

UPCOMING EVENTS



Meetings about 2019 trips all at church
Tues 4th Sept 7pm Kisumu, Kenya.
Wed 19th Sept 8pm New Hope, Kenya.
Wed 26th Sept 8pm Emmanuel Hospital Assoc, India.
Saturday 6th October World Church Quiz 'n' Chips
evening raising money for *New Generation Burundi*

Its not too late to be *Increasingly Courageous for Christ*. Joining one of the 2019 Mission Trips could change your view on life – it already has for some members of the church family, and see Thea's testimony overleaf.

Great news - we have church family members interested in all three trips scheduled for summer 2019 (New Hope Children's Centre Kenya, Kisumu Kenya and Emmanuel Hospital Association India. All of them should **go ahead and...** we are keeping the doors open for you to prayerfully consider joining one of them. Meetings for those interested (with no obligation) are planned for September – email worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk if you even feel slightly interested do come to one of our informal meetings, see above for dates.

Information about the trips on St Paul's website:

[Trip 2019 Kisumu](#) **[Trip 2019 New Hope](#)**
[Trip 2019 EHA India](#) or collect paper information sheets from the World Church Notice board.

Thea Smith reflects on enriching her Christian life by volunteering overseas

Many of you will have now met Thea, an ordinand training in Bristol, who is serving her summer placement at St Paul's. Thea grew up in Winchester and read sociology at Warwick University. During her second year at university, when her mother was ordained, Thea began to explore her faith more deeply and was struck by the realisation that she was being called to join the ministry herself.



Thea has visited Uganda many times as a result of the Winchester Deanery link with the diocese of Muhabura in Southwest Uganda. She reflects: *"Travelling in East Africa from a young age taught me to understand my faith in the global context: that the gospel was not just for me or my youth group or my friends at school. The good news of Jesus Christ is for all people (Luke 2:10) and God moves by his Holy Spirit all over the world, calling people like me, and people different to me, to Himself. My travels also formed in me a strong passion for social justice and eradicating poverty. Surely if the gospel is for all people, it is also for the whole person – body, mind and spirit. Therefore malnutrition, disease, abuse and violence have no place in the kingdom of God. Christ comes to bring life and life to the full."*



Thea had a busy gap year, working in Delhi with the Salaam Baalak Trust, caring for boys who had run away from home, and completing a placement in Honduras with charity Progressio, working alongside a women's co-operative doing agricultural work. Through meeting the women and experiencing the difficult choices they are forced to make due to their poverty, *"God revealed his heart for the poor to me more and more. God's heart breaks for the poor, the downtrodden and the*



neglected... We live in the between times where, though Christ's death and resurrection has accomplished redemption, it is not yet completed. We live in the now and the not yet. In Christ all things will be redeemed: water and sanitation; education; freedom of speech; imagination... Christ comes to bring life and life to the full."

While spending time with teenage girls in Uganda, Thea was struck by how poverty stunted their ideas and perceptions, of what was possible and what they could be and achieve. This made her consider the importance of having opportunities and choices to stimulate imagination and unlock potential, to shape and broaden individuals: *"Sharing the gospel is about both articulating the good news and embodying it, enabling others to experience the richness and fullness of life beyond the constraints of their circumstances and situations. The gospel is about having life to the full in relationship with God, which goes beyond economic, cultural and social barriers but also has power to change those barriers."*

Thea exudes energy and enthusiasm for getting stuck in, meeting new people, and blessing them with both practical and spiritual help. We hope



her experiences inspire you to consider what you can do to become more courageous for Christ: *"I think we need to work harder to maintain our partner links across the world and deepen our relationships with those communities. We underestimate the power of friendship in bringing joy and growing imagination, particularly in places of poverty. We can be catalysts in unlocking potential in individuals*

and communities. We can be advocates for the welfare of communities in poverty, whether in the UK or abroad. We need to fervently pray for our brothers and sisters who are limited by their circumstance, whether that is physical or spiritual. We worship a God who offers life and life to the full and we should not settle, or let others settle, for anything less."



