



Bringing the gospel and  
demonstrating God's love

Our Mission Partners are  
linked with the following  
organisations

## St John's Mission Partner Update

### August 2020



**CROSSLINKS**

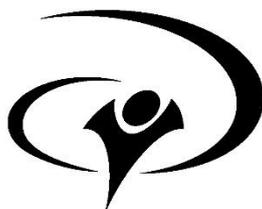
Through the World Outreach Committee (WOC) St John's supports a number of individuals and mission organisations, both at home and overseas, with the aim of bringing the gospel and practically demonstrating God's love to the world.

Each year we commit 10% of our unrestricted voluntary giving for this purpose.

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More information about WOC can be found on the noticeboard in St John's (near the Mattock Lane entrance) and on the church website with links to the organisations. Please do visit the site and read more about who we are supporting;



YOUTH WITH A MISSION

<https://stjohnsealing.org.uk/>

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# Dave and Anne Bookless



Working for A Rocha International and based in Southall.

**Dave & Anne Bookless** have lived in Southall since 1991 and been Mission Partners with CMS, seconded to A Rocha, since 2001.

Dave combines being part-time vicar of St Mary's Norwood Green (between Southall and Osterley Park) with being Director of Theology for A Rocha International, which involves resourcing the worldwide church to understand the biblical call to care for creation.



During the Covid 19 pandemic Dave has worked from home; speaking at major conferences in Taiwan, Egypt, France, Czech Republic, Netherlands and around the UK has been postponed or moved online. He was due to be the main speaker at New Wine Netherlands in July, his contribution was filmed and was online as a virtual conference, potentially with a bigger audience. A Rocha International has been supporting their national organisations: some are in crisis with their income gone, staff laid off and no furlough schemes. Others are doing much better, and some have temporarily moved from wildlife conservation to food distribution and sanitation. The long-term implications are unknown but there will inevitably be a major shake-up for A Rocha. Amid this they are in the process (virtually) of seeking to appoint a new executive director to lead the global A Rocha family forwards.

Anne has had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME since January 2019 that makes her especially vulnerable to infection. She was ordained in summer 2019 and has been working as curate at St Mary's using her motorised wheelchair, but since lockdown she has self-isolated. Whilst she has been active online pastorally and leading worship, her health has fluctuated.

## Prayer Points:

- That the Covid 19 pandemic will not mean that environmental issues are put on the back burner.
- The appointment of a new Executive Director to lead A Rocha International forward.
- That Anne's health will be restored so that she can exercise her ministry more fully.

# YWAM HARPENDEN

## Pauline Curtis

### Working for Youth With A Mission at their base in Harpenden

Pauline has been self isolating during the Covid 19 pandemic. Most people in the Community have been supporting the caring that has been happening in Harpenden and Luton. It has drawn them much closer to a ministry that works to bring restoration in the lives of women caught in prostitution; ready meals have been prepared for the women and their children. Currently they are sewing masks for them, now that the demand for laundry bags for the NHS has stopped.



Naturally all training schools have been cancelled at present but they are hoping to run a Discipleship Training School in September called Impact UK DTS. It is expected that most trainees will be from the UK because of the practicalities. The DTS teaching has been put on U Tube (YWAM Harpenden Life Series) with subjects like Hearing the Voice of God, Nature and Character of God, Missions, etc.

Their Hospitality facilities have been mostly closed but it has given opportunity for some upgrading.

### Prayer Points

- That the people involved in teaching who are undertaking training in using the internet for Schools and Seminars find the training helpful, and that it will enable them to continue their work on-line if face-to-face teaching remains impractical,
- Wisdom in this period of re-opening and the ability to respond to the great need for listening to people's traumas and deep fears and helping them to find the source of comfort and direction.

# John and Gillian Robinson

Working for  
Crosslinks  
in Bangkok



**CROSSLINKS**



They have had a busy time setting up the Learning Centre which opened on 1 July. Already this has made a real impact on the seven students who have started really well despite their own challenging circumstances. The students love coming to learn in a supportive environment and they usually arrive an hour before it starts and go home as late as they can. They are progressing so quickly in the intensive English programme, having learned more than 70 words in the first three days. Learning English will give them such amazing work opportunities in the future. The Learning Centre is open from 8am -4pm.

The discipleship groups have re-started with social distancing measures in place. Recently the clubs and teenage groups returned, although there was a limit of 20 kids in each group, according to government guidelines. They are, of course, taking temperatures, providing masks and hand gel as well as blocking off spaces so that the kids can stay distanced.

The foodbank they run continues to be much appreciated by those who need it in a time of great need in Thailand, as businesses struggle to cope with coronavirus losses and so lay off more staff. Many of the poor live hand to mouth. It is a desperate time. They have been able to give food to the most hungry throughout lockdown so that the local people know that help is there.

