

cpas

THE CPAS SUPPORTERS' MAGAZINE

Connect

Enabling Leaders
to Thrive

You Prayed,
God Answered

Stories
from Danehill
Taster Venture

AUTUMN-WINTER 2023-24



CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency enabling churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

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Unless otherwise stated all Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV).

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Partnership in the Gospel

**'I THANK MY
GOD EVERY TIME
I REMEMBER
YOU. IN ALL MY
PRAYERS FOR ALL
OF YOU, I ALWAYS
PRAY WITH JOY
BECAUSE OF YOUR
PARTNERSHIP IN
THE GOSPEL FROM
THE FIRST DAY
UNTIL NOW.'**

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

Jon Scamman,
Chief Executive Officer



This summer, I had the privilege of visiting a number of Venture holidays, and seeing first-hand the amazing work that volunteers drawn from churches across the country are doing to reach children and young people for Jesus.

For many of the young people, a Venture or Falcon holiday is the highpoint of their year. It was brilliant to see how they are supported and stretched to take part in a huge range of social, physical and faith adventures.

I was deeply encouraged by the teams of young adults who are so excited about Jesus that they are willing to invest their summer in helping children and young people find out more about him.

As I near the end of my first year as CEO at CPAS, I find myself drawn back to Philippians 1:3-5, where Paul writes, 'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.'

We truly are partners in the gospel. Whether you are a CPAS patronage clergyperson, a supporter, a regular intercessor, a church or diocesan leader, a trustee, a staff member, or a leader on a Venture or Falcon holiday, you are an integral part of the marvellous work which God has been doing through CPAS since 1836. I do indeed thank my God every time I remember you.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Scamman'.



CPAS in Brief



EXCITING CHANGES WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Team leader of the Leadership Development team, James Lawrence, is taking on a new role of Leadership Champion at CPAS. In this new role he will be increasing



his focus upon thought leadership and content creation for the next phase of the Church's life.



As a result, Jo McKee, Director of the CPAS Arrow Leadership Programme, will be taking on the new role of Head of Leadership Development, steering the Leadership

Development team through this next season at CPAS. Find out more on page 15.

THE GUIDE: NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP AS A FOCAL MINISTER

Increasingly churches and congregations are led by a diverse range of people. Sometimes called Focal Ministers or Focal Leaders, they might lead a Fresh Expression, congregation, church plant or church. Some of these leaders may not be ordained, may be unpaid, and may have received little leadership training for their role. The Guide provides on-the-job-training in a simple, creative and accessible way. A pilot will be launching in January, and we're excited to see how this immersive experience develops agile and mission-focused leaders across the country.



Thrive

HELPING YOUR MULTI-PARISH BENEFICE TO THRIVE

Most Anglican churches in the UK are now in groups – multi-parish benefices (MPBs), leading to unique opportunities and challenges. The Thrive Collection is designed to help MPBs do mission and ministry well, and to release their potential. Read the article on page 9 and 10 to hear author, Pam Macnaughton's, motivation for creating The Thrive Collection.



Visit www.cpas.org.uk/thrive to find out more.

You Prayed, God Answered!

SUMMER
SPECIAL



This summer we ran 60 holidays for 2,880 children aged 8-18. One leader told us about the transformational impact they witnessed. 'The children arrived looking anxious and introspective. By the end of the week, they had excelled at all the activities and were truly praising God during the worship times. Truly inspirational!' Here's a few of the children's highlights:

God cares. He is working in Gen Z's hearts in the most amazing way. We are coming home to him!

It is so much fun...and my relationship with God feels deepened and re-energised.

There is a great balance between doing fun activities, having free time, spending time with God, and learning about him.

God can make impossible things happen.

They tick every box: friends, fun, focus on God and amazing memories.

Following Jesus is a daily choice. If something keeps me from Jesus, is it worth keeping? Doing life with Jesus with friends is such an awesome thing!

No matter where we were on our walk with faith, we could share in fellowship, fun and friendship.

I gained a much greater understanding of how much Jesus loves me.



Ventures & Falcons

This summer, an amazing 2,880 children attended our holidays.

Ventures and Falcons Summer Success

2023



2,575

children at summer Ventures



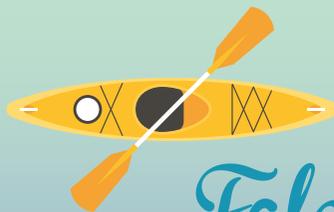
2,348
volunteers

305
children
attended Falcons



Held at
31 venues including
schools, activity centres
and narrow boats

46
Ventures



14
Falcons



Stories from Danehill Taster Venture



Interview with Danehill Venture leader Paul Peterson, pictured, on what God has been doing this summer.

