Dear Local Secretary.

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are well. I am writing to check in and assure you of my thoughts and good wishes. Whilst this is still a challenging and often frustrating time, our priority must continue to be the safety of ourselves and our loved ones. Faith, hope and charity will bring us safely through.

Whilst we cant do as much as we would like, and our collections will be down this year, we can rest assured that, together as Missio, we continue to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church around the world, where the need is greatest. We have been pleased with the response to The Holy Father’s Pontifical Missionary Society emergency appeal. As I write, this appeal has raised over £160,000. Missio has already sent funds to Mill Hill Missionaries in Cameroon, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

'We can now start the relief programme tomorrow, as we were ready with everything. So by tomorrow, things will reach the neediest people. Please convey our thankfulness and gratitude to all those who have donated for this blessed cause, and please be assured of our daily prayers for all of you.’ *Update from Sri Lanka*

Our usual pattern of appeals, mission animation, celebration events, and of course, collecting in, counting and banking our Red boxes has been put on hold. The most important thing I can say is ‘don’t worry’. There will be a time once the present restrictions have been fully lifted that we will be able to recommit ourselves to our role in the parishes.

Diocesan Directors have been in contact with colleagues regionally and nationally and we are thinking what our next step may be. We wish to keep you informed about plans and involve you in our discussions, drawing on your experience as a Local Secretary.

As you will be aware, before the Covid-19 lockdown, Missio had recruited two Regional Community Fundraisers, with the intention of supporting Missio Diocesan Teams. Dave Wheat was appointed to cover dioceses in the ‘South’ and Theresa Codd for dioceses in the ‘North’. Theresa & Dave would have been hoping to meet with you in person at a Missio event or when visiting your Parish. As this is not currently possible, do feel free to e-mail Theresa or Dave if you have any questions or suggestions, or to share your own experiences in the parish. You can find their contact details and further information by visiting our dedicated Local Secretaries page: [www.missio.org.uk/LS](http://www.missio.org.uk/LS)

*Alternatively, please feel free to contact me, if you have any concerns. (contact details as appropriate.)*

Thank you for your continued support and generosity in your role as Local Secretary. Let us be hopeful and ready to increase our efforts in championing Mission in our parishes, enriching our lives and those of the Church across the world.

*Signature*