



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Combe Down PCC Missions Policy (2025)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the rationale for the PCC's structure and practice regarding the distribution of funds given by the church family for the promotion of ministry outside the scope of HTCD/STACC¹; otherwise known as 'Mission'.

For clarity, when referring to 'Mission', we define this as covering activities which align with the Five Marks of Mission developed by the Anglican Consultative Council (see Appendix 1). When referring to 'Partners', we mean those individuals or organisations who are supported by the PCC and with whom the PCC has a specified connection, and this is stated between both parties.

Current Position

Combe Down PCC aims to set aside 10% of its income to support Mission beyond the scope of HTCD/STACC. Other designated gifts, including those in response to extraordinary circumstances, such as a humanitarian crisis, increase the amount of money available for distribution. The PCC has set up a Mission Team to administer and advise on the distribution of this money. In addition, their remit is to:

- a) raise the profile of Mission to the church family,
- b) foster a healthy theology of mission for the church,
- c) stimulate prayer and support for our designated Partners,
- d) encourage participation in Mission activities including assigning Partners to home groups for an increased level of prayer and interest,
- e) consider any requests from within the church family for support,
- f) provide regular updates on the usage of funds,
- g) discern the needs going forward, e.g. supporting visits or offering hospitality, and
- h) produce a quarterly prayer letter.

For Partners or Mission workers returning for home leave, the Mission Team may offer or coordinate any practical support for accommodation/travel needs as required or requested. For those returning from overseas or UK work indefinitely, the Mission Team takes responsibility for ensuring transitional care and support is provided for that person, either through their sending mission organisation or in addition to what is already offered them, as needed, e.g. supporting people through an exit interview.

¹ This will typically be outside the boundaries of the parish, but for the sake of clarity, could involve support to a UK mission partner active within the parish but with a ministry distinct from the ministry of HTCD/STACC.

Generally, the Mission Team apportion the available budget on the basis of one third to UK Mission and two thirds to International Mission. Should there be an underspend at financial year end, this is apportioned by the team to Partners according to perceived need.

Selection of Partners

Combe Down PCC is committed to using its resources wisely to maximise impact for God's kingdom.

When determining which Partners to support, the Mission Team will consider both the nature of the relationship between the prospective partner and HTCD/STACC, and the nature of the ministry.

With respect to the nature of the relationship, the Mission team will pay attention to the following:

- Ensuring there is an identified and specific link between either HTCD and/or StACC and the people/project suggested for support.
- Ensuring that the prospective Partner(s) wish to partner with the CDPCC, welcome our prayer and/or financial support, can easily account for the latter when requested, and will communicate regularly.
- Guaranteeing that the prospective Partner(s) demonstrate that they operate within a strong structure of accountability.
- Confirming that the prospective Partner(s) can demonstrate that policies such as Safeguarding, Whistleblowing and Anti-Corruption are in place.

With respect to the nature of the ministry, the Mission team will establish that in some way, the Partner(s) are pursuing one or more of the **Five Marks of Mission** (see Appendix 1 below).

In addition the Mission Team shall assess the ministry of the partner(s) against specific principles for lasting impact.

Principles for lasting impact:

- **Long-term change:** working towards sustainable transformation.
- **Local ownership:** led by those within that context who understand the issues best, giving voice and influence to those who are benefitting.
- **Everyone playing their part:** linking up with others to avoid duplication and to get the whole system working better.
- **Effectiveness:** learning from experience and external best practice and supporting partners that steward their resources well.
- **God's power and love:** motivated and guided by vision from the Father, the example of Jesus and the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

These principles reflect a biblical basis for working with those who are vulnerable and poor and are based on evidenced research in international development and integral mission. We therefore believe that these should be considered as standards for good practice, and although not every partner may demonstrate how these are currently being fulfilled, the Mission team will look for evidence of aspiration to these principles and will actively encourage the partner(s) to embrace them.

The Mission Team will decide on prospective partners and if positive will communicate this to the PCC, along with the proposed nature and level of the support to be provided to the partner(s), which may be a combination of regular financial gifts, occasional financial gifts, and prayer support.

The Mission Team aims to be in regular contact with accepted partners, and in addition will communicate formally with each accepted partner at least once per year (see sample letter at Appendix 2 below) to solicit comprehensive information relating to the partner's ministry, financial situation and other significant developments.

The responses received will be used by the Mission team to review the list of accepted partners and to evaluate the nature and level of support to be provided to the partner. This review shall be at least on an annual basis, and sooner if required due to a change in a partner's circumstances.

The Mission Team will provide an annual report to the PCC based on this information, and in addition will produce regular reports and updates to the PCC regarding partners and their support.

Date: January 2025

Next Review of Policy: Jan 2027

Appendix 1: The Five Marks of Mission

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/mtag-the-5-marks-of-mission.pdf>)

The five marks of mission have been developed by the Anglican Consultative Council since 1984. Since then, they have been widely adopted as an understanding of what contemporary mission is about. The marks were adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996 and many dioceses and other denominations used them as the basis of action plans and creative mission ideas. Some churches abbreviate the five marks to five words: TELL – TEACH – TEND – TRANSFORM – TREASURE. In 2012, the ACC added wording to the fourth mark, to include the need for Christians to challenge violence and work for peace.

The Five Anglican Marks of Mission



Proclaim the
Good News of the
Kingdom.



Teach, nurture,
and baptize new
believers.



Respond to human
need by loving service.



Seek to transform unjust
structures of society, to
challenge violence of every
kind, and to pursue peace
and reconciliation.



Strive to safeguard the
integrity of creation and
sustain and renew the
life of the earth.

Appendix 2: Example of Partner Update Request letter

(to be used as the basis for formal annual communication with existing partners)

Dear Mission Partner,

Happy New Year! We hope this email finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Combe Down PCC Mission Team to thank you for being in touch with us so regularly to update us on your ministry, your financial circumstances and how we could best support you in the coming year.

We have arranged for a Mission Team meeting in early March and we would like to be able to give the team a comprehensive update on your ministry and so we would be grateful if you could send us a report to share at our meeting. It would be helpful if in your report you could answer the following questions:

1. What have been the biggest blessings you have seen this year?
2. What are the biggest challenges you and your ministry have encountered this year?
3. In what ways has our financial support helped you this year?
4. What plans or changes do you have in mind for 2025?
5. What are financial needs and expectations for 2025? Our current level of support for you is xxxx p.a. What would be the impact for you and your ministry if our funding
 - a. Decreased
 - b. Stayed the same
 - c. Increased

(No adjustments to our mission gifts will be confirmed until next year's Mission Team budget has been agreed).

6. How can the church further support you and your ministry in 2025?

In order to be able to share with the team prior to our meeting please could forward your report to me at wg.challis@gmail.com by the end of February.

Please be assured of our on-going prayers for you in your service for God. We look forward to hearing from you.

God bless