

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM USPG - ANGLICAN MISSION AGENCY

Revive

VOLUME 1 | AUTUMN 2023



USPG⁺
PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

Triangle of Hope

- + New programme in Episcopal Province of Jerusalem & Middle East + Update on Ukraine Appeal
- + The team bringing USPG's vision to life

WELCOME TO REVIVE

Your new look, newly named USPG Magazine!

CONTENTS

+ What's been going on?	04
+ Triangle of Hope	06
+ The Team: Bringing USPG's vision to life	08
+ Whom shall I send?	10
+ Justice and the Church?	12
+ The Sacred Circle	14
+ FeAST	15
+ From Despair to Hope	16
+ One more step along the road we go...	18
+ Harvest Appeal	19
+ Set my people free	20
+ Directors cut	22
+ Upcoming Events	23

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USPG – 5 Trinity Street, London, SE1 1DB
0207 921 2200
www.uspg.org.uk

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Editor: Rachael Anderson Sub-Editor: Rachel Weller
communications@uspg.org.uk

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I know many of our loyal supporters have been patiently waiting as we build up capacity within our communications team to receive this publication – formerly known as koinonia.



When I undertook my role as Senior Communications and Engagement Manager at USPG, I did so understanding that we need to make sure that we are continually moving forward. Embedding our place in this ever-changing world whilst also respecting our history. Therefore, we decided that with this new edition of our magazine, it was also time to give it a refresh and a brand-new name.

Revive is a name that we think suits this magazine for many reasons – we want to reflect the new strength and energy of USPG in this magazine (and communications in general at USPG). Alongside this, we want to strengthen interest in our work throughout the world.

This magazine will aim to keep you informed on USPG, what changes have been happening, what we are working on and highlight ways in which you can get involved and support us. I hope you will enjoy reading this first edition and feel revived in your passion towards USPG.

Feel free to drop me a note if you wish to get in touch – I would love to hear from you.

Rachael Anderson
Editor, Revive
Senior Communications and Engagement Manager

Welcome to Revive. Named to capture of the spirit and energy of life at USPG. You will quickly notice – it's all about people – and all about making the connections that inspire and help bring about change in our world.

In the following pages you will read of FeAST, our new theological network seeking to 'jumpstart the future', of a new leadership programme for young people in Jerusalem and of the Sacred Circle meeting of indigenous peoples on the banks of Lake Couchiching, Ontario.

In 2022 we witnessed the largest refugee crisis in Europe for many decades and here you will find updates on the impressive work of the chaplaincies in the Diocese of Europe supporting refugees from Ukraine. The forced movement of people was also the focus of International Consultation, which drew senior leaders from across the Communion to Tanzania to consider how churches can work together to tackle human trafficking.

Outreach and engagement – globally and within the UK - is critical, but so too is hospitality. We have been delighted to welcome to the USPG offices many visitors including USPG volunteers, pilgrims from the Triangle of Hope and delegations from across the globe.

As I reflect on the following pages, I am reminded by the sheer range of activities that we at USPG have the privilege to be engaged in – and the inspiration we all draw from our relationships, locally and globally. So, I hope these stories will be an encouragement to you in your Christian journey – that you will feel revived.

Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Rev'd Davidson Solanki and Dr Paulo Ueti from the USPG Global Mission Team recently helped facilitate the Asian Theological Academy review in Sri Lanka, (pictured with the members of the governing board and the wider group). They then went on to the Asia Theological Consultation in Negombo, Sri Lanka. USPG organised the consultation in collaboration with the Church of Ceylon, Diocese of Colombo to bring together Principals/Deans of Theological seminaries from across Asia in order to explore collaboration and discern common challenges.



Cyclone Mocha crossed the coast between Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh and Sittwe, Myanmar in the afternoon of Sunday 14th May. It was one of the strongest cyclones ever recorded in Myanmar. Storms like Cyclone Mocha are becoming more regular and intense because of the climate crisis. USPG was able to liaise directly with our partner, the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) and released emergency funds to support the relief effort.

On Saturday, 13th May 2023, USPG's Rev'd Davidson Solanki and Ife Olowoniyi attended the installation of Archbishop Hosam Naooum as the Primate and President Bishop of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. It was a great blessing and privilege for USPG to be able to express our solidarity with our partner through our presence at this key event. (Read more about our exciting new programme of work there on pg. 10-11)

On Wednesday 26th July, Archbishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa, visited the USPG office to meet with staff and share updates and reflections from the West Africa region.