A new approach in Danehill, East Sussex, is drawing young people to Venture holidays who would never otherwise attend – and their lives are being changed by Jesus.

Step into the immaculate grounds of Cumnor House School in the summer months, and you'll find dozens of young people exploring faith. Danehill Venture's three week-long bespoke holidays happen here, where teenagers can encounter Jesus, grow in faith and develop as leaders.

It's an incredible, life-changing programme overseen by associate minister the Rev Paul Peterson, who himself came to faith on a Venture holiday 40 years ago. Recently however, Paul realised some young people were missing out.

'What about the teenagers who are anxious about being away from home for a whole week? Or the families struggling to afford a seven-night residential?' said Paul. 'We saw an opportunity to do something new to reach more young people.'

'TO SEE THEM SOFTEN AND OPEN UP TO GOD AS THE WEEK WENT ON WAS BEAUTIFUL.'





The Rev Paul Peterson leading a gathering at Danehill Venture this summer.

• **'IT'S A JOY TO
SEE GOD CHANGE
LIVES THROUGH
VENTURES.'**

So, several years ago, in addition to the other Danehill Ventures, the team launched 'Danehill Taster' – a four-night holiday for 12 to 15-year-olds. The days are packed with sports and craft activities, the mornings and evenings include faith talks, worship, prayer and Bible study.

Most young people attending the taster are first-timers on a Venture, and are generally from more diverse backgrounds than the usual crowd. This year, the 45-strong group included 25 from groups in South London.

'We had a large group of kids from a more deprived area, who were quite edgy at first. They came with a bit of attitude,' said Paul, 'but to see them soften and open up to God as the week went on was beautiful. They let their guard down, joined in the activities, and really engaged.

Now we hope they'll go back to their home church and really grow in faith there.'

Already, the impact of Danehill Taster is evident. One parent said, 'When my 12-year-old came home singing the Christian song Way Maker, it brought a tear to my eye and a smile to my face.'

And it's this – seeing the Lord touch young people's lives – that draws Paul back, year after year. 'I went on my first Venture holiday in Limpsfield in 1983, came to faith in Christ, and have been involved ever since,' he said. 'Every year I ask God, is this still right for me? And every year I'm totally convinced it is. I'm 56 now and my enthusiasm hasn't dimmed.'

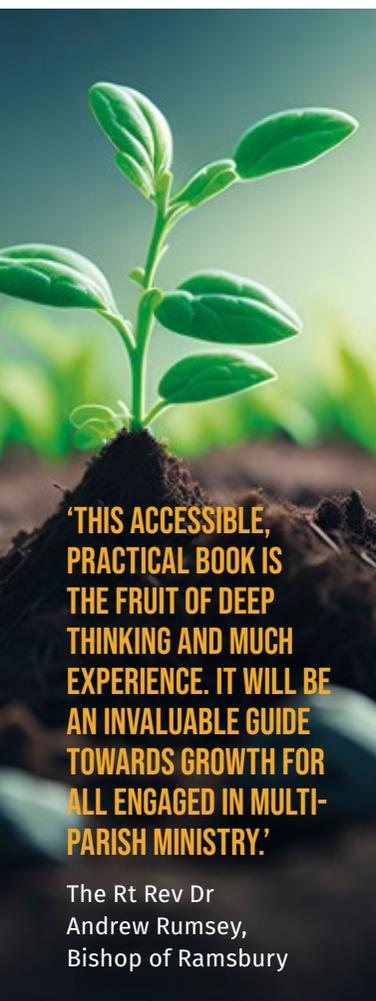
Paul, who works part-time at Christ Church Downend in Bristol, and part-time for the Limpsfield Trust, which supports Danehill Ventures, added, 'I 100% believe in the value of residential youth ministry. It can provide key moments of encountering God for young people. It's a joy to see God change lives through Ventures, and to see teams of people working together for the gospel cause.'

Paul's message to CPAS supporters is this, 'Please keep praying. Keep giving. We long to enable more young people to meet with Jesus at Ventures like Danehill. and to see many of them come back as leaders in the years to come. Thank you.'



The Thrive Collection

Most Anglican churches in the UK are now in groups – multi-parish benefices (MPBs). MPBs contain seeds of enormous promise, despite being formed from necessity. Yet MPBs also face distinctive and substantial challenges. How can they do mission and ministry well?



