



This document seeks to outline the Mission Policy of the Burford Church (and possibly the Benefice Churches in the future) ('the church'), and to set out the process of supporting the mission of the local church and that of individual and organisational mission partners associated with the church.

Contents

Mission Policy and Sending Process	1
Section 1. Mission, the church's Vision and Aims in Mission	2
Section 2. Responsibility and Coordination.	4
Section 3. Forming Mission Partnerships, requirements/criteria and process	5
Section 4. Relationship with Mission Partners and Burford Benefice churches	6
Section 5. Financial Support	8

Section 1. Mission, the Church's Vision and Aims in Mission

<p>1. What is mission?</p>	<p>“The mission of God addresses individual persons, society and culture, and creation. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God’s people.” Lausanne Cape Town Commitment, 2010</p> <p>This commitment is based on the 5 marks of mission that were adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996 and many dioceses and other denominations used them as the basis of action plans and creative mission ideas. Some churches abbreviate the five marks to five words: TELL – TEACH – TEND –TRANSFORM – TREASURE.</p> <p>The Five Marks of Mission:</p> <p>To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. To respond to human need by loving service. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.</p>
<p>2. What is the biblical mandate for mission?</p>	<p>All Christian mission (the word “mission” means “sending”) finds its root in God. Before all human sending we recognize we worship God who sent his Son for us and the Son who sent his Spirit to us.</p> <p>The grand narrative of the Bible is that God makes and chooses a people for himself, so that he may be glorified throughout the world. Many passages in the Scriptures illustrate different aspects of mission including: Genesis 12 v 1-4 “Chosen to Bless”, John 1 v 1-18 “The Word made Flesh”, Colossians 1 v 15-23 “The glory of Christ & the reconciliation of all things”, Matthew 28 v 16-20 “The Great Commission”</p>
<p>3. Why is the church involved in mission?</p>	<p>As Christian mission finds its root in God, it is not an optional extra for those few who “go or are called overseas.” The Church is Christ’s body in the world called to represent and proclaim him. We are a community mandated to reproduce and grow, to live out the gospel in its entirety throughout the world.</p>

<p>4. What is a mission partner?</p>	<p>Mission partners are individuals or organisations who are supported in prayer, or financially by the church.</p>
<p>5. How does the mission strategy/policy fit with the current vision of the church - “To delight in God’s love and share it with others.”</p>	<p>God’s love impacts all five areas of mission and is the active response for holistic and integrated mission.</p> <p>Our key principles for mission support are that it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused – while operating at the local, national and global level - Committed – reflected in the whole congregation’s engagement in mission and the church’s resourcing of it - Strategic – new and existing opportunities for mission are properly considered and planned - Generous – the church is committed to giving a high proportion of its income away
<p>6. What are the church’s specific aims for engaging the church members in mission both at home and abroad?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage the church to continue movement from one that ‘supports’ mission, to one that is ‘engaged’ in mission - To raise general awareness and understanding of mission amongst the congregation - To work in partnership and continue active engagement with each of our mission partners - To make mission a part of everyday life - To send out more missionaries from our own church - To equip every member of the congregation to identify and embark on their own mission

Section 2. Responsibility and Coordination.

The Mission Committee wishes to facilitate all of the church membership to participate in mission. Some will feel called into full time service, and in this case, the Mission Committee would seek to be involved in the early stages of exploring that call, and, when appropriate, encouraging prayer and contributing towards the financial support.

The Mission Committee is responsible for the setting of the annual budget and regular communication with mission partners, and accountable to the PCC. It will respond to support funding requests, in line with the agreed mission policy.

The Mission Committee will meet regularly to carry out these tasks and the forward vision is that it will be made up of members from a number of the Benefice churches.

Section 3. Forming Mission Partnerships, requirements/criteria and process

<p>1. Who will the Mission Committee consider application for funding from?</p>	<p>The mission committee will support a selection of mission partners and organisations which are in line with the Five Marks of Mission, ensuring a balanced portfolio.</p>
<p>2. How will the church differentiate between types/ length of service and what are the specific requirements for those different lengths of service?</p>	<p>Mission partners may be categorised into three groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals who are currently church members - Individuals who have a historic link with the church - Organisations <p>In general, length of service for individuals can be categorised as follows:</p> <p>A: Short Experience – Up to one month: Individuals willing to volunteer for a Christian event and serve in any capacity, for which support is needed.</p> <p>B: Short Term - up to one year. Members of our church family who are committed to serving with a church /Christian organisation for up to one year.</p> <p>C: Medium term – up to two years</p> <p>D: Long term - more than two years</p> <p>For those involved, or seeking to be involved in long term, full time ministry (Category D), they should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have relevant experience in the local church - be pursuing partnership with a mission agency or local church in line with their calling, and the vision of the church - have appropriate theological and cross cultural training <p>The candidate must be actively demonstrating and able to articulate when questioned a personal and spiritual maturity suitable to the type of service anticipated. (i.e. teachable, team player, flexible, servant hearted, theologically astute and clear)</p>
<p>3. How should a prospective mission partner engage with the church – what is the process?</p>	<p>The committee will be firmly committed to long term mission and highly encouraging to short term mission.</p> <p>The application process is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill in the application form (available on the church website and from the mission committee chairperson) which establishes the nature and purpose of the mission opportunity, financial needs, and other relevant details, giving as much notice as possible to allow for appropriate budgeting.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Submit the completed form to the Mission Committee Chairperson who will distribute it to the committee members. 3. Decisions on funding will be made by consensus by the committee. 4. Funding will normally be paid directly to recognised organisations. In certain circumstances this may be with agreement that it is earmarked for specific individuals. Short Experience partners may be paid directly in certain instances. All will be arranged by the church treasurer. 5. Financial support will be reviewed annually and partners given 6 months notice of any significant changes to their support.
--	---

Section 4. Relationship with Mission Partners and Burford Church

Each partner organization has a local ‘champion’ who maintains regular contact with the church family. In addition, in consultation with home group leaders, each home group will be assigned a mission partner for ongoing prayer, encouragement and regular communication.

The Mission Committee will ensure that the following expectations are met:

- a) Good ongoing communication between the partner & church
- b) Appropriate financial accountability by the partner
- c) Alignment of the partner’s aims and vision with that of the church

Section 5. Financial Support

Financial decisions to commit to support are made by the Mission Committee on a case by case basis, but will be governed by the following general principles.

We are working towards parity between all full time individuals and also between all organisations. (See budget sheet for 2020 for details)

Category	Annual Support (£)
Full time individuals	2,400
Organisations	2,100
Contingency	1,800

All Financial Support is reviewed annually