The Rt. Rev'd Dr Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta Diocese, Church of North India visited the USPG office on 12th July along with Diocesan officials. The purpose of the visit was to deepen relationships and explore new partnerships. Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor, Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar and Rev'd Davidson Solanki from USPG met with the delegation.



A team from USPG including our wonderful volunteer Helen Dawe attended General Synod at York in July 2023. Alongside the important conversations and networking we were able to have from our stand, we also held two fringe events. The first was with the Diocese in Europe as we updated Synod members on Ukraine a year after our joint appeal (see pg. 16 -17 for an update). We also ran a second fringe event in partnership with Christian Aid as we explored how global Church links worldwide can support climate justice.



Our team of staff and volunteers enjoyed being a part of the Big Church Festival this year and enjoyed meeting many people who stopped by the stand to say "hello". It was a great opportunity to talk to people who did not already know about USPG.

USPG were also present as our friend the Rt. Reverend John Perumbalath was installed as Bishop of Liverpool in April and as Rev'd Canon Smitha Prasadam became Bishop of Huddersfield in July. Join us in praying for God's continued guidance, grace and blessings in these next chapters of their ministry.

FOR USPG NEWS AS IT HAPPENS, DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US @USPGGLOBAL



FEATURE

TRIANGLE OF HOPE

By Rachel Weller



Triangle of Hope Pilgrims gather in USPG's Chapel

The USPG office in London was overtaken on the afternoon of the 25th of July as we squeezed over thirty young people into our chapel to celebrate the beginning of the Triangle of Hope pilgrimage.

Triangle of Hope is a project coordinated by the Diocese of Liverpool (UK), Kumasi (Ghana), and the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia (USA). The three participating dioceses were historically involved in the triangular, transatlantic slave trade and in response, the project aims to "[transform] the long history, ongoing effects and continuing presence of slavery in our world through repentance, reconciliation and mission".

The pilgrims had already had an early start – travelling to Kent to meet with the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury, so that he could bless them at the start of their important journey together.



Father Kessie and Albert from the Diocese of Kumasi with Venetia Asare (USPG)

Later, at the USPG office, Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Theologian & Director of Global Mission, praised the Triangle of Hope's wholehearted commitment to advocate for justice and freedom – adding how it's a reflection of both USPG's values and God's calling. There was then time for staff and the delegates to break bread and time to chat together.

One of the most common questions that we asked the young people was – "What motivated you to take part?", some responses included:

"When I started looking at this, I realised there's so much of history that I don't know. Hearing from people is an important thing."

"The reason why we're all here gathered is so that we don't forget history. Even though it was bad, there is good we can learn from it. We can do better, and we can work to prevent that from happening again."



Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrims from the Diocese of Liverpool

The opportunity to travel was also mentioned as an exciting, albeit initially daunting, aspect of the programme for the students. Their accompanying leaders (both clergy and laity) also spoke about the life-giving effect of being surrounded by young people who want to face the traumas of history and work for a better future.

Leaving the USPG offices, the pilgrims then went on to complete a ten-day study programme in Liverpool: visiting churches, exploring the city and connecting with one another. Next year, the group will visit Virginia, USA before completing the three year programme in Kumasi, Ghana.

The dedication from the pilgrims to not ignore the complexities and difficulties of the past but to face them and then work together in hope for the future is a great inspiration to us all and we look forward to continuing to support and work with the Triangle of Hope.

Join us as we pray and wish the pilgrims well on this profound and transformative journey.

"We are gathered so we don't forget history"

THE TEAM BRINGING US

2023 has been an exciting year of development for USPG as many new people have caught the vision to partner with the global church in God's mission to enliven faith and champion justice.

Here's a reminder of our senior staff:

General Secretary: The Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor
Theologian and Director of Global Mission: Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar
Director of Finance and Operations: Vijay Christian
Director of Communications, Engagement and Fundraising: Atim Henshaw

Meet the new faces who have joined USPG since the beginning of 2023.



