



**Christian Aid Week is from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and I will again be asking for your help to raise as much money as we can.**

**Before I outline how we can do this, I wanted to tell you a little bit more about Christian Aid. Hopefully you will know that, by having their partners on the ground where they are needed, they can identify and direct funds to the projects needing help in both the long term and the short term. Christian Aid responds to emergencies with a head start because of their global network of local partners based in and familiar with the areas and the issues to address. They send the funds we raise directly to where it is needed rather than centrally, which may risk misappropriation.**

**This year's theme is about the lack of health clinics, good hygiene and the scarcity of medical expertise for expectant mothers in Malawi, making giving birth a dangerous and frequently fatal experience in one of Africa's poorest countries. However this problem has now been virtually eclipsed by the devastation caused by Cyclone Idai, which has affected more than 2 million people in Malawi, neighbouring Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Christian Aid is already on the ground in Malawi and Zimbabwe. In Malawi so far over 992,000 people have been affected, including more than 75,900 displaced. Homes, schools and health facilities have been demolished and roads are blocked and some villages are now unconnected islands surrounded by floods. Water and sanitation infrastructures have been destroyed, increasing the risk of water borne diseases. Livelihoods are lost.**

**Christian Aid has launched an appeal with other members of the DEC, the Disasters and Emergency Committee, which was in fact created by them in the 60's so that development agencies could work together in times of humanitarian crisis. However, you may not be aware that Christian Aid is active in many other fields in their quest for justice. Did you know that two thirds of displaced people forced from home are still in their own country? Seeking safety but unwilling or unable to leave their homes, they are denied the official protection given to refugees. There are many reasons for their displacement: conflict, floods, drought, fear, none of which are under their control. They are the most vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. The UN and its member states could provide measures for a fair solution and Christian Aid is lobbying the UK government, a major donor to the UN's humanitarian system and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to play a role to achieve this process.**

**Climate change affects people and planet alike but it is also an issue of injustice. It is the world's poorest communities who are often the least responsible for causing climate change who suffer the most. Christian Aid, standing together with other groups, has had significant success by persuading three of the four major banks to stop funding fossil fuel projects. The exception is HSBC! Christian Aid want the UK government to put a net zero greenhouse gas target in law and have launched a campaign with a demonstration in Westminster on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June this year to show both faith in action and to lobby our political representatives. It is called "The Time Is Now".**

**What about tax justice? Is it fair that big corporates can use creative accounting so that enormous amounts of money that could be spent on local infrastructure and local services in developing countries simply go back in to their coffers? Companies like Amazon, Google and Starbucks have been exposed in the press for getting away without paying what they owe. The UN and IMF have estimated developing countries lose between \$100 billion and \$300 billion every year to tax dodging. Through campaigning, Christian Aid hopes to remove the loopholes, create a global financial system and lift the veil of secrecy on international tax. The successes so far include the UK government agreeing to**

**publish full and transparent registers of business owners in British Overseas Territories and Vodafone agreeing to publish its profits and tax paid in every country, previously shielded.**

**How you can help this Christian Aid Week.....**

**The House to House collections are fundamental and so far have contributed the greatest amount to annual fundraising. They also provide an important opportunity to prompt a gift aided donation, which adds 25% to the amount. I will be contacting my regulars but always need more helpers please.**

**This year, we have another option that might suit if you don't have the time or the inclination to make more than one visit. We will now have envelopes that carry stickers asking the recipients to drop their donation at one of the central drop off points in Weybridge: The Post Office, French Fancy Tearoom and The Parish Office. All three will have Drop Off Point signage. So this means we can cover more roads and places you meet people and know, there is still an option to gift aid on the slip and your responsibility ends with the giving or posting of the envelope.**

**'Bucket & Smile' collecting has proved its merit and actually can be quite good fun! So we will continue our tradition, with a lot more publicity material, at Weybridge Station. The shifts are 2 hours each, some seating can be arranged, and will run from 1-3pm, 3-5pm, 5-7pm, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> through to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May.**

**I have also arranged permission for us to collect on the street outside Waitrose (we are not allowed in the actual store but the foot flow will be great). This will be on the last day of CA week, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Your response to the Tesco collection was laudable and I hope this fervour will extend to both the station and Waitrose. As the latter is on a Saturday, it gives all those who work or want to park the children an opportunity to help too! The shifts will probably be 2 hours and run from 9am to 6pm. Seating can be arranged. As before, with all 'Bucket & Smile' collecting, all your kit will be provided.**

**Finally, there will be a CA speaker on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, the start of the Week. The congregation collection forms a generous part of our fundraising but if you can't be there on the day, you can donate the week before or after.  
Thank you. Julia Obermajer-Navratil. 07810 434918**