

Christian Aid

(Supported by Churches Together in Gosport)

Gosport and Lee Group (Ref: OR120932)

For information about Christian Aid, their ways of working, etc, see
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk>

By supporting Christian Aid Week (in May each year) CTIG can show its concern for poverty and injustice in a practical way, and by raising money to help those in desperate need.

Our local churches can be involved:

- (1) by distributing envelopes during the yearly Christian Aid week, to all their church members
- (2) by getting involved in door to door collecting during the yearly Christian Aid week
(see Barbara Grosvenor's article below)
- (3) by arranging one or more fund-raising events for Christian Aid any time in the year.
See their website (above) for ideas.
- (4) by being prepared during the yearly Christian Aid week, to collect outside a supermarket/ in the High Street/ by the ferry etc – subject to the proper permissions.

Practicalities:

- 1) **Our local Coordinator (Geoff Grosvenor: geoff@grosvenor49.plus.com)** will order and deliver donation envelopes, paying-in slips, posters etc to local churches in time for Christian Aid Week. Each church will be asked what they need in advance, but if any church wishes to volunteer that information, they can!
- 2) Please pay all money raised in via a local Post Office, using the slips supplied, and let the Coordinator know what you have raised, so we can keep an overall total.
- 3) The Coordinator is happy to deal with any foreign currency you might receive, and to deal with Gift Aid declarations.
- 4) Please let C.T.I.G. have details of any fund-raising events you may have, together with any posters, etc, so they can be publicized via C.T.I.G.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTING

(an article by Barbara Grosvenor of the Bury United Reformed Church)

"Despite the drawbacks of collecting door-to-door (bad weather; rude refusals etc), Geoff and I are still in favour of this method of collecting for Christian Aid. For every person who ignores you or refuses to give there are many more who will give you a smile, and be glad that Christians are still alive and willing to show their presence on the street.

Bury Road Church is lucky to be allocated a reasonable area with pleasant gardens and mostly clean tidy spaces (the St. Helen's road area and the Gomer Estate) and it helps that we've built up a trust with the people we collect from. Over the years we've had a few amusing incidents, a couple of which I now share with you:

One man, who had politely refused to contribute at the door, later came running after me saying, "The wife says we always give to Christian Aid".

Above the shops at Queen's Parade there's a row of flats. Some years ago a large dog kept guard from the top of the steps, and I was too scared to collect from there. However, Lynn had continued to deliver the envelopes. This year I mentioned this to Lynn and she said that she had once again delivered there. I thought I had better do the collecting! The only dog there now was a much smaller breed, so I knocked on the first door. "Good evening", I said, "I've come to collect the Christian Aid envelope." The man looked surprised. "You haven't been for three years" he commented, "...so here's this year's envelope; and this one is from last year; and this one is from the year before". They all had money in them!

The weather was a mixed bag this year this year for Christian Aid Week, but we managed to cover most of our patch. The House-to-House Collection total was £542 for our patch. It would have been difficult to meet this amount any other way. We hope to continue house-to-house collecting each May, and we hope that others will be encouraged to join us.

Please consider collecting in this way through your church."

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