

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May in Chandlers Ford

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Empty Churches but a loving response



This year Christian Aid week will be different. Not only have plans for fundraising had to change but the focus of Christian Aid's campaigning and resources for this year has changed too in response to the global coronavirus threat.

The coronavirus does not discriminate who it targets – rich or poor – experience has shown us that it will be the poorest who will bear the brunt. We have begun to see how measures such as social distancing, hand hygiene can help to stop the transmission of this disease. But how much more difficult must this be in places where people are living in overcrowded conditions and lacking sanitation?

It is anticipated that some of the world's poorest countries, with the weakest health systems and most vulnerable people, will be exposed to this deadly virus. They will struggle to cope with any costs of healthcare, the costs of being unable to earn a living while ill or quarantined, and the costs of rebuilding their lives afterwards.

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

Christian Aid's response

- They will prioritise the poorest and most marginalised groups and ensure they have access to information and services free from fear and misinformation
- They will work to prevent the spread of the virus by providing hygiene items and sanitation improvements
- They will also work to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable people are being heard and that the response is catering for their needs
- They will protect vulnerable people and keep them safe through our work with church partners and other faith-based organisations.

How Christian Aid are responding now

Currently, over 850,000 Rohingya refugees live in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar district, making them very vulnerable to coronavirus. They are the focus of the Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal

CA are already taking action. Working together with partners, they are informing people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps have triage and isolation

spaces in order to receive suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

How can we respond?

We can respond in three ways, - **Pray, Act and Give.**

Pray

Christian Aid has produced some helpful prayer resources that you may wish to use for you own prayers. Find them here. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers>

Here is an example you may like to use.

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones distant from friends away from neighbours thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen.

Or you may find that with more time on your hands at home you can take part in the Christian Aid prayer chain initiative. Join the Christian Aid Prayer Chain <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

Act

Use this time to find out more about the work of Christian Aid via their website.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Join virtually with other Christian Aid supporters across the country by signing up to share in the daily live services with guest speakers during Christian Aid Week <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-live-streaming>

Help raise vital funds for Christian Aid Week by simply sending your friends and family a personalised message in an 'e-Envelope' - find out more here <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/>

Give

There are different ways you can still give to Christian Aid this year.

You can support local fund raising efforts by making a payment to the **Chandlers Ford Christian Aid Just Giving page:** www.tinyurl.com/y82qx4d8 or scan this QR code to your mobile to get to the donation website



You can make a donation and take part in a **Local Photos Quiz**, identifying local places which may already be familiar or which you may spot if out on daily walks... with hints for those who can't get out. It's on the CTiCF website: <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/chandlersford/>

Or donate direct to the **Christian Aid Week appeal:**

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Finally

Please look at Chandlers Ford's other Christian Aid week activities on the CTiCF website:

<https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/chandlersford/>