Director of Communications, Engagement and Fundraising:

Atim Henshaw

Atim has over ten years' of experience in the INGO sector – with previous roles at World Vision International, Medair UK, Christian Aid and Street Child in various communications,

fundraising and marketing teams. As CEF Director, Atim is looking forward to applying her skills and knowledge to raise the profile of USPG. You can find out more about Atim on pg. 22.



Senior Communications and Engagement Manager:

Rachael Anderson

Rachael brings a wealth of experience in the Church of England and Anglican Communion through her previous roles as Engagement

Manager for the Trussell Trust and Digital Communications and Events Manager for Mothers' Union. In her new role at USPG, Rachael heads up our Communications and Engagement team including media, publications, and all promotion of USPG to external audiences.



Digital Communications Officer:

Rachel Weller

The other Rachel in the Communications team is a recent modern language graduate. As our Digital Communications Officer, she makes sure that you hear

about real-life stories of hope and transformation from around the global church. We have been thrilled to have so much positive feedback already on how good our social channels have been looking since she started.

USPG'S VISION TO LIFE



**Individual Giving Officer:
Jessica Homawoo**

As a Marketing Communications graduate, Jessica is excited to mix her creativity and strategic thinking to engage with USPG's supporters. She will be working within

the fundraising team supporting our appeals and the supporter-giving journey.



Regional Manager for Europe and Oceania: Ella Sibley

Moving from project manager for the Methodist Church in Britain, Ella brings experience developing missional projects for young adults, climate action and refugee hospitality.

In her new role, Ella will be accompanying churches across Europe and Oceania, including in Britain and Ireland, as they engage God's mission and champion justice in their communities.



Regional Manager for the Americas and the Caribbean: Dr Paulo Ueti

Coming from the regional offices of the Anglican Alliance where he works part-time as a regional facilitator, Paulo became Regional Manager for the Americas

and the Caribbean for USPG on a part-time basis at the beginning of the year. He is responsible for strengthening USPG's relationship with global Anglican Church partners in these regions, putting the goal of mutual transformational mission at the heart of the encounter. He also works with Peniel concerning matters of theology across the Communion.



Regional Programme Coordinator: Africa, the Americas & the Caribbean: Venetia Asare

Venetia previously worked as a Programmes and Communications Officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs in Ghana. Alongside Fran and

Paulo, she is now responsible for strengthening USPG's relationship with global Anglican Church partners across Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean.

WHOM SHALL I SEND?

USPG PROGRAMME

Rev'd Davidson Solanki tells us about our partner, the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem & Middle East's new youth programme recently launched in Jerusalem.

In May I had the honour of attending the installation of Archbishop Hosam Naoum as the Primate and President Bishop of the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. It was a joyous occasion as we celebrated this new chapter of the life of The Church.

Alongside the installation, we were there to start our accompaniment of a new programme that they have launched supporting the training of young people for mission in the project. *"Whom Shall I Send"* seeks to tackle the gaps in leadership and to support the mission of the province.

The Province of Jerusalem & Middle East has three Dioceses namely, Diocese of Jerusalem, Diocese of Cyprus & Gulf and Diocese of Iran. The importance of context is something that must be understood by church leaders to minister effectively and sensitively in their parishes. The province therefore recognises the importance of investing in its future leaders and equipping young people from the region for mission.

For the past two years, USPG has been working with the province listening, and discerning their needs and desires for the future and how

best we can accompany and support them on this journey. *Whom Shall I Send* is the result of this time of reflection.

The training programme is structured to equip lay and ordained for mission in local churches alongside parish priests. Training will predominantly be practical workshops so that the beauty around the complexities of the area they will be working in can be understood and their worship and fellowship can support their mission. Given the local context, there will be a focus on justice, climate change and persecution.

The facilitators of the programme and all those involved including myself have been very clear that we are approaching this humbly making sure that we are willing to listen and learn from all sides. It has been supported by Archbishop Naoum who has stated that he fully supports the project and is passionate about this work for young people.

The hope for us all is that there will be longevity for the programme, and it will be adapted as an important part of the work of the province. We hope to be able to see emerging leaders engaging with local churches – really listening to their needs and those of their communities.

We have been able to support them practically, technically, and financially as the project has been scoped out and set up. As I write this article for



The first cohort start their youth training for mission

By Rev'd Davidson Solanki

USPG has been working with the province talking, listening, and discerning their needs and desires for the future

you (in August) the first cohort of students have begun their training. They have met over a four-day period, and it has been wonderful to hear reports of the energy and excitement there has been in the room to carry out God's work through mission.

