

# Mission Giving 2025 by St Paul's Church

Report to PCC from the Compassion Subcommittee

## Task

We were asked by Rev'd Imogen to decide how to allocate the 2025 "Mission Fund", of £6K, that is, charitable giving by the church, and to be accountable to the congregation.

## Vision

*Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:32.*

Our mission giving is a core part of our church's witness. It is a tangible, collective expression of our care for the world beyond our own walls, reflecting God's call to love our neighbours, both locally and globally.

It is akin to a biblical tithe: the amount £6000 is 8% of the total amount £75K given to the church by members of the congregation.

Dare we say, it can set an example for our own individual giving.

## Principles

We tried to identify general principles for allocation, while being conscious that there is no such thing as a perfect allocation.

## Who we fund

We decided to prioritize depth of connection and financial necessity over general popularity.

- **St Paul's Connection:** We preferred charities with a meaningful link to the activities, staff, or members of St Paul's. We valued local knowledge and personal advocacy.
- **Mission Alignment:** We wanted giving to link to the Anglican "Marks of Mission".
- **Small & Impactful:** We decided to avoid large, well-known charities that find fundraising relatively easy. Instead, we focused on smaller organizations where St Paul's can estimate the specific impact of the donation.
- **Financial Need:** We wanted to avoid funding charities that hold large reserves relative to their spending (e.g., for this reason we partner with, but do not fund, the Cambridge City Food Bank).

## How we fund

We followed a focused, "less is more" financial strategy.

- **Fewer Recipients, Larger Amounts:** There was strong agreement to reduce the number of beneficiary organizations to provide more meaningful support.

- Standardized "Chunks": Allocations should be made in meaningful blocks (e.g., £500 or £1,000) rather than irregular small amounts.
- Zero-Based Budgeting: Past budgets are set aside. All giving is starting from zero, requiring new justifications from advocates for every item.

## Process

We had an initial in-person discussion during which we decided to recommend that the proceeds from the carol service be split between the Amos Trust Gaza Appeal and the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Subsequently, Emma and Andy met to discuss how to establish a short list of candidate charities and how to decide which candidates to fund and for how much. We then had a group discussion by email and an online group meeting to make the final decision.

During this period the PCC adopted a policy on conflicts of interest and loyalty. It was very helpful to have a written policy. A couple of members had conflicts of interest regarding certain charities, and left the meeting during the discussion of those charities. We observed that merely making a donation to a charity did not constitute a conflict. We decided that having been a trustee of a charity ten years ago did not constitute a conflict.

## Decision

Here is the list of agreed donations.

| Recipient                              | Mark of Mission      | Amount            |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Student Christian Movement             | 1 - Tell             | £ 500.00          |
| Divine Hope Uganda                     | 3 - Tend             | £ 500.00          |
| Hope into Action                       | 3 - Tend             | £ 500.00          |
| Arthur Rank Hospice Cambridge          | 3 - Tend - Cambridge | £ 500.00          |
| Quaker Fuel Poverty Fund @ CAB         | 3 - Tend - Cambridge | £ 500.00          |
| Romsey Mill                            | 3 - Tend - Cambridge | £ 500.00          |
| Cambridge Money Advice Centre          | 3 - Tend - Cambridge | £ 500.00          |
| Parents Circle Family Forum            | 4 - Transform        | £ 500.00          |
| Inclusive Church                       | 4 - Transform        | £ 500.00          |
| Amos Trust Gender & Climate Fellowship | 5 - Treasure         | £ 1,000.00        |
| A Rocha UK (Eco Charity)               | 5 - Treasure         | £ 500.00          |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                      | <b>£ 6,000.00</b> |

We were pleased to obtain a broader spread across the marks of mission than previously. Maybe next year we can find a charity working specifically on the second mark of mission. Also, everyone thought it would be good to involve the congregation more broadly next year in suggesting charities to fund.