'THIS ACCESSIBLE, PRACTICAL BOOK IS THE FRUIT OF DEEP THINKING AND MUCH EXPERIENCE. IT WILL BE AN INVALUABLE GUIDE TOWARDS GROWTH FOR ALL ENGAGED IN MULTI-PARISH MINISTRY.'

The Rt Rev Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury

Pam Macnaughton knows all about the challenges that MPBs face. Pam is a former CPAS Leadership Specialist, now working for the Church of England Vision and Strategy team, and as an ordained pioneer minister for a group of churches in Derbyshire. As an innovative joint project between CPAS and Church House Publishing, Pam has spear-headed Thrive: a proven and targeted collection of resources developed specifically for MPBs, to help them release their potential.

In the book, *Thrive: Helping Your Multi-Parish Benefice to Grow*, Pam recalls:

'There was a palpable sense of relief in the room, growing as time progressed, with, "Oh, it's not just us", comments. What was going on?

'Ten years ago, I started running learning-and-action communities for lay and ordained leaders and

members in MPBs. Around six teams from a diocese journeyed together for two or three years. A sense of relief occurred without fail every first session, when people realised they were not the only ones struggling with the joys and complexities of living and working in a group of churches, sharing clergy and lay leaders.'

Pam's conviction was that working together actually increased opportunities for growth and new life, both within and outside church communities. So, *Thrive* began. Partly derived from material created with the Arthur Rank Centre and LEAD Academy, CPAS Thrive Communities have run in a number of dioceses, in rural, suburban and urban settings. But, do they work?

As they journeyed together, the Thrive communities saw relief turning to hope,

new vision and positive action. The MPB teams prayed for each other, learned together, shared plans, started initiatives, deepened prayer lives and encouraged new disciples. They grew new leaders, launched into youth work, and increased their confidence in sharing their faith.

Through the combination of regular input and encouragement, practical planning, lots of prayer and hard work, I saw MPBs transformed for the better.

THE THRIVE COLLECTION – NOT JUST FOR LEADERS

This vital resource will be available across the country. The Thrive approach is practical, step-by-step, adaptable, tried and tested. MPBs are invited to take their pick of Thrive’s comprehensive response to their challenges – or use all the resources as suggested in our Thrive jigsaw as shown below:



‘A GIFT TO MANY MULTI-PARISH BENEFICES. IT REFLECTS THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE, YET IS HOPEFUL ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL THEY REPRESENT.’

The Rt Rev Rachel Treweek,
Bishop of Gloucester

Thrive Book – rationale, theology, possibilities and practicalities, for key leaders.

Thrive Prayer Guide – for all, from leaders to churchgoers across MPBs.

Thrive Course – downloadable course for a cross-benefice group of lay and ordained leaders.

Thrive PCC Sessions – downloadable for each PCC or Group Council.

Through a theologically underpinned and carefully planned learning-and-action process, and based on church growth research, Thrive will enable MPBs to consider: prayer, the stories of our churches, developing leaders, growing disciples, sharing faith and vision for the future.

*Di Archer, Project Co-ordinator,
CPAS Leadership Team*



Please pray

that using these Thrive resources
will help many MPBs to grow.



New Resource

cpas

THE THRIVE COLLECTION

Helping Your Multi-Parish Benefice to Grow

Thrive Book - £14.99

Rationale, theology, possibilities and practicalities that underpin Thrive, for incumbents.



Thrive Prayer Guide - £2.50

A guide for all involved, from leaders to churchgoers across the MPB.



Thrive PCC Sessions - £4.50

Downloadable course for each PCC or Group Council.



Thrive Course - £17.50

A downloadable course for a cross-benefice group of lay and ordained leaders.

The Thrive Collection* of resources can be purchased for just £30.

*The Thrive Collection includes one copy of each resource. The Thrive Prayer Guide can be purchased in packs of 10, 25 and 50.

Find out more at www.cpas.org.uk/thrive

Living in Love and Faith

'Living in Love and Faith, and Prayers of Love and Faith, have been rolling through the Church of England and synodical processes. Our priority at CPAS has been to figure out how we engage with churches and their leaders in order to support their conversations, represent their views, underpin them with prayer and maintain a focus on mission and evangelism. I thought supporters would like to hear how we have done those things.'