John and Gillian write, *“This time of setting up the Learning Centre, in response to God’s clear call to do so, has been a time of many challenges and difficulties and stress ... We cannot yet see the difference that walking daily in the love and knowledge of God will bring to each of the students at the Learning Centre, but we look forward to an even greater time of songs of joy. One of the girls, now a student but not yet in our discipleship programme, wrote at chapel on Friday, ‘I am excited to learn more about God’s love for me’. Please continue to pray for our work to see God bring salvation and love to each of these precious children and their families. ...”*

**Prayer Points:**

- The seven students studying in the Learning Centre.
- Their work to see God bring salvation and love to each of the children and their families.
- For the staff and for the Robinson family - John, Gillian, Joel, Nathalie and Leah

# Organisations receiving support

## Effects of Covid 19

Most of the organisations we support have been working either directly or indirectly to support communities where there is great suffering due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Because of this additional funds have been provided from the WOC budget to the seven organisations we support working overseas: details of these organisations, with links to their websites, are below.

## Organisations working Overseas

**Crosslinks** - has twin priorities of front-line evangelism and the training of bible teachers in over 30 countries - the Robinsons in Thailand are our mission partners working in The Place of Grace. <https://www.crosslinks.org>

John and Gillian Robinson set up the Place of Grace in 2011 in the middle of Bangkok's materially poor communities.

They run children's and teenagers' clubs throughout the week, providing a safe place for children to play, alongside learning about the God who loves them. They also run a foodbank where they pray for the people who come and tell them about God. John and Gillian have seen a number of teenagers become Christians and run a discipleship class for them.

**Compassion** - sponsored child - Anan in Thailand supported by Café Church

*"Nearly 385 million children globally are currently living in extreme poverty.*

*Poverty has a face. It's a girl forced to marry because her family can't support her.*

*A boy sent to work on the rubbish heap, rather than the classroom.*

*From the womb to early adulthood, we stand for children, giving those born into the toughest of circumstances the opportunities they deserve.*

*Our local church partners ensure our support reaches the children who need it most. Together, we provide children with exceptional care in every area of their lives: their minds, bodies and relationships."*

<https://www.compassionuk.org>

**Great Lakes Outreach (GLO)** - in Burundi, transforming communities, raising young leaders and nurturing social enterprises - Simon Guillebaud (international Director for GLO), has spoken at St Johns on several occasions and St John's supported his family for many years as they translated the Bible for Burundi.

*"The Guillebauds have stopped living in Burundi, but continue to run GLO. The needs remain huge with Burundi being labelled the most miserable country in the world, as well as the hungriest. Please do continue to pray for lasting peace, for GLO's projects to continue to have a massive impact, and for Simon's efforts to mobilise further prayer and financial support."*

<https://www.greatlakesoutreach.org>

**TEARfund** - based in Teddington, working in over 50 of the world's poorest countries - with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities. *"We're following Jesus where the need is greatest, working through local churches to unlock people's potential and helping them to discover that the answer to poverty is within themselves. When disasters strike, we respond quickly. We won't stop until poverty stops"*.

Founded by George Hoffman a former Honorary Curate at St John's in 1968.

<https://www.tearfund.org>

**Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)** - uses planes to enable thousands of aid, relief and mission projects in really remote places - Stanley Dakin (former vicar of St John's) and his wife, Judith, were on the Board of MAF and subsequently Judith worked for MAF

*"Our vision is to see 'isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ's name.'*

*Imagine if your community had no roads and little access to the outside world.*

*How would you or your family reach a doctor if you're sick or injured? How can you receive an education or job opportunities? This is the reality for millions of people.*

*Jungles, mountains, swamps, insecurity and a dilapidated infrastructure are all barriers to receiving physical and spiritual care and a hope for the future.*

*Our pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air. With an MAF plane taking off or landing every four minutes, the need is huge. "*

<https://www.maf-uk.org>

### **Open Doors**

A non-denominational mission supporting persecuted Christians in over 60 countries supplying Bibles, training church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief, and supporting Christians who suffer for their faith. Open Doors works to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action among Christians.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

### **Wellfound**

Based in Greenford and previously supported by St James. The founder Howard Measham has spoken at St James.

*"In 2005, Howard Measham witnessed the suffering and hardship faced by disadvantaged communities in Romania due to lack of clean water. This led him to place several of his own properties into a trust – the Measham Family Christian Foundation – solely to support relief work through the provision of clean water. Since then, WellFound has focussed its work in Africa, where the need is equally great. Rental income from the properties in trust now supports all administrative and operational costs in the UK, and also provides match-funding for work in Africa. This allows us to commit to donors that 100% of their money will go towards work in Africa with no deduction for administration or salaries in the UK."*

<https://wellfound.org.uk>

### **Organisations working in the UK**

Area Schools

Ealing Soup Kitchen (Worker for the Homeless)

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

Evangelical Alliance

London Ealing Debt Centre (CAP)



**CROSSLINKS**



**A ROCHA**

*Christians in Conservation*



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