Diary of a Busy Youth Minister

No, we are not talking about our St Paul's clergy, but about Rev'd Joshua Opondo in Kisumu, Kenya. These are some of his comments and pictures of a few of his recent mission visits around Kenya, bringing so many to Christ, offering mentoring, advice and endless energy.

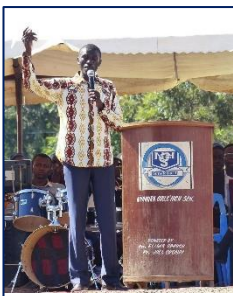
Joshua has been persuaded by clergy friends to put his name forward for the position of Bishop of Maseno South when Bishop Francis retires later this year, and he has asked for prayer and guidance during the process.



Friday 1st June God is so faithful to me, I am now in Limuru training youth leaders from all over the province/Nation. Each Diocese represented by three delegates.

Continue trusting God to inspire me to continue in His Work. Also in the vision to be the next Bishop of Maseno South.

Saturday- Sunday 2-3 June. Our youth ministry group went to a high school on Saturday, then we split into three groups on Sunday to go to two more high school, while I moved to a university in Eldoret. God manifested Himself at all these meetings and gave us more opportunities for the future. Pray that God will give me wisdom to prepare larger teams so we can go into ever increasing numbers of high schools and universities. **(These ministry teams include a music group in addition to those preaching. Typically they address many hundred students at each event and many give themselves to Christ).**



18th June I have arrived in Nairobi this evening to present my nomination papers to the Diocesan chancellor tomorrow at 11am.

There will then be a search/interview on 21st July after which there will remain three candidates for the elections to be held on 25th August.

I am trusting God who convicted me to go for the position. I am the youngest of the candidates and not as educated as the others, but am trusting on the living God. Please stand with me in prayers



25th June (7.35am)

I have just left one school assembly and am heading to another.

Asha (Joshua's wife) has joined Kenya medical training institute to study nursing and community health. At the time of writing this, we hadn't heard whether Joshua is included in the shortlist for election for Bishop on 25th August.



Help Refugees, Calais. The last of your food donations have been delivered to the warehouse outside Calais. This picture was recently posted on Instagram by Help Refugees where they said "Our partners at the Refugee Community Kitchen have been with us since the very beginning. In just over two years, they've prepped, cooked and

distributed over 2.2 million meals"

Rachel Tolhurst working in Colombia

It's an incredibly busy time for Rachel. She has been on a residential course at the All Nations Christian College, has headlined in a music evening raising around £1,000 towards her trip and waved goodbye to all at the school where she was teaching. Now she asks for your prayers for her efforts to learn Spanish, also that she can process the information from the course and take it forward.



www.latinlink.org.uk/fundraisers/rachelstriptocolombia

The La Réconciliation Baptist Church in Lille will be one of the churches involved in the annual evangelistic project of 'Giant Barbecues', serving food all day to the city community together. This will be running from 21-25 August, and is an opportunity for many in the city (particularly the refugee community) to make deeper contact with the churches. See www.enrouensemble.com.

Your prayers for the love of God to be experienced and deeper contacts to be made would be very welcome



Interactive...
International...

**KEEP
CALM
IT'S
QUIZ
'n CHIPS**



**Saturday 6th
October**

6.45 for 7pm start

Tickets £12 to include fish,
chicken or veggie and chips

Bring your own drinks.

Come as a team of up to 8, or
alone (we will find some other geniuses
to make up your team!)

Tickets available from WCT
or reception from 1st Sept

**In aid of New Generation,
Burundi**

For information about any of the above, please contact

St Paul's World Church Team: Karen Wheatley, Charlotte Chaplin, Tim
Elsey, Sally Hulbert, Jonathan Papworth, Elizabeth Shaw and Sue
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