

If appropriate here, you could tell people that they can buy these bowls and other crafts made by the project for themselves – more details available from Tŷ John Penri.

Explain that all our churches have been invited to buy a bowl for themselves to be a symbol and a focus of their giving. They can be passed around for us to put our gifts in or can be passed around to give things out. All churches have been asked to think of creative ways to use it and to send their ideas to us to share with all our churches.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord
Bless this bowl
Bless the hands that made it, that shaped it and fashioned it.
Bless the hands that hold it, that invite prayer and giving.
Bless the hands that will touch it as they give, that pass it to their neighbours.
Lord bless this bowl.
Amen

The bowl can then be used to receive **THE OFFERING** and/or can then be used to hold the bread for communion.

THE MEAL:

LEADER: O risen Christ, you made yourself known to the disciples in the breaking of bread at Emmaus.
The bread which we break together this day is a sign of the brokenness of the world.
Through our sharing in the bread of life in our many Christian communities, open our eyes and hands to the needs of all people.
Let our hearts burn to share your gifts and help us to go forth with one another and with bread: bread of hope, bread of life and bread of peace.

PASS THE BREAD

'Name ...the food of fellowship'
(or hope or life or peace)

PASS THE WINE

'Name ...the drink of fellowship'
(or hope or life or peace)

(Service based on PACSA Agape – 'Nkulunkulu Busisa iAfrika...', Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness, PO Box 2338, Pietermaritzburg, 3200, South Africa. That liturgy was itself adapted from: College of Transfiguration HIV/AIDS Service: 'Being Lifted Up', Grahamstown; Jan Berry, Sheffield, 1990; Janet Morley 1992 'All Desires Known', SPCK London; 'Ekuphelelisweni / Moving to Wholeness' 2002: Opening Liturgy; Diocese of Natal Women's Conference, Pietermaritzburg; 'Agape Service Book', June 1995 PACSA, Pietermaritzburg.)

THANKSGIVING:

ALL: We thank you that, in your Spirit, people have lived courageously, people have sought your freedom, people have caught your vision.
We thank you that you make us in your image,
that you came to live among us that we, too, may live in your light.

HYMN OR SONG

COMMISSION:

ALL: Loving God,
direct us in ways we do not yet discern,
equip us for the service of reconciliation and true liberation in your world.
May there be peace wherever people live,
the peace that we cannot make ourselves,
the power of Christ Jesus here among us.

LEADER: Let us go forth into the world
ALL: in your name.

CONCLUSION:

ALL: God bless Africa
Guard her children.
Guide her leaders
and grant her peace.
For Jesus Christ's sake
AMEN

OR:

ALL: Nkulunkulu busisa iAfrika.
Londoloza abantwana bayo.
Hola abaholi bayo
Uyiphe ukuthula ngenxa
Ka Jesu Christu
AMEN

HYMN OR SONG (before or after the blessing, as appropriate for your church)

LEADER: Now God's home is with all people.
God shall live with them
and they will be God's people.
God will be their God and will wipe away all tears from their eyes.
There will be no more death.
no more grief or crying or pain.
The old has gone and the new has come!
ALL: AMEN

Union of Welsh Independents appeal 2008/9

Opening service Committed



Preparing for the service

Instead of suggesting hymns or songs we have left it to you to choose the most appropriate ones for your church. We have given notes for a sermon, for your speaker or preacher to expand on.

If you have not already done so, you might like to take the following actions before the service, so that you can tell everyone about them during it:

- Appoint an appeal promoter
- Order a Wola Nani bowl
- Set up a monthly giving scheme
- Book one of the people who went on the trip to come to speak at your church
- Identify the Sundays on which you will talk about the appeal during the coming year

If you would like to do more than this straight away, why not have a lunch together after the service and talk about things you would like to do to support the appeal this year. You could also look through the materials to be used from now until Christmas (further materials will follow) and ask a small group to take responsibility for each one.

South Africa Appeal

Service Outline (with communion) – based on a service written by our appeal partner Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA) in South Africa.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

ALL: As we gather together here today,
we commit ourselves to you once again, O God.
We commit ourselves to one another,
and we pray that we may be created anew
to share in Christ's redeeming work.

OPENING HYMN OR SONG

OPENING WORDS:

ALL: God of life,
God of many names,
Creator, Mother, Father,
God of Jesus Christ,
Rabbi of the poor,
receive our praise and worship.
Your breath gives us life and being,
your love breaks our dividing walls
and you walk with us to freedom.

God of wounded hands,
carpenter of new creation,
out of struggle, confusion, despair,
we cry out that your life
gives hope to our world.
Womb and birth of joy
we celebrate your reign,
for you bring down
the mighty from their thrones,
you lift up the lowly
and fill the hungry with good things.