We will of course keep you updated with progress, and we will hopefully be able to share stories and testimonies of the future leaders who are taking part in the programme. Until then I ask you to please pray for the programme, for the facilitators, The Episcopal Province of Jerusalem, and their Archbishop Hosam. This is such an innovative and encouraging theological education programme for them to be undertaking and we are honoured to be accompanying them on this journey.



Ife and Davidson with Archbishop Hosam Naoum at his installation in May



Training underway

TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON THE PROJECT MAKE SURE YOU ARE FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @USPGGLOBAL

*"When we take that bold step
to pursue God's justice,
the world will notice"*

Bishop-elect Rev'd Canon Smitha Prasadam

Rachael Anderson reports back on the 2023 USPG Conference

JUSTICE AND

Back in June, the Yarnfield Conference Centre in Stafford was taken over by a sea of bright pink as USPG staff, supporters and invited guests descended for the annual USPG Conference 2023. Over 60 delegates joined together over two days to tackle “Justice and the Church?” the theme of this year’s event as we looked to understand what justice means throughout the Anglican world.

We explored questions such as:

- What does justice mean?
- How might we recognise it?
- Where as Christians and the Church, are we falling short?
- How do we seek God’s justice on earth for all, whilst acknowledging the huge diversity within our church and communities?

“The annual USPG conference in Staffordshire was spiritually refreshing”

– delegate

We were honoured to be led in a Bible study each morning by the then-bishop elect of Huddersfield Rev’d Canon Smitha Prasadam whose outward-looking faith shone through as she tackled the subject of justice. We studied verses such as Matthew 23:15-24 and Deuteronomy 16:18-20 as we considered questions such as how do we ensure gender justice and race equity in church? Her sessions certainly were spiritually refreshing whilst challenging us on how we turn what we read in the scriptures into real action.

“God rages against the systems of injustice” was the bold statement that Professor Sarojini Nader spoke about throughout her keynote speech where she was able to share her own and other people’s lived experiences of injustice within The Church and religious institutions. I found myself

really called to action as she spoke and she challenged me to reflect on what it means to think about gender and race and how the Church can be institutionalised so much that it struggles to realise the inequalities it is perpetuating.

There were a couple of workshop sessions within the conference, where delegates were able to delve deeper into the subjects of race, gender and climate justice. These were the moments as a member of staff when I had to spend time doing admin and organisational tasks so I will leave it to the delegates to tell you what they thought:

“I liked the workshops. They were very good when I sat back and analysed them putting together what was said in the Bible Studies and two keynotes”.

“The gender workshop was absolutely excellent. Probably the best workshop I have ever attended”.

On the second day, Rev’d Dr Al Barret, our second keynote speaker spoke on Saturday where he discussed “Have we got time for justice”. I found his talk so interesting as he spoke to us about rewinding the five marks of mission. He also spoke about the concept that when times are urgent we must slow down – something that I had never really considered. When looking at themes around justice everything can feel so behind, and that we have so much to do we need to act quickly – but have we stopped and listened, attended to wounds and considered what we need to do to nurture the future? It was thought-provoking.

We really did have to confront and discuss some big subject matters at the conference so it was good that we had time together for fellowship and worship. I particularly enjoyed the evening prayer led by Triangle of Hope (find out more about them on pg. 6-7).

This was my first USPG conference and it was fantastic to have the opportunity to meet so many of our dedicated supporters and trustees as well as people who were encountering the organisation for the first time. Our time together in fellowship was thought-provoking and energising and it was great to hear back from those attending on how helpful and fulfilling they found the event. We are about to kick off planning for next year’s conference so keep your eye out for when we announce 2024’s dates – we’d love you to join us!

THE CHURCH?



THE SACRED CIRCLE

By Rachel Weller with thanks
to Dr Paulo Ueti

In the early morning of the first day of the Sacred Circle, a fire was lit.

It was here, on the banks of Lake Couchiching in Ontario, Canada that the Sacred Circle had gathered once more. Amongst the number this year were local partners of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Marinez Bassotto, Primate of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil, as well as Archbishop Don Tamihere (Pihopa o Aotearoa) of the Māori strand of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. All had come to the 4-day event to learn, share and partner with the Indigenous community of Canada.

