



... link to the world church

If you happen to be travelling up the River Congo, alight from your canoe at Kindu. Ask your way to the Anglican church. After the initial prayer of welcome you are quite likely to be asked: "Do you come from Mulbarton?" Louise Wright explains how your church could enjoy this kind of relationship with Christians in different parts of the world.

One way is through the Church Mission Society who can put you in touch with a specific CMS mission partner. As mission is "from everywhere to everywhere" your link mission partner could be an Indian working in Birmingham or someone like Ruth whose story is below. The link church provides friendship, prayer and finance.

From the mission partner come messages, visits, insights into the region as well as friendship and prayer.

In Norwich diocese a CMS fellowship group meets three or four times a year to exchange news and pray for mission partners, for Open Doors and for each other. See the What's On listing for details of the next meeting and meet Julie who is responsible for CMS links with churches.



From Mulbarton to Congo

Mulbarton Church originally agreed to support a CMS mission partner in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire) Church member Jill recounts: "We took the chance to visit her as a family and returned to tell of meetings with gentle, humble, unpaid Congolese pastors and teachers who lived out their faith. Support for Congo through interest, prayer and money increased. When Congolese bishops and other clergy visit the UK they stay in Norfolk and preach



Ruth Radley at St Peter's church Sheringham

in our churches. Our last rector visited Congo on sabbatical. As technology has developed – and Congo has gradually become more peaceful – our links have flourished through e-mail as well as personal visits, continuing long after the retirement of our mission partner.

"CMS have provided us with an exciting new link: Nepal this time supporting a local Mission Partner. In fact, as I write, our former Rector is visiting him in Katmandhu, and one of our young people has been inspired to try some short-term mission in Nepal with YWAM."



Congolese bishop and colleague experiencing a different climate in Norfolk

Ruth Radley in South Sudan remembers Sheringham

"I have been in South Sudan now for seven years. All of this time I have been linked to St Peter's church in Sheringham. This was a link purely given through CMS, I had no connections in the church otherwise, but it has proved to be a blessed link. I hear from my link person all the time with encouragements in different ways. I will always remember my first visit home, when a lovely creative walk around Sheringham was organised, stopping and praying for different things in different places.

"Each time I have visited, I have felt warmly welcome and feel that both my work, and all my friends here in South Sudan, of course including myself are wrapped in prayers and concern from the congregation here. It has been lovely also to see the Mothers' Union reaching out to their counterparts here in South Sudan with gifts to help support their amazing work here."

Further information: www.cms-uk.org/ or Louise Wright on 01508 536940, louisewri@yahoo.co.uk