



Tom Wilkinson, a graduate in civil engineering from Harrogate, taught at St Thomas' College, a boys' school in Gurutalawa, Sri Lanka. He was particularly encouraged to see boys of all faiths living happily side by side.

Tom said: 'I thank God for the wonderful experience I had in Sri Lanka. I lived among wonderful, interesting people and grew with God. I feel like a changed man!'



Ros Leigh (right), a local preacher from Gloucestershire, worked at the Arulagam Hostel for destitute women in India.

She said: 'I discovered so much about the position of women, especially poor women, in Indian society. And I glimpsed what it means to be a Christian in a minority. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity later in life. Now back in England, I hope I can continue working for the rights of Indian women.'



USPG: Anglicans in World Mission is enabling churches to share God's love in practical and life-changing ways.

We work in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities.



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Registered charity number 234518

The calling of the **Methodist Church** is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The **Methodist Church**

www.methodist.org.uk

EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Volunteer to live and work alongside the world church for up to 12 months



What is the Experience Exchange Programme (EEP)?

The Experience Exchange Programme (EEP) is a self-funding volunteer programme run jointly by USPG: Anglicans in World Mission and the Methodist Church.

It offers volunteers from Britain and Ireland an opportunity to spend between six months and a year experiencing a different culture and sharing in the life of the church overseas.

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Where are the placements?

Placements are arranged through the world church connections of the two sponsoring organisations. Placements are negotiated independently for each volunteer, taking into account personal preferences, skills and background.

To date EEP volunteers have been placed in Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers have taught in schools and vocational training centres; worked on agricultural, building and health projects; assisted with administration; and supported children's and youth work, as well as other roles according to the needs and requirements of the placement and the local church.

Our aim is to help volunteers to develop their gifts and deepen their understanding of global

development issues in relation to their faith. No special professional skills are necessary.

How much does it cost?

Volunteers are self-funded. They usually need to raise about £2,500 to cover airfares, health insurance, living expenses, and training, though this amount varies with each placement.

The programme offers a small grant to volunteers. We do not charge an arrangement fee.

What is the age requirement?

Volunteers must be at least 18 at the time of going overseas, but there is no upper age limit. We have sent volunteers aged over 70.

Is there a denominational requirement?

EEP volunteers come from all denominations and church backgrounds.

Further information

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Peter and Sue Finney, a retired nurse and construction manager respectively, spent six months with the Anglican Church in Swaziland. Sue ran a pre-school playgroup, while Peter organised and supervised the construction of a church and church schools.

Sue said: 'It was a real privilege to be welcomed and accepted by the local community. We thank God for this valuable and life changing experience.'



Elizabeth Casselton, a trained dancer from Ipswich, supported a range of church-run dance projects in Mauritius.

She said: 'The Experience Exchange Programme does exactly what it says on the tin – you get the chance to offer your skills in exchange for the experience of living in another community. This experience will probably have a far bigger impact on you than you could ever make on the community that you work with.'



London teacher **Pauline Simpson** taught maths at the Anglican High School in St George's, Grenada.

She said: 'Being in Grenada a year after a major hurricane gave me much more awareness of the long-term issues associated with natural disasters, particularly in a less well developed country. My time there has made me much more appreciative of all that I have here in the UK.'