The Rev Canon Graham Archer



Firstly, we decided to ask our patronage clergy where they are at in the conversations, and what support they would appreciate from CPAS. The survey was well received. Out of 520 current serving incumbents, 49% responded to our in-depth survey, which demonstrated something of how much it is at the top of their minds. Our findings showed us that:

1 All our clergy are committed to leading churches that are open to everyone, whatever their views on the prayers and associated issues.

2 75% of our clergy believe that some proposed prayers are contrary to the historic teaching of the Church.

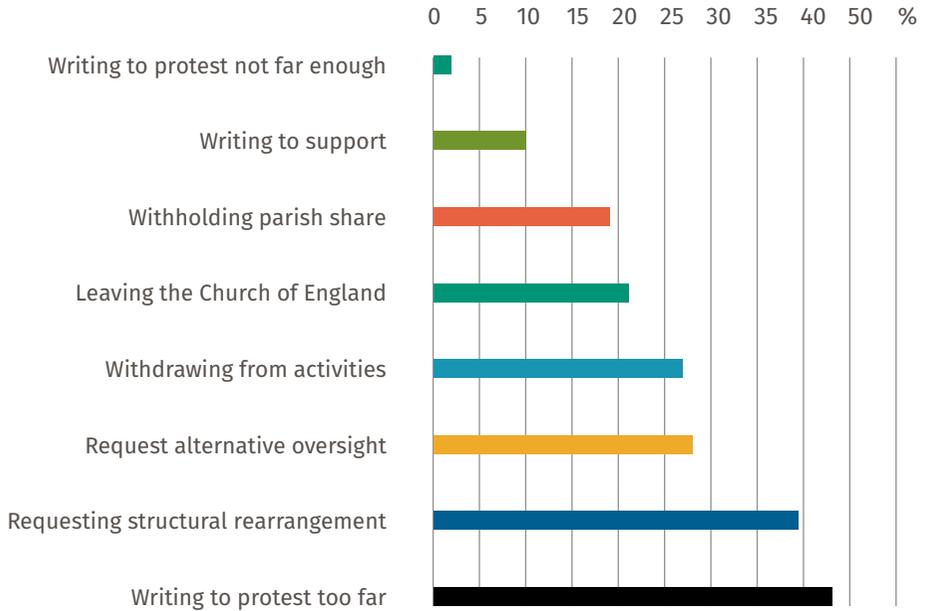
3 83% would be unable to use some or all of the prayers.

4 Not surprisingly, many of them are engaging in 'principled protest', including discussion with their senior clergy about steps they might take if the prayers are agreed.

5 It is important to add that there are a significant minority of clergy in parishes where we have patronage interest that are very positive about the prayers,

...
...
...
'ALL OUR CLERGY ARE COMMITTED TO LEADING CHURCHES THAT ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE, WHATEVER THEIR VIEWS ON THE PRAYERS AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES.'
...
...
...

If you have thought through your churches' responses to the prayers, which of the following are you considering?



and are therefore supportive of the direction of travel.

Secondly, we followed this up with a series of online consultations that CPAS CEO, Jon Scamman, and I facilitated in order to improve the depth of our enquiry and collate resources that are currently being used and promoted on both sides of the current debate.

These live conversations received significant levels of appreciation, particularly as a place of engagement for clergy that feel alone in their

thoughts about it. One of the things that we heard often was that their voices weren't finding places of expression, and so in light of that we agreed to the next step.

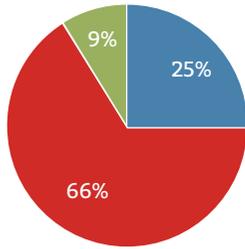
Thirdly, we fed back to the College of Bishops/Synod working groups a summary of our findings, being careful to offer them not so much as a campaign, but as a way of expressing the breadth of voices and strength of feelings from the ground. In order to separate the internal views of CPAS from the voices of those

we were representing, we placed a short statement on our website for those who wanted to know our position.

Fourthly, we have helped facilitate a number of PCC discussions about LLF in order to take the heat off the clergy who are both chairs of the discussion and the ones who implement the decisions made.

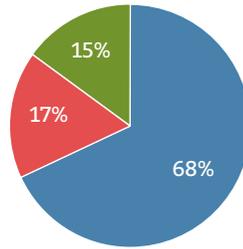
Fifthly, staff members have made themselves available for a range of one-to-one conversations.

Do you think the prayers are indicative of a departure from the doctrine of the Church of England?



■ No =25%
 ■ Yes= 66%
 ■ Some of them =9%

Would you feel comfortable using the prayers in their current form?