For Archbishop Don (Pihopa o Aotearoa), this fellowship was deeply special: "As Anglican Indigenous peoples in colonised lands we have much in common, face many of the same challenges, and contain the same incredible Gospel potential. Our visit was purposed to renew all those connections, to remind each other that we are not alone but remain part of the same global Anglican Indigenous family."

Around the Sacred Circle, many shared some of the challenges they face. For centuries, European colonial exploits have been branded as conquests, and their legacies ignore the emotional and spiritual dislocation caused to local people who first occupied and stewarded the land. Tragically, the resulting generational trauma is reflected in high rates of depression, low access to opportunity and, worst of all, suicide rates amongst First Nations communities that total twice the Canadian average. A story not too dissimilar in Brazil and the Pacific. Whilst formal apologies from church leaders regarding the historic abuse and neglect of Indigenous peoples have been welcomed, conversations – be they around a fire or a table – are productive spaces of partnership and learning.

The Anglican Church of Canada has demonstrated a clear commitment to ensure that the voices, histories and perspectives of Indigenous communities are heard and respected within the Church. From this flows the engagement of Indigenous elders and theologians in decolonising the church's theology, liturgy, music, artwork and governance structures. For example, Indigenous theology speaks powerfully against the colonial narrative of dominating land. For the Sacred Circle, all land, waters and people, are seen as relatives – who all owe their existence to the Creator God of the Bible. As a result, in the place of dominance, there is stewardship. Instead of consumption, preservation. A similar message was conveyed by Archbishop Marinez from Amazonia (IEAB - The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil) who shared how much Indigenous peoples must teach the whole church about the need to "manage and take care of creation" (Gen 2:15). At a time of a climate crisis, non-indigenous Christians have lots to learn from this commitment.

It is therefore essential to partner with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, our "relatives", and walk, listen and witness to the same unifying gospel. Just like Archbishop Linda Nicholls of the Anglican Church of Canada, may we say of the Sacred Circle: *"The rest of the church needs you"*.

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SACRED CIRCLE HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.ANGLICAN.CA/IM/](https://www.anglican.ca/im/)

FeAST



Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar

Rev'd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar tells us about the new theological initiative from USPG.

What is FeAST?

FeAST - the Fellowship of Anglican Scholars of Theology is an initiative of USPG to strengthen theological education and research across the Anglican Communion and beyond. It is a platform to facilitate encounters between scholars worldwide and exchange of theological scholarship, paying particular attention to the unequal access to opportunities that mark the global theological world.

Why is FeAST important?

FeAST was born out of a recognition that the theological world we share is marked by boundless riches, but also built on, and continues to be bound by historical imbalances in power. These imbalances include: a lack of opportunities for networking, academic publishing, and participation in global academic forums. Furthermore, theologies that are unconventional both in their method and content continue to be marginalised within 'mainstream' theological knowledge which has for long accorded normative status to certain theologies. This prevents a holistic cross-fertilisation of theologies and the fostering of genuinely global perspectives in theology.

What does FeAST aim to do?

Committed to addressing these challenges FeAST seeks to:

- Build a platform for discussion and dissemination of current theological research.
- Forge 'academic solidarities' through mutual mentoring and support.

- Open opportunities for the sharing of resources and possibilities for collaboration that is intentional about overcoming the 'opportunities divide' that affects theological scholarship.

We seek to do the above by hosting a regular online forum, creating a programme of publications and organising an annual conference for building up a global community of scholars.

Our ultimate aim is to resource the Anglican Communion in the vocation of theological research and education where we build each other up in the vocation of 'doing theology'.

The overall vision for FeAST is 'anticipatory' in nature, which can be interpreted as 'jumpstarting the future', by foreseeing a future where the content of theological research and publications is characterised by greater diversity and robust sharing, and creators are diversified. Therefore, our attempt is to foster those opportunities that can help us embrace this future vision steadfast in faith, sustained by hope, and inspired by love – which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col. 3:14).