Andy Gordon, Chair of the Compassion Committee  
*St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2025*

## Appendix: Description of Recipients

A Rocha UK (Eco Charity) [[A ROCHA UK](#)]

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. We aim to inspire individuals and families, equip churches and church leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people. In the face of accelerating climate change and species loss, we need more than ever to take action to protect and care for nature today.

Amos Trust Gender & Climate Fellowship [[AMOS TRUST](#)]

Inspired by their partners in Nicaragua, Amos Trust's Climate Fellowship supports young women land defenders and climate activists across Mexico and Central America to establish innovative grassroots responses to the impact of climate change that protect their communities and ecosystems.

Arthur Rank Hospice Cambridge [[ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CHARITY](#)]

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity (ARHC) is dedicated to providing specialist palliative care and support to adult patients and their family, friends and carers. All care is provided free of charge, and is offered to people living throughout much of Cambridgeshire. The aim is to enable patients and those close to them to live as fully as possible, and make the most of the time that remains.

Cambridge Money Advice Centre [[Cambridge Money Advice Centre \(MAC\)](#)]

The Cambridge Money Advice Centre was founded as a practical Christian response to the growing problem of debt in our city. Volunteer advisers are trained to provide debt advice and have helped hundreds of people escape the despair of debt and link them to other services that might help them.

Divine Hope Uganda [[Annual report 2024](#)]

Small rural Ugandan charity, registered 2015, founded and run by ex-member of our congregation, Fred Bbosa. In 2024, donated 330 Mother kits to expectant mothers in this rural community of Kiboga district. Kept 31 young people in school, which is not free in Uganda.

Hope into Action [[Hope Into Action UK](#)]

Provision of quality support, including accommodation, to vulnerable individuals. We work mainly with ex-offenders, ex addicts, and the homeless. We work with churches to provide practical support for vulnerable individuals.

Inclusive Church [[THE INCLUSIVE CHURCH NETWORK](#)]

Inclusive church celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate; challenges the church where it continues to discriminate; and believes in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Parents Circle Family Forum [[Parents Circle Family Forum](#)]

The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCCF) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation of over 800 bereaved Palestinians and Israelis, all of whom have lost an immediate family member to the ongoing conflict and who seek to transform their grief and pain into a force for reconciliation, dialogue and peace. Founded in 1995 by a group of Israeli families it has adapted to new realities since 7 October 2023. The charity's educational and public programmes foster empathy, critical thinking and emotional openness, laying the groundwork for mutual recognition, end of the occupation and a just political resolution. The charity is managed by a joint Palestinian-Israeli board and a professional binational team with a vision of a future where both nations live side by side in freedom, dignity and security, and where human connection paves the way for political agreements and lasting peace.

Quaker Fuel Poverty Fund @ CAB [[CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU](#)]

A Quaker group (the EarthQuakers!) encourages Cambridge churches to contribute to a fund administered Cambridge and District Citizens Advice (CDCA) that gives to Cambridge residents how are experiencing fuel poverty. The fund has been running since late 2024, with summary reports issued by CDCA staff.

Romsey Mill [[ROMSEY MILL TRUST](#)]

Romsey Mill's activities, enabling vulnerable and disadvantaged young people children and families to thrive, include intensive 1-to-1 support, early-years care & education, Children's Centre services, parenting courses, work in schools, detached youth work, interest-based group work (e.g. sport, arts, music), training and alternative education, IAG sessions, trips & outdoor residential experiences.

Student Christian Movement [[THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT](#)]

To advance the Christian religion among past and present students of universities, colleges, schools and other institutions of learning. Our vision is of SCM as a generous community, expressing a lived faith in Jesus Christ where social action meets prayerful devotion. We seek to be both a radical voice for equality and justice, and a safe home for progressive Christian students.

## Appendix: Anglican Marks of Mission

- TELL: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- TEACH: To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- TEND: To respond to human need by loving service.
- TRANSFORM: To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- TREASURE: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.