■ No =68%
 ■ Yes= 17%
 ■ Some of them =15%

Finally, we are continuing to contact our clergy on a daily basis to ask what we can pray for and, not surprisingly, LLF is a frequent topic of conversation.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We have reworked our material for churches on How to have Difficult Conversations, in order to assist leaders to engage well with these topics, particularly those leading in communities where different views are held.

We continue to engage with PCCs that are wanting to move forward and beyond this debate. As

we prayerfully await the decisions of General Synod, we are conscious that our primary calling as an Anglican evangelical mission agency is to support the mission of the local church in all its various forms, and we are committed to doing that through the coming decades.

In the many one-to-one discussions taking place, we have found that some churches who have settled their thoughts on this topic are moving on to discover a fresh level of engagement with the gospel in their community. While the foundation of so much in our world is shaking through the

movement of environmental, political or sociological tectonic plates, the sure foundation of Jesus Christ is as ever the good news for an ever-changing world.



Please pray

for the Rev Canon Graham Archer and the Rev Canon Jon Scamman as they work with churches around this sensitive subject. Amen.

Leadership Development Team update

We are pleased to announce that the Rev James Lawrence is taking on a new role of Leadership Champion at CPAS.

In his new role, James, currently leader of the Leadership Development team, will be increasing his focus upon thought leadership and content creation for the next phase of the Church's life. James has been at the forefront of much of the Church's thinking and praxis around leadership for many years. He is respected as a well-read and researched practitioner, known for providing outstanding leadership resources, even before the Church knew that they were needed. Under James' leadership, the CPAS Leadership Development team connects with almost 10,000 Christian leaders annually through resources and training events. CPAS has changed James' role in order to release more time for this vital ministry in the coming years.



Following James' new appointment, the Rev Canon Jo McKee, Vicar of St Andrew Radcliffe in Manchester Diocese and Director of the CPAS Arrow Leadership Programme since 2019, will be taking on the new role of Head of Leadership Development, steering the Leadership Development team through this next season at CPAS. Jo has demonstrated great ability in team leadership and brings a wealth of joyful experience as a church leader, particularly in areas of deprivation, and at CPAS. It is a delight to have more



WE ARE DELIGHTED FOR JAMES AND JO IN THEIR NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES

of Jo's time and expertise as CPAS looks to serve church leaders into the future. Jo will be starting her new position of Head of Leadership Development on 30 October 2023.

The Rev Canon Jo McKee said: 'It has been a privilege to be part of the CPAS Leadership Development team over these past four years and I'm excited about working more closely with the team and the wider CPAS team. I'm also looking forward to seeing how God will use us for his mission and glory in this new season.'

Please pray

for James and Jo in this transition period, and the Leadership Development team as they head into a new chapter together. Amen





Listening to Your Voice

Thank you to all of our supporters who took the time to complete our recent supporter survey. We have come to know many of you over the years that you have supported CPAS. We wanted to understand more about you and how CPAS can journey with you in the future.

Some highlights of what you told us:

Over the last two years, 87% of our supporters have prayed for us, 16% have either sent a child on one of our holidays or volunteered on one and 48% have made a regular donation to CPAS.

87%

94%

94% of our supporters who responded told us they receive information by post, 56% by email and 28% by our websites.

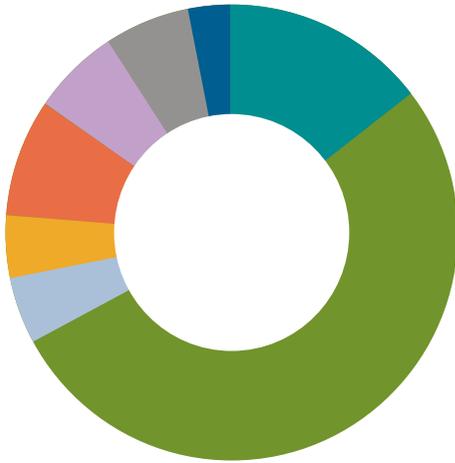
91% of our supporters think we explain our big goals well, 77% feel we say 'thank you' very well, 74% are inspired to pray and 73% think that the stories we feature are told well through words.

91%

73% receive our prayer calendar either by post or download it.

73%

How did you first get involved with CPAS?