Find out more and get involved here: www.uspg.org.uk/get-involved/feast

"The overall vision for FeAST is 'anticipatory' in nature, which can be interpreted as 'jumpstarting the future'"

FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

FEATURE

The Diocese in Europe and USPG's joint response to the crisis in Ukraine

In February 2022, as the world watched on as conflict escalated in Ukraine, the Diocese in Europe and USPG joined together to support those affected. The response from our wonderful USPG supporters, people within the Anglican Communion and beyond was fast-paced and generous. We were so blessed with donations of over £400,000 – with generous support still coming in nearly eighteen months later.

Because of our partnership with the Diocese of Europe and their unique community links on the ground, we were able to mobilise quickly ensuring that we were able to fund projects and initiatives that helped the displaced Ukrainian communities. For us to be able to respond in the best way possible, we have worked ecumenically, building partnerships with both the Catholic mission agency, Caritas and the Lutheran World Federation. We have contributed approximately £100,000 of the amount raised to support the vital work their churches are running on the ground.

This appeal continues to fund chaplaincies across Europe as well as numerous projects and initiatives that support Ukrainian refugees.



Slovakia: a volunteer greets a little girl who has just arrived as a refugee from Ukraine.
Photo credit: LWF/Albin Hillert

SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF THE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE APPEAL!

Ukraine

Christina Laschenko, Churchwarden of Christ Church in Kyiv, Ukraine

“Our small Anglican congregation in Kyiv has shrunk to 10 people who attend bi-weekly prayers and services in the premises of the Lutheran church in Kyiv. We pray and give hope to all people around us who require physical and material help, human support and spiritual encouragement.”

Budapest

Ukrainian Space offers schooling in Ukrainian to about 20 children between the ages of 8 and 16. The project has also been providing parental networking opportunities, psychological counselling, and language tuition for all ages in Hungarian, English and other Western languages.

Finland

The Vallila Help Centre in Helsinki offers three main areas of service: humanitarian aid (such as clothes, food, and hygiene items), emotional and psychological support, as well as information and practical guidance relating to life in Finland.

“The generous donations to our Ukraine appeal have made, and continue to make, a real difference to the lives of many affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine. As the war enters its second destructive second year, we will continue to work with the Diocese in Europe to continue to seek additional ways in which we can offer our practical support alongside our prayers and fellowship.” Rev’d Dr Duncan Dormor, General Secretary USPG recently said.



- 1 St Vincent's Chaplaincy
- 2 Vesna Wardrobe
- 3 Menedékház Foundation
Next Step Association
JRS/Ukraine Pavilion
St Columba's Food Bank
Ukrainian Space
"Alternatívák Alapítvány" and
"Community of Sant'Egidio"
summer camps
- 4 Ukrainian Aid
- 5 Kyiv Chaplaincy
Caritas SPES
- 6 Anglican church in Poland
Pines Foundation
- 7 Lutheran World Federation
- 8 St Saviour's Chaplaincy
- 9 Vallila Help Centre

YOUR SUPPORT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE TO US. IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR VITAL WORK IN UKRAINE, THEN PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Please continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine, for all people affected and for all the chaplaincies and projects across Europe that are supporting people displaced by the conflict.
- Support the work of USPG and the Diocese in Europe by donating via the USPG website

ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE ROAD WE GO ...

Rachael Anderson catches up with USPG volunteer Rev'd Richard Reade, who recently led a fundraising walk for USPG.



Hi Richard, I'd love to know more about you and how your relationship with USPG started.

I first was involved with USPG in 1991 when it provided support (along with CMS) for a three-month visit to South India based at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in Arasaradi, Madurai. It was a fantastic life-changing experience with the opportunity to see and engage with Christians in another context. After ordination and once I had taken up my first incumbency, I wanted to encourage the church to support the work of Christian brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

The pictures of your walk look fantastic please tell us a bit more about it.

Well, I organised my first sponsored walk ten years ago and it came about when thinking of how to practically support USPG and raise funds for its partner projects. The walk is roughly 20 miles from Derby Cathedral (All Saints') to All Saints', Matlock Bank, following the Derwent valley along the A6 and the Cromford Canal.

What inspired you to organise this fundraising event?

When I served in a parish in the Potteries there was an annual walk locally that raised funds for Christian Aid and it made sense to organise something along those lines once I was in Derbyshire. I live in a beautiful part of the English countryside and the opportunity to take a day out to stroll away from the computer was very attractive.

