

# SHORT TERM MISSION – ST PETER’S CHURCH

## Guidelines for evaluating requests for financial support of short term mission placements

We are delighted to hear that you are considering short term UK or overseas mission service. The Mission Committee may be able to help financially. This document sets out how you can apply for funding.

### What we ask of you

1. You must be a committed Christian and
  - ◆ should normally have been a regular worshipper at St Peter’s for at least 12 months or
  - ◆ if a student studying away from home should be a regular worshipper at St Peter’s when at home.
2. You must have the recommendation of a full time member of the church staff or appropriate group leader.

*Please talk to your group leader or a member of the staff about your plans before you approach the Mission Committee.*

3. The Mission Committee will want to discuss your plans with you before agreeing to support you. The committee will not discuss with you the reason for your acceptance or rejection but if asked, will submit reasons for its decision to the Rector or Youth Minister and PCC.

*If you are not happy with the result, please talk to the Youth Minister and Chair of Mission Committee.*

### Making an application

1. You must provide the Mission Committee with all available details of the proposed placement. Usually the placement will be with an established evangelical Christian organisation, which is experienced in short term mission activities.
2. The placement will have clearly defined aims, which will take into account language and cultural differences that may be present in the destination country.
3. The Mission Committee **will not normally** endorse applications for placements in Islamic or Communist countries unless the applicant has previous first hand knowledge and experience of such places.
4. Please note that the Mission Committee cannot endorse:
  - a. Applications for placements to countries deemed unsafe for British Nationals by the Foreign Office
  - b. Journeys using a mode of transport not recommended by the Foreign Office (e.g. internal former Russian States airlines)
5. You must satisfy the Mission Committee that:
  - a. Adequate travel and medical insurance have been arranged.
  - b. Emergency support is available and immediate repatriation possible, without liability to yourself or the Mission Committee, in the event of a family crisis or medical emergency.

## **Funding**

1. You must provide a detailed breakdown of
  - the costs involved and
  - how you intend to finance yourself.
2. The Mission Committee will consider funding up to 50% of the total cost. However the final figure will be at the discretion of the committee and may well be much lower than 50%.

*We seek to support as many people as possible.*

3. Since funds are limited, please try to raise funds from as many different sources as possible – part time jobs, sponsorship etc. If you find that in the end you do not need financial help from the Mission Committee, please don't ignore us as we would love to support you in prayer anyway.
4. Do pray about your plans and remember, the Lord does provide and going on a short term placement is a great step of faith.
5. Priority for funding will be to full time long term mission links. If there are insufficient funds available, the guideline amount may be reduced or the number of short term placements will be cut or both.

## **While you are there**

1. You should communicate regularly with the Mission Committee.
2. Applicants supported by the Mission Committee will obey to the letter and spirit, all local laws and customs of the destination country. This is particularly relevant to the obtaining of entry visas and work permits. You will not be supported by the committee if entry into a country is to be gained under misleading or false pretences.
3. When on mission, you will follow current FCO advice. Eg. to leave immediately if circumstances demand.

## **On your return**

1. You should be prepared to give a detailed report to the Mission Committee of your activities within 4 weeks of return.
2. You should be prepared to be interviewed at Sunday services.
3. We shall be grateful if you would be prepared to talk to future applicants.

We want to support you in prayer and be involved with what you are doing for the Lord.