.

They have a vision to restore dignity and hope to those in need by reducing debt-poverty and improving financial capability through the provision of free face-to-face advice, money education, and ongoing support.

Their heart is to meet people at their point of need and support them through to full restoration, however long that takes.

Crosslight's five core values are:

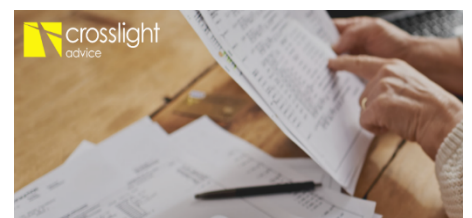
- To help anyone
- to show unconditional love
- to act without judgement
- to be open, honest, and fair
- to empower clients.

Crosslight will:

**Advise:** They provide a full-service, individual, face-to-face, debt advice service.

**Equip:** They provide money education and resources on budgeting and practical day-to-day money management.

**Encourage:** They seek to go beyond advice and will support clients throughout their journey.





## Spark Ministries

Reaching Albanian children, and helping others to do the same.

Spark Ministries (Shkëndije), works in Albania to bring the love of God to the nation's children. We believe very much in becoming a positive part of the communities we are reaching through Spiritual and Practical work.

**Spark Ministries**, led by Rachel Wilson, has been working in Albania since 2000 to bring the love of God to the nation's children.

*All it takes is a spark to ignite a fire in a young person's life.*

It is evangelistic in its emphasis seeking to reach and teach children and to help others to do the same by partnering with local churches.

Their vision is to proclaim Jesus and his teachings to children, seeing them come to know & grow in God.

Their three main objectives:  
Mission/Children's Outreach,  
Training, Equipping

Their on-going projects:

**Splash Van Outreaches** use a converted van and puppets and films to take the Gospel to local villages aiding local churches to pioneer new children's work

**Summer Camps** – running for the last 17 years, are a very popular and effective way of reaching children's hearts. Many children cannot afford the £35 per child cost which we can help subsidise. Volunteers are always valued and training is given.

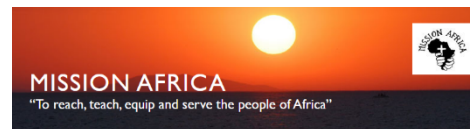


**The Leprosy Mission (TLM)**, is an international Christian charity with 141 years of experience serving a population of 305 million people in around 30 leprosy-affected countries.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty however it is easily cured.

Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin's surface resulting in a loss of sensation. Without the gift of pain, everyday activities are fraught with danger. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability. Due to the inability to detect grit in the eye, blindness is a common consequence of leprosy.

The combination of a disease that has a severely debilitating effect on the body and the stigma surrounding it means a unique and holistic approach is required to care for a person's needs. TLM focuses on the physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs of a leprosy-affected person. It provides housing, water, sanitation, education, training and general welfare. A myth still prevalent in the world today is that leprosy is a curse for something you have done wrong - either recently or in a past life. TLM works to break down stigma and empower people affected by leprosy to stand up for their rights. It has enabled thousands of people to have their lives transformed and to know the love of God.



**Mission Africa**, Uganda was founded in 2001 to bring Christianity to very remote rural areas of Africa and to develop schools, churches and infrastructure to improve the life of impoverished communities. It is supported by 3 trustees in Britain and run by volunteers in Uganda.

Kivule is a small impoverished farming village that was laid waste in the civil war which followed the fall of Idi Amin. In 2013 Mission Africa built a school of four classrooms to accommodate 160 children, using local materials and a borehole was sunk.

Such was the popularity of the school that it expanded and more classrooms were added as well as a kitchen and girl's dormitory to save them having to travel long distances through dangerous territory. The dormitory accommodates 40 older girls in primary 7 with priority being given to the candidate class who have a more intensive programme to enable them to be eligible to progress to secondary school level.

Much of the money initially sent by St. Mary's will fund the building of a wall round the dormitory which is near a road to give extra security and privacy for the girls.

Future donations will be used to fund increased provision of education for poor communities in a Christian setting.



The sheer joy of fresh water!