Were there any memorable moments on the walk?

Each year we are sent off with a blessing by the Dean or a member of the Cathedral staff and amongst our stopping places is the Bishop's House in Duffield. The best part of the walk is the fellowship amongst the team which over the years has included members of both Matlock Bank and Tansley churches plus friends from the Methodist Church amongst others.

What Bible passage do you think about when you look back on the event?

Isaiah 40:31 – "They shall walk and not faint" (The previous bit about not being weary doesn't apply!)

How would you encourage others to get involved or fundraise for USPG?

Make use of the gifts, talents and opportunities that you've got and go for it. In my case, I like walking and it was a question of picking the route and setting out. I've thoroughly enjoyed the walk every year despite the occasional downpour and sleet (The weather can be unpredictable at the end of April)

APPEAL



HARVEST

APPEAL 2023

"I am a teacher in Sri Lanka. I am proud to call this beautiful country my home. But I worry for the children living in the remote plantation estate community I work in. With the often-difficult journey to school and worries about money, children sometimes drop out of school to work on the plantation. Being at school keeps children safe from the dangers of working as a tea picker. Education holds the key to a different future. I know that my students have so much potential. They tell me about their dreams of becoming teachers, doctors and police officers.

But they need teachers to help them get there.

Just £13.50 can fund a teacher's salary for 1 week.

"Please consider giving a gift to make my classroom a place where dreams come true. You will provide the seeds of knowledge to transform my students' futures."

**DONATE OR FIND OUT MORE
AT [HARVEST.USPG.ORG.UK](https://harvest.uspg.org.uk)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.**



**TEACHERS
NEEDED**

FEATURE



SET MY PEOPLE FREE

By Rachel Weller

In February 2023, 15 Primates and 29 delegates representing member churches from across the Anglican Communion went to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for USPG's International Consultation. We explored the theme: 'Set my People Free: The Call of the Church against Human Trafficking'. Rachel Weller, Digital Communications Officer, reflects on the important learnings of the consultation.

Trigger warning: child exploitation, slavery

"Where was the church?" cried Dr Agnes Aboum.

Looking over at the room, Dr Aboum, a persistent fighter for justice, appeared visibly outraged by the testimony just shared by Dr James Kofi Annan. Kofi is a Ghanaian survivor of child trafficking. He spoke of how he was forced to work long days on the treacherous shores of Lake Volta - catching fish, mending nets and sharpening knives. Certainly no place for a child.

Dr Aboum's response set the tone for the consultation well. After all, if the gospel in its glorious fullness testifies to a God who defends the cause of the oppressed, where was – and is – the church in the fight against the evil of modern-day slavery? Where are we?

On day two, the delegation made a pilgrimage to Zanzibar. Our first stop, Christ Church Cathedral, stands in Stone Town on top of what used to be one of the largest slave markets in the world. To this day, there is a spot in front of the altar that marks the position of the whipping post. And below what's now the souvenir shop are the dungeons, where slaves were held before being sold.

One thing that struck me at the cathedral was the range of languages spoken by other tour groups. Hearing languages like French, German and Dutch added to the cosmopolitan significance of the place. Christ Church Cathedral is clearly not only a monument to the heritage of slavery but a space for confrontation, and dealing, with the European colonial past.

The visit to Stone Town, testimonies like Kofi's and Dr Aboum's provocation hugely transformed the second half of the consultation. Having confronted history, there was a resounding new urge with which to discuss, and seek to resolve, the lasting and current injustice of human trafficking.

Back in the conference centre, delegates from around the globe highlighted different contextual approaches and nuances to carrying out the Anglican Alliance's Freedom Framework. These 8 ideas inform how churches can tackle modern-day slavery more effectively. For example, Archbishop Marinez Bassotto, from the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, shared how her work with Indigenous peoples in the Amazon aims to **prevent** exploitative trends upstream. The idea is to reconnect the Indigenous peoples to their land – e.g. through gardening classes and cultural evenings - that encourage them to **protect** it rather than be forced to pursue the city's empty promises. Meanwhile, progress in Brazil to reform **policy** is anticipated. Finally, **prayer** is a unique and universal element that people of faith can bring and is therefore vital in every single situation of injustice.

