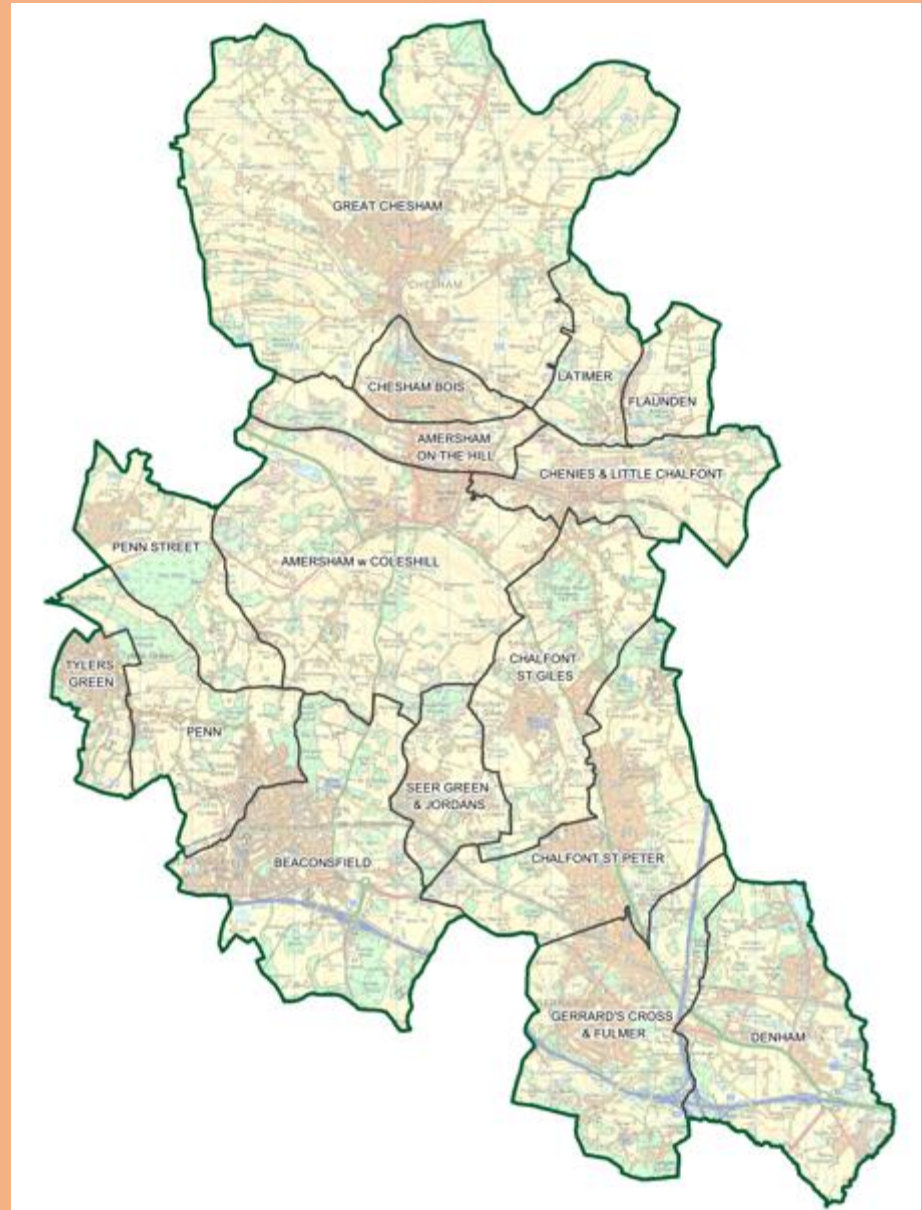


Amersham Deanery Synod

7:30 for 8 pm Thursday 24th November

St James Centre

Gerrards Cross



Deanery Synod Agenda

Chair; Rev'd Peggy Ludlow, Area Dean

1. Welcome and Worship. Rev'd Ross Mungavin
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Synod 15th September 2022
4. Matters Arising
5. Area Dean Teams' notes (circulated in advance)
6. Report from Diocesan Synod (circulated in advance)
7. AOB (please let the Secretary know in advance of the meeting)
8. Parish Share. Mrs Julie Dziegiel. Deanery Treasurer
9. General Synod Report. Rev'd Jeremy Moodey
10. Mission Link – Steve and Lindsey Poulson

Steve and Lindsey Poulson



Lindsey and Steve Poulson, Honduras

Mentoring, creating safe spaces for at-risk children and young people to grow and supporting local project development.



<https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/lindsey-and-steve-poulson-honduras/>



Lindsey and Steve Poulson

Link Letter no. 13 | August 2022

Contact details:
stevepoulson@hotmail.co.uk



Location: Honduras

What we do: Mentoring, creating safe spaces for at-risk children and young people to grow and supporting local project development.

