

Mission Support

As part of the PCC's resolve to donate 5% of our regular income to Mission Support and Charities chosen from suggestions to the Congregation, I was asked to summarise in a short report for the next Ministry & Mission Committee meeting, where we stood on this.

In accordance with the PCC's decision, payments were made back in May as follows:

Ray of Hope / Asha Kiran - £2750

SANE - £2750

West London Action for Children - £2750

CARAS - £1375

Safe Passage - £1375

Almost at once, appreciative communications were received from all the Charities. The following is extracted from these letters and emails.

Ray of Hope / Asha Kiran (Website – www.ashakiran.in)

We were warmly thanked and advised that the money will be used for Orthopaedic equipment, especially a C-arm which is an x-ray machine needed by orthopaedic doctors to treat fractures correctly and take other x-rays in the operating theatre. Our sponsor in the congregation is Deepti Prasad and she has advised that the contacts at the Charity maybe visiting London in the Autumn of 2018 (approximately 20 September to 11 October) and plans are being made to invite them to St Anne's to meet the congregation.

In the course of making the payment to an overseas charity, Michaela Brug, our Treasurer, and I discovered we had to visit Barclays Bank in Richmond in person, as two authorised signatories of the Church Barclays Bank account and effect the payment that way. The Charity kindly supplied us with all the codes and data we needed. The payment could not be effected by Barclays Online as it was an overseas payment to a foreign country and converted to a foreign currency as we have dual signatures, our Bank's software could not allow us to.

SANE (Website – www.sane.org.uk)

We were warmly thanked and advised that our kind donation will allow those affected by mental illness to receive the crucial support that they deserve. Our contribution will go towards continuing our vital services, helping the thousands of individuals who turn to SANE in desperate need of personal emotional support. The impact that SANE's services can have on people's lives is described by Sara, who explains what the charity's help has meant to her:

"To me, finding SANE was a lifeline. It changed everything for me, and allowed me a space to connect to others who understood, and who had experienced the inexplicable and overbearing inner pain that I too was feeling."

The Charity is sending us a report in August 2018, indicating specifically how St Anne's donation will be spent. SANE receives no government grants or funding, and so relies entirely on voluntary income.

West London Action for Children (Website – www.wlac.org.uk)

We were warmly thanked and advised that our donation endorses all they do and our support will help the Charity grow and improve their services of vulnerable families in the community. They felt grateful to be chosen as one of our nominated Charities.

In 2017, WLAC celebrated its centenary. Their work is with individuals, families, children and schools. Their core service is 1:1 counselling and parenting groups, expanding self-esteem raising (Mighty Me) groups for children at local primary schools. Facilitated by experienced therapists, this programme is a powerful form of early intervention. WLAC help children learn how to react more positively to challenging situations and cope better with life's difficulties, providing them with a "tool box" for life.

CARAS (Website – www.caras.org.uk)

We were warmly thanked – we have a longstanding relationship with CARAS through St Anne's Social Justice Forum and Elly Brown the Managing Director knows our congregation well. Recent successes include expansion of their women's group – doubling the provision. The knock-on effect has been a corresponding change in people's confidence and friendships. Young people shared their experiences with an All Party Parliamentary Group in the Houses of Parliament. A variety of creative projects embrace a march for diversity, a photography project about identity, last but by no means least: women's yoga. Our sponsor in the congregation is Claudine McCreadie and there is a dialogue between Elly and Claudine to further engage with St Anne's.

SAFE PASSAGE (Website – www.safepassage.org.uk)

We were warmly thanked and advised that as a result the Charity can continue to give much needed help and support to vulnerable refugee children and helping them to be reunited with family members. As it is they are extremely stretched and our donation is valued.

In 2018, the Charity has made some major breakthroughs in their work supporting unaccompanied children in France, Italy, Greece and more widely across Europe and the world to be reunited with their families. In January, after two years of campaigning and legal work by Safe Passage and partners, President Macron and Prime Minister Theresa May announced that they would reduce the waiting time for the family reunion process to 25 days for children and 30 days for adults. The Government also announced that the cut-off date for children to be eligible to travel under the Dubs Scheme would be changed to include those arriving in Europe before 19/1/18: this will result in many more children can be brought to safety. Building on these and other achievements this year may finally see an end to children dying to reach their loved ones.

Tina Ruygrok – July 2018