- 53%** Through my church
- 15%** Through CPAS' children's holidays (Ventures and Falcons) or residentials (School Ventures)
- 8%** Through a personal contact (e.g. friend or family member)
- 6%** As a member of staff / CPAS committee member / CPAS volunteer
- 5%** On a CPAS training session or course
- 5%** Through a CPAS resource (e.g. a book)
- 3%** Other (please tell us your story)
- 3%** I don't remember

We want to use this feedback to shape our plans for the future so that we can:

Reach out to more of our younger supporters who come on our Venture, Falcon or School Venture holidays. Only 3% of our supporters who responded to our survey were under 45 years old. We want to connect and engage with the next generation of CPAS supporters.

Increase the number of you who engage with us through email and our website, as well as continuing to communicate with those who like to receive information through the post.

THANK YOU

Continue to improve how we thank you and inspire more of you to pray for us.

We are really pleased to hear these responses and that you appreciate our prayer calendar. If you don't currently receive it please download it from the link below. We are so grateful to every one of you who prays for us and the churches we support, and to those that are able to give financially.

www.cpas.org.uk/pray



Supporting CPAS



OUR SUPPORTER PROMISE

Without your support, none of what we have achieved so far would have been possible and for that we want to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to you.

As people passionate about bringing the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the UK and Ireland, we want to act with integrity and honour God in all we do, and that includes how we treat and value you, our supporters. One way that we can show our care towards you is in how we handle your personal information. At CPAS we have what is called Our Supporter Promise, which you will find included as a separate insert and on our website at www.cpas.org.uk/supporterpromise. It sets out how we are striving for the highest standards of service to all our supporters.

To summarise, you will learn of how:

- We are committed to abiding by the Fundraising Code of Practice, which can be found at www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code, and charity law.
- Our approach to handling your personal data and interacting with you will be always characterised by transparency, integrity and respect.
- We take seriously the opinions of our supporters and would welcome any opportunity to hear your thoughts on how we can improve our engagement with you.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further should you wish. You can talk to David Skoppek, Head of Fundraising and Communications on **0300 123 0780** or e-mail him at dskoppek@cpas.org.uk.

DOUBLE YOUR CHRISTMAS DONATION

Last year, you gave over £140,000 through the Big Give Christmas campaign to help thousands of men, women and children explore life with Jesus. Details of this year's Big Give are overleaf.



Prefer Large Print?

We also offer Connect in a large print format. Email info@cpas.org.uk or call **0300 123 0780** to request this.

SINGLE GIFT



Inspired by our work? Give now at www.cpas.org.uk/give, call 0300 123 0780 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday) or send a cheque payable to CPAS to the address on page 2.

REGULAR GIFT

Regular gifts help us plan ahead, so we can be as effective as possible in enabling local church mission. Contact supporter.relations@cpas.org.uk to set up a standing order.

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

We are very grateful to all our wonderful trust and foundation supporters, for example the Hymns Ancient and Modern Charity, who have kindly contributed towards our Falcon holidays programme for children and young people from challenging backgrounds. www.hymnsam.co.uk



Church Posters

CPAS is pleased to announce it has produced a new suite of three A4 posters for churches to display on their notice boards to promote our work. There is one for each of our ministry areas: Leadership, Ventures and Falcons, and Patronage. We also have leaflets about our work available.

To order posters and/or leaflets for your church, or to discuss the possibility of your church supporting CPAS financially – helping churches bring the good news of Jesus to their communities, please contact David Skoppek at dskoppek@cpas.org.uk.

‘OUR CHURCH GIVES TO THE AMAZING WORK OF CPAS BECAUSE, AS OUR PATRON, THEY HELP ENSURE GOOD EVANGELICAL WITNESS INTO THE FUTURE.’

The Rev Dan Leathers, Vicar, St Mark’s Church Haydock



The CPAS logo is displayed in white lowercase letters within a dark blue circular background.

Support our church and holiday leaders in evangelism and help spread the word of Jesus.



Oakwood Falcon is a CPAS supported holiday run by Every Nation London Church, which makes spaces available for disadvantaged kids.

Yemi Asaolu said: 'A lot of these young people come from challenging backgrounds. Quite often, we hear stories



of major trauma and broken homes. Some are not living with parents, and some come from foster families or are in foster care. It is highly likely they would not have any sort of holiday if it wasn't for Oakwood.'



'MOST OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEY MAKE A DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST AT THE FALCON HOLIDAY.'

Falcons

DONATIONS DOUBLED! 28 NOVEMBER TO 5 DECEMBER

Save the date now, and in Advent we'll tell you how to double your Christmas donation. Together, we can help leaders like Yemi use evangelism to share the gospel.

Find out more at www.cpas.org.uk/biggive