As the Freedom Framework outlines: a response to end modern slavery and human trafficking is only most effective when done in **partnership** with others. This is why the visit of His Excellency Dr. Philip Mpango, Vice President of Tanzania, as well as the International Organization of Migration (part of the UN) reinforced the importance of collaboration between the government, civil society organisations, ecumenical partners and survivors.

At the end of our time together delegates united to write a communiqué which affirms the commitment of the Church to tackle modern slavery. With the knowledge that there are more people in slavery today than at any other time in history, the Church must step forward. Whilst churches are not necessarily equipped to act on every aspect of the Freedom Framework, in partnership with others it is possible to act in response to the God who sets His people free.

Editor's note – USPG were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend Dr Agnes Aboum on 31st May 2023. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

"Where was the church?"



Team photo of all the delegates from our Consultation!

DIRECTORS

JOINING THE CEF TEAM



In this edition, we catch up with Atim Henshaw, Director of Communications, Engagement and Fundraising, USPG.

I am super excited to join the USPG team, it's been a fantastic few months here - I already feel a part of the team (and dare I say it feels like I have been here longer). I look forward to meeting many of our supporters at some of our upcoming USPG events. We will be hosting our very first carol service at the end of the year on 18th December at St John's Waterloo – please keep the date in your diaries as this will be a wonderful opportunity to meet you all.

I still pride myself in falling just in the millennial category although fast approaching the golden age of 40 Yikes! My loves are my faith, my family and my friends – and in that order too. I'm happily married and have a four year-old daughter. I have an MBA and gave my cohort a bit of a surprise when I left them in February and came back in July for graduation with a very visible baby bump. I'm your typical girl's girl – by that I mean I enjoy conversations, I enjoy having fun, an extrovert at heart, I'm always at a local coffee shop and wouldn't turn down an after-work drink with colleagues.

Some of my hobbies are travelling, I'm your resident holiday deal finder, I believe in the power of self-care which means for me having a spa day, and I have recently made the transition from buying physical books to audiobooks.

My first six months at USPG have been focussing on the team – who I need to do a quick shout-out to they're all amazing people. We are establishing team processes that will enable and strengthen better team and cross-team working. We are putting plans in place to build upon our organisational profile and visibility, if you have a story to share with us, please do reach out to our communications team as we'd love to hear from you. We are also developing strategies to ensure we articulate who we are and what we do at USPG. We also want to establish more ways and opportunities for supporters like yourselves to get involved with the organisation but also to hear from you in terms of areas we could improve.

My vision for the CEF Team - I see team growth for the CEF team, and I see innovations being trialled, but I also see more opportunities to have a deeper engagement and relationship with our supporters. I genuinely want to know more about our committed supporter base and how we can make engagement as accessible and easy as possible for supporters like yourselves to share more of our work with friends, family, and networks – so do let us know in our annual supporter surveys.

I would like to take this time to say thank you for your continued support and commitment to USPG. I hear wonderful stories of our amazing supporters which has warmed my heart and I look forward to hearing more from you.

"If you have a story to share with us, please do reach out to our communications team as we'd love to hear from you."

WHAT'S GOING ON?

FEATURE

MISSION AS SOLIDARITY: RETHINKING MISSION CONFERENCE

Saturday 25th November 2023, 11:00 - 16:00

USPG's 2023 Rethinking Mission Conference will explore the broad theme of 'Mission as Solidarity' – focusing on how to think of mission in terms of solidarity in a world of racial, economic, gender and ecological injustice.

St Aidan's Centre, 20 Saint James Road Liverpool L1 7BY

Find out more: <https://rb.gy/xtczl>

SAVE THE DATE

On **18th December 2023** USPG will be holding a Carol Service / Concert at St Johns Waterloo. We are delighted that one of the world's most renowned choir ensembles, The Sixteen, will be performing a selection of choral pieces as well as some of our favourite Christmas carols. Stay tuned for more information.

 **The Sixteen**
HARRY CHRISTOPHERS

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*"Making the
connections that
inspire and help
bring about change
in our world."*



USPG – 5 Trinity Street, London, SE1 1DB
0207 921 2200
www.uspg.org.uk

Follow us on @USPGglobal    YouTube

Editor: Rachael Anderson Sub-Editor: Rachel Weller
communications@uspg.org.uk

Charity number 234518