

God's global mission

Mission is what God is doing in our world.

At the heart of God the Holy Trinity there is dynamic and all-embracing love, which sends out and invites in, which gives and receives, which embraces both unity and diversity.

This love overflows into our world through Creation, through the calling of the Old Testament People of God, and above all through Jesus' life, death, and rising again. Mission is about bringing people to Christ, but also witnessing and co-operating with God's outward movement to all humanity to restore all things – including Creation itself – in Christ.

God cares about the whole of life, so mission must affect all of life. We need to avoid false distinctions between evangelism (sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and calling people into the fellowship of the Church) and social action (such as defending human rights or working to reduce world poverty).



To affirm this, Anglicans point to the Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The Church is part of this sending activity of God. In the Eucharist we celebrate that we have been called into the Body of Christ, and we are sent out – all of us, not just a few! – to be part of God's mission in the world.

The Anglican Communion

The spread of Anglicanism beyond England was sometimes seen as a side-effect of colonialism, but local Churches soon began to develop their own understanding of their life and mission. Today the Church of England is one member Church of the Anglican Communion, which brings together over eighty million Christians in forty-four different Churches around the world.

Our Anglican tradition with its distinctive characteristics – our worship, our understanding of unity and diversity, and our openness to where God may be calling us – has taken root in many different places and cultures.

Anglicans seek to live in a global fellowship where we support each other in God's mission in the place where he has called us to be his People. Mission is not about 'helping needy people overseas' but helping each other to be faithful. Those who have more material wealth are called to support the work of those who have less; these in turn may offer support in other areas such as witnessing to the importance of faith in daily life or assisting us to deepen our sense of the presence of Christ in the world. But all this needs to be in a spirit of equal partnership.

Sometimes the very different cultures from which we come mean that we have different understandings of what God wants us to do. In recent years there have been disagreements about the ministry of women and about human sexuality. But as we face such questions, we need to understand the fundamental truth that our unity, rather than being something we can choose or reject, is a gift from God. In a world which cries out for both material food and the knowledge of God's love, discovering our shared mission should be our priority.

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What can you do?

- Find out more about and pray for and with our fellow-Anglicans around the world. See the Anglican Communion website:
www.anglicancommunion.org
- Find out whether your own diocese is linked with another part of the Anglican Communion – but don't ignore the rest of the Communion by just focussing on that one!
- Invite someone from another part of the World Church to your parish, or talk with people from other parts of the world who may already be part of your parish.
- Consider offering yourself for short- or long-term service.
- Get involved with a Mission Agency. For instance, take a look at the work of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission. See www.uspg.org.uk for their Resources, Projects, and Prayer Diary.

**Love one another
with mutual affection . . .**

serve the

**Lord . . . persevere in
prayer.**

**Contribute to the needs of
the saints; extend
hospitality
to strangers.**

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