Dear friends,

Last year in an interview, Steve made the statement, "We should live life in such a way that, if God doesn't come through in the situation, we are stuffed!" This was not an encouragement to live recklessly, but to live a life of faith that requires us to step beyond our comfort zones, beyond what we know we can accomplish in our human strength. It was a reminder to be completely dependent upon Jesus, open to how he might want to show up in spite of our own deficiencies.

If I'm honest, I (Lindsey) struggle to live that way. I attempt to stay in control of things, to cover all bases to avoid coming up short. But even the best laid plans can (and often do) change, and these past months have been full of incredible examples of God showing up and doing far more than we planned, asked or even imagined!

Coffee shop

As mentioned in our last link letter, we spent the last several months trying to reopen the coffee shop, Café Alas, which was started in order to help the mentoring programme, Proyecto Alas, become more self-sustainable. We decided to take advantage of the project's location change last year and remodelled part of the new space for Café Alas. After many delays, we were finally able to reopen in April! However, we did very little publicity, as the day before opening we had neither chairs nor a finished kitchen!

Two days in, we published a video on Facebook walking through Café Alas and explaining its purpose of supporting the work of Proyecto Alas with at-risk children and young people. After one day, the video had been shared over 300 times, with over 50,000 views from across Honduras and beyond! We lost track of how many customers arrived (after driving for hours) saying, "We saw your video!" Café Alas is not only covering its costs, but has donated over £250 thus far to Proyecto Alas. The cafe is now a popular place in Talanga - including for many of the children and young people, their families and mentors. The Lord has done more with one video than we could have done with months of marketing plans! (You can see the original video here: <https://fb.watch/FyKToAhUA/> and an English version here: <https://www.facebook.com/BS4380264/posts/70166018048330265/?d=>)

Brayan's dad

You may remember Brayan, one of the transition programme guys who started nursing school in January. A few weeks ago, we got a call to say his father had been shot and was being rushed to hospital. Many people



We are excited that the community is drawn to Café Alas's unique atmosphere: the comfy sofas and the swing seats out on the terrace are favourite spots for many customers.

Support Lindsey and Steve Poulson:
churchmissionsociety.org/poulson

With Jesus
With each other
To the edges



started praying, and his father eventually made it through surgery and was able to go home after a few days. We thought this was enough of a miracle, but there was more! A few days after Brayan's dad returned home, a man appeared at their door, introducing himself as the assassin who had shot him! He explained that he didn't mean to shoot Brayan's dad at all, having confused him with someone else. The man not only apologised to the family, but also paid for the medical bills that had been incurred!

Flood

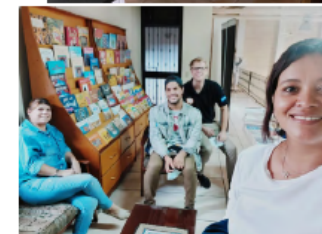
One evening in May we were leaving the house for Bible study just as the first rains of the season were

falling. Steve had the sense to ask our neighbours to keep an eye on our house for rising water levels, as our pump was being repaired. Fifteen minutes later, the neighbours notified us that our garage was already filled with water which was quickly beginning to enter the house. By the time Steve attempted to return home (after no more than 30 minutes of rain), our street had become an impassable river with cars being swept away by the current! Two hours later the water had receded enough to get home, and we arrived with a small army of friends to assess the damage. Despite the several feet-deep river that had been rushing down the street, there were only a few inches of water actually inside our house! Although the mud would take us several hours to clean, absolutely none of our furniture was damaged because our neighbours had moved everything up to our second floor when they first noticed the flooding! We were amazed at God's incredible provision and protection in what could have been a devastating situation.



Children's library

Rita was once a child on the street, whose life was changed when a local project gave her the opportunity of education. She was able to finish school through university, and is now a professional teacher in her thirties with a passion for education - especially reading. Rita is one of the volunteers at Proyecto Alas, and a few months ago shared her dream of a small library/reading area that the kids and young people could enjoy at the project. Unfortunately, there is not a reading culture in Honduras, so decent books are expensive - about £20 each. Nevertheless, a projected budget was created in faith and posted on the Street Kids Direct (SKD) networks. To our astonishment, just two days later we were informed that the entire budget (about £2,000!) had been covered by one person who "just happened" to connect with SKD via Twitter! Rita was excited to spend an entire day visiting bookshops with the leadership team, filling boxes with literature of all genres. Bookshelves are currently being built, and soon Rita's passion for reading will be passed on to the next generation of children and young people who are part of Proyecto Alas!



Photos from top to bottom: Brayan (left) and his brother Nelson (right), wait to hear how their father is doing in the hospital, not knowing the miraculous events to come; two of our many friends who came to help us after the flood, working hard to sweep the remaining water and mud out of the kitchen and dining room; left to right: Lorena, Christian, Steve, and Rita book shopping for the Proyecto Alas library; Lorena shares a devotional lesson with the children and young people at the Proyecto Alas mentoring centre.

Many blessings to you,
Lindsey and Steve



Going further with Church Mission Society

Adelante: Friday 30 September and Saturday 1 October 2022. A hybrid event - in-person and online - to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at churchmissionsociety.org/adelante

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).