**Charity & Mission Support Policy**

**Parish of the Resurrection Alton**

The Parish of the Resurrection Alton is committed to supporting charity and aid agencies in four ways:

* By reactively collecting money and/or resources following a local, national or international disasters using known and reputable partners and giving platforms
* By supporting local ongoing agencies with continuous collection of goods and encouraging volunteer provision
* By holding regular and known events and activites to support our commitment to The Diocese of Karamoja (Uganda) and in particular its Diocesan Training Centre; The Anna Chaplaincy Alton and the Parish’s Ministry to Children and Young People
* By giving a percentage of our income to nominated and PCC agreed charities and encouraging other ways of support

**Principles:**

For 2024 the PCC agrees that 5% of our collected giving – planned, plate and one-off – is set aside to give to the agreed mission and charity organisations. The PCC would then hope to raise this to 7.5% in 2025 and then 10% in 2026

Charities will be chosen as POTR sponsored charities that will be supported over 2/3 year period.

A balance of charities – local/national/international to be nominated and agreed by the PCC.

Activities and events organised across the parish will nominate one or more of the chosen charities with Anna Chaplaincy, Karamoja and Ministry to children and young people always being part of the nomination

Practical support will be encouraged to all our chosen charities according to the skills and gifts of members of the congregation.

A number of local charities would always be supported practically by members of the POTR community in terms of volunteering, governance etc

Examples include:

Alton Foodbank

Christians Against Poverty

Resurrection Furniture

Alton Community Cupboard
Alton Local Food Initiative

HomeStart

Vokes Lunch Club

ACAN

AVLAN

Energy Alton

Regular communication about the chosen charities will be included in Sunrise, Parish Matters, Parish wide email, website, in services and by guest speakers at services and events which will always include good news stories, where support is being given, any particular needs

We would look for advocates from among our worshipping communities for the chosen charities

We will ensure that all Gift Aid opportunities are promoted and included

**Criteria for chosen charities**

* Christian based/founded or openly supportive of Kingdom values
* The ease of building relationship/partnership with the organisation always seeking a person or family that has natural links and can act as advocates
* The ability to invite speakers to POTR altogether services
* There is a spread of age related support or engagement

**Processes involved**

This policy is agreed and reviewly every three years and charities annually reviewed by the PCC.

The POTR worshipping communities would regularly be asked for nominations according to the above criteria

The Local Church Groups & Ministry Team acting as Worship & Spiritual Life Committee will need to ensure that the policy is followed

*February 2024*

From April 2024 the PCC agrees the following charities to be supported.

**The Alton & District Community Relief Fund**

This is the new version of the Covid Reslience Fund which operated successfully. It has been established as a CIO with the following Trustees: Andrew Lawrence – Pastor, Harvest Church Alton; Lisa Hillan – POTR PCC; David Millard – Alton Citizens Advice Bureau; Paul Susans – POTR worshipping community; Moira Baker – Alton Lions.

The Fund is to make grants of up to £500 to individuals who require urgent assistance with essentials such as replacing household appliances, acquiring mobility equipment, getting furniture, carpets and beds. The fund will also help with repairs and renewal of equipment.

The Fund will also help local community groups and organisations in providing seed funding for projects supporting health and well being particularly amongst vulnerable groups.

POTR ADVOCATES: Lisa Hill and Paul Susans

**Citizens of the World Choir**

COTW is a musical family that celebrates artistry, heritage and humanity of people seeking sanctuary, and their allies. The choir is based in London, but has its roots firmly in POTR for two reasons:

1. Rebecca Dell, who founded the choir and is Musical Director, started her musical journey in the choir of St Lawrence church.
2. She was inspired to set up the choir as a direct result of a sermon she heard at St Lawrence church one Christmas

Central tenets of the choir are to provide kinship and care for those who have escaped from often unimaginably traumatic situations and to use their performances to spread the news that we are all Citizens of the World. They have performed at a huge variety of events from local schools to the Queen’s Jubilee Concert in front of millions of people.

We have advocated on behalf of the choir since it was founded and have been delighted with the response from members of the Parish who frequently ask for updates on their progress and who support the choir prayerfully.

The choir has performed at St Lawrence church and members would gladly come to talk about their work and the impact it has had on their lives. The Musical Director and a choir member are booked to talk to St Lawrence School during Refugee Week in June 2024. They also produce a regular newsletter which is sent to supporters.

We believe the choir appeals to all ages – young and old alike respond to their music and their message and there are so many ways in which we as a parish can support them. They are in the process of producing their first album which will make their music accessible to a much wider audience.

POTR ADVOCATES: Martyn and Sue Dell

**Mission Aviation Fellowship**

Isolation is a problem. There are people who, simply because of where they were born, will never have the chance at the same life many of us in the developed world enjoy. A life where their children can go to school, where they can get medical care, where they can get help when disaster strikes, where they can experience the love of Jesus. Millions of people around the world live cut-off from all this and more by either geographic barriers—like jungles, mountains, and deserts—or by social, political, or religious barriers. The vision is to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ.

Each year, MAF provides aviation services to more than 400 mission agencies, churches, and humanitarian organizations around the world. Without MAF, some of these organizations would be unable to reach the people they serve. Through these partnerships, MAF connects isolated people with vital services and goods while sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way. **This is how we carry out our mission of serving together to bring help, hope, and healing through aviation**

**Locally Alastair and Sandra Smith who worship at Harvest Church are advocates for MAF – we would be able to call upon them for information and talks.**

**PARISH ADVOCATES: Graham and Julie Howe**

**Anna Chaplaincy – Advocates: Debbie Thrower, Kate Powell**

**Karamoja Diocese – The Deanery has a Karamoja Link Committee chaired by Revd Christopher Ogilvie Thompson. Keith Arrowsmith Oliver is to join that committee and will become the Parish Advocate**

**Children and Youth Ministry – We have a PCC Oversight Committee which is chaired by Robin Kemp.**