HYMN OR SONG

THE WORD: Matthew 25:31-46 (or an alternative, to be selected by your church)



We believe in life before death



Union of
Welsh
Independents

[SHORT TIME OF REFLECTION, if appropriate in your church]

SERMON NOTES

- The reading reminds us that it's part of our Christian calling to help those in need. It's part of what inspired the churches to set up Christian Aid 60 years ago and it's part of what motivates many of the Christian partner organisations we work with now.
- There is certainly great need in South Africa. Use the information from the background sheet in this pack to tell the church more about the situation there.
- As well as Jesus' words, we have his example – as well as preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, he healed people, fed people and challenged the status quo.
- A modern paraphrase of the Bible, 'The Message', expresses it very well – 'Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.'
- You could use the story of the people in the appeal poster for this service:

Gogo Mbhense (73), Tsietsi and Nompilo (16), Edmund (12), Bheki (8) + Maria (7) - the appeal poster shows Gogo Mbhense on the left, Maria in the centre and Bheki on the right.

Gogo (Granny) Mbhense has been looking after her orphaned grandchildren since 2002. The whole family, who live near Pietermaritzburg, is living off her pension. They are now being helped by Thandanani, one of the organisations we are supporting through our appeal. We will be learning more about Thandanani in February next year.

When Thandanani found out about the family, their house was crumbling. There were no windows or doors, half the roof was missing and the back wall was falling down. Thandanani staff members rebuilt the house and have since been helping the family with monthly food parcels, school uniforms, clothes and bed linen. They've also negotiated for the children to be exempt from school fees.

'When it rained the rain poured into the house,' says Gogo Mbhense. 'There was no way to keep it out. The most important thing they did was to help us build the house, because we were living like animals, it was like living outside.'

'The most difficult thing is that I'd love to make this house into a proper home,' she says.

'Thandanani has helped but I'd still like to make our home better. I'd love each child to have some privacy and a bed. At the moment they share the bed and sleep on the floor. When I die I want to know that the children are safe and they have a proper home.'

In the future, she says, 'I hope that all my grandchildren can finish school and carry on respecting me as they do now. I hope life is easier for them, and you need education for that. Without education, you're nothing.'

'I feel happy just to be here with my grandchildren, knowing there are people who care about us,' she continues. Her message to us is this: 'Pray that the children's parents rest in peace and watch over their children from heaven to guide them and protect them.'

CONFESSION:

LEADER: If we confess our sins,
God is just and may be trusted to forgive us and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

ALL: For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,
God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,
and the self-interest which strangles compassion,
God forgive us.

For the times we are too eager to be better than others,
too rushed to care,
too tired to bother,
when we don't really listen,
when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,
God forgive us.

For our failings in community,
our lack of understanding
and forgiveness, our insensitivity,
we ask your mercy.

For our domination of the earth and our exploitation of your creation,
God forgive us.

INTERCESSIONS:

After the set prayers below, we offer free and spontaneous prayers [if appropriate in your church], ending with the words:

All: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For the church and all who believe,
that your will be done

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For those in leadership positions,
that government may be justly administered

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For all victims of the legacy of apartheid
ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For those caught up in conflict
and violence
In South Africa, and in our world today...

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For all those working for peace
in our country and elsewhere,
and for ourselves that we may be peace makers
in thought, word and deed

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For prisoners, especially those facing
the death penalty,
and for their family and friends

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For the poor and unemployed,
the refugees,
And the homeless, especially the children

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For the sick, the old and the lonely,
And for those who mourn or are in
any distress

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

LEADER: For wholeness and healing in ourselves,
In society and of the earth

ALL: We pray to you, O God.

Continue... (free prayer)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Use either the version below or the traditional version (in English or Zulu – Zulu version below):

ALL: Eternal Spirit, life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.

Your kin-dom of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread that we need for today, feed us.

For the hurts that we inflict on one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love

now and for ever. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: Baba Wethu osezulwini,
malingcweliswe igama lakho;
mawufike umbuso wakho;
mayenziwe intando yakho emhlabeni njengasezulwini;
usiphe namuhla isinkwa sethu semihla ngemihla;
usithethelele amacula ethu,
ngenjalokhu nathi sibathethelela abanecala kithi;
ungasingenisi ekulingweni,
kodwa usikhulule kokubi;
ngokuba umbuso ungowakho,
namandla, nenkazimulo,
kuze kubephakade.
Amen.

Teach THE APPEAL SONG here

(the words and music are included in your pack)

THE PEACE:

LEADER: 'I give you a new commandment:
Love one another;
Just as I have loved you,
You must also love one another;
By this love you have for one another
Everyone will know that you are my disciples.'
(John 13:34-35)

PASS THE PEACE

Talking about THE APPEAL BOWL

Explain where the bowl has come from. It is made from papier-mâché, using unwanted food labels from South African factories – recycling something that would otherwise be thrown away. These bowls are made by women through a project in South Africa that gives dignity and an income to people with HIV, who often lose their jobs when people find out about their status, and who no-one then wants to employ. The bowls are now sold in South Africa and all over the world.