Hear our prayer
April – July 2018

Together we’re stronger than the storms

We believe in life before death
Week beginning 1 April

Easter Sunday

Fullness of life

‘I have seen the Lord.’
Read: John 20:1-18

Sori lives in northern Kenya. For years, she’s struggled through the drought. Her children survived on just one meal a day.

But thanks to your generous support, Sori has new hope. Our partner brought her family life-saving cash vouchers. She says: ‘If it wasn’t for this aid, we couldn’t have survived. Now we’re able to buy food and send our children to school.’

She says: ‘I pray for the health of my children, I pray for rains, and for peace also’.

Join your prayers with Sori’s this Easter. Give thanks that she can send her children to school. Praise God for the life-changing work of our partner in Kenya. And pray that Christians will be moved to respond generously to our Easter Appeal, bringing hope to our sisters and brothers in the wilderness.

Risen Christ, let your love, that is stronger than death, strengthen the weary, revive the weak and encourage the despondent to believe in fullness of life before death. In your name we pray, Amen.
Week beginning 8 April
Second Sunday of Easter

Pray for peace

‘Peace be with you.’
Read: John 20:19-21

Humaira’s husband and father were killed by gunfire in Myanmar. She was nine months pregnant when she fled in search of safety.

Her family endured an exhausting journey, walking for many days. Eventually they reached Bangladesh, and Humaira gave birth to her baby in a refugee camp.

Pray for peace for Humaira, and for all those who are fleeing the violence in Myanmar.

Week beginning 15 April
Third Sunday of Easter

Bearing witness

‘You are witnesses of these things.’
Read: Luke 24:36-48

Climate change forces millions of people from their homes, and brings death to entire communities. Our partners bear witness to this injustice every day.

Give thanks for the Big Shift campaign. Pray that banks will respond to our call to shift investments out of fossil fuels and into renewable energy.

Jesus,
Prince of Peace, let your words be heard again in the hardest and darkest places, in the broken and bruised places, in the brutalised and traumatised places.
Peace be with you.
Amen.
Week beginning 22 April
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Listening

‘I am the good shepherd.’
Read: John 10:11-18

Pray for God’s blessings on Prospery Raymond, Haiti Country Manager, as he travels around the UK over the next two weeks helping groups prepare for Christian Aid Week.

Pray for endurance and a quick recovery for those running the London Marathon for Christian Aid today. Give thanks for their fundraising efforts and for their commitment to ending poverty and injustice.

Week beginning 29 April
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Rebuilding hope

‘Abide in me.’
Read: John 15:1-8

Three years ago, two devastating earthquakes struck communities in Nepal, claiming nearly 9,000 lives and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Pray for Laxman and his family who survived this trauma. Give thanks for the work of our partner in Nepal, who helped people rebuild their lives from the rubble.

Pray for Christians in the UK as they make the bridge cross sponsored walks ahead of Christian Aid Week. Pray they may cross safely and enjoy their fundraising efforts.

True Vine, be the sap and source of all that sustains us. Abiding in you, may we bear much fruit, fruit that will last. Amen.
Week beginning 6 May
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Stepping out in faith

‘Love one another.’
Read: John 15:9-18

Christian Aid Week begins next Sunday 13 May.

Pray for organisers of Christian Aid groups and Christian Aid Week events who are doing last-minute preparation this week. Pray that they would each be encouraged in their work to support communities across the world.

If you are an organiser or collector, may you know the presence of God as you step out in faith.

Give thanks and pray for the organisers of the Sheffield May Day Trek. Pray for safety and a sense of achievement for all those walking on 7 May.

Loving God, may your joy be made complete for organisers of collections and events for Christian Aid Week as we choose to love as we are loved. Amen.

Week beginning 13 May
Christian Aid Week
Stronger than the storms

‘My joy made complete.’
Read: John 17:6-19

This Christian Aid Week, we pray for Marcelin and his daughters. His family were forced out of their home when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti.

Pray that we may respond generously this Christian Aid Week, giving Marcelin and his family a chance to create a better life. Pray that they know they’re not alone in their struggle.

Pray for all who are collecting door-to-door this week. Pray they would be encouraged and know the joy that Jesus prayed for his disciples.

Pray for a meaningful partnership between Christian Aid Week and *Thy Kingdom Come*, the global ecumenical prayer initiative.

As Jesus entrusted his disciples with his mission to the world, we pray that we, who have felt the transforming power of your love, will bear witness to that love far and wide.
Week beginning 20 May

Pentecost

Following in your footsteps

‘All were amazed.’
Read: Acts 2:1-21

Praise God for the 21st year of the Circle the City walk around London today on Sunday 20 May. Pray for all those helping with the activities to be encouraged, and for all those taking part to enjoy it and raise vital funds.

Pray for a wonderful Christian Aid presence at Heart and Soul, the annual celebration of the life and work of the Church of Scotland, in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh on 20 May.

Week beginning 27 May

Trinity Sunday

Home of hope

‘Here am I; send me!’
Read: Isaiah 6:1-8

Vilia lost her mum and her home when an earthquake struck Haiti in 2010.

Our partner KORAL gave Vilia a new home – strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. When Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, Vilia welcomed 54 of her neighbours under her roof.

Give thanks for Vilia, and for her strength and generosity in sheltering her neighbours. Praise God for KORAL, helping communities in Haiti to be stronger than the storms.

Give thanks for these events and for people stepping out in mission and prayer this Christian Aid Week. Pray that many will see them and be amazed.

Spirit of Truth, whom the world can never grasp, touch our hearts with the shock of your coming, fill us with desire for your disturbing peace, and fire us with longing to speak your uncontainable word. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Pray for a fruitful Christian Aid presence at The Urdd National Eisteddfod on 28 May–2 June. Give thanks for the young people who will share their talents in singing, dancing, and performing.

Holy Trinity, forever one, whose nature is community, source of all sharing, in whom we love, and meet, and know our neighbour: life in all its fullness, making all things new: we praise and adore you.
Week beginning 3 June
Second Sunday after Pentecost
The blessing of service

Treasure in clay jars.  
Read: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

This Volunteers’ Week, give thanks for all those who contributed their time to make Christian Aid Week a success – as collectors, church reps, event organisers, helpers, and speakers.

Pray that our Christian Aid Teachers will help many young people in schools explore issues of global justice and inspire them to become agents of change. Give thanks and pray that all who help out in our offices will be blessed by their service.

God of all, thank you for all those who choose to freely and generously share the treasure of their talents and gifts to build your kingdom across the world.  
Amen.
We do not lose heart.
Read: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

The football World Cup begins this week. A sport sometimes surrounded by controversy and excessive amounts of money. But it can also bring people together in a spirit of unity.

Give thanks for the enjoyment football brings to young people who are living as refugees in Iraq. Thanks to our partner REACH, young people have the freedom to play and hope for a better future.

Pray for Christian Aid’s Uprooted exhibition, touring cathedrals and churches across the UK.

Pray that it will open our hearts and minds to journey with those who’ve been forced from their homes.

Comforting God, draw near to those who have been displaced from all that is familiar. Provide for and protect them, so they may not lose heart. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Week beginning 17 June
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Beauty in diversity

‘It is like a mustard seed.’
Read: Mark 4:26-34

Refugee Week and Festival begins this week. Give thanks for the diverse gifts and talents those seeking refuge have brought to the communities where they now live. Pray that those who’ve recently arrived would always be met with a warm welcome.
Pray that, as the UN works towards a new global response to migrants and refugees, they do not forget about the largest group of displaced people – the 40 million who are displaced within their own borders.

Friday 22 June marks the 70th anniversary of the landing of Windrush, which brought nearly 500 passengers from Jamaica. Pray for all those celebrating the