

## Colourful tribute to pioneer William



Jane Calcott and Roger Griffith with the banner they made to celebrate the 250th anniversary of William Carey's birth

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**Parishioners have created a colourful mural to honour a pioneering missionary who reached more than 300 million people.**

Jane Calcott and Roger Griffith, deacons of Rockingham Road Baptist Church, Kettering, have made a display in the church to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Baptist missionary William Carey.

Mrs Calcott, 65, of Bath Road, Kettering, said: “It’s a focal point for people to hone in on.

“It brings to the attention of everyone who comes into the church – not just those who come for services – it brings to the front of the mind what he did.

“We have had a lot of people asking questions.”

In total the pair spent about 48 hours between them researching and making the bright display, which shows Mr Carey’s route from Kettering to India on a period map, the kind of boat he would have sailed in and his famous words: “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God”.

Mrs Calcott, who regularly makes displays for events such as Christmas, was asked to mark the milestone, but turned to “computer whizz” Mr Griffith for help finding an old map.

Church member David Page, of The Crescent, Kettering, who asked Mrs Calcott to make the display, said: “We have got some very talented people in our church and these happen to be two of our eight deacons.

“We are very lucky to have them in the church.”

Kettering is famed for the beginning of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) in 1792 through Carey’s determination to help oppressed people overseas.

The BMS was initially funded through the generous donation of £13 2s 6d by 12 of Carey’s fellow clergymen in north Northamptonshire when they met in “Widow Wallis’s parlour”, now known as the Carey Mission House in Lower Street, Kettering. Martha Wallis was a member of Rev Andrew Fuller’s church in Kettering town centre, known at that time as “The Little Meeting”.

Carey never returned from India but with the help from back home he reached and helped 300 million people in Asia before his death.

[http://www.northantset.co.uk/news/local/corby/colourful\\_tribute\\_to\\_pioneer\\_william\\_1\\_3090749](http://www.northantset.co.uk/news/local/corby/colourful_tribute_to_pioneer_william_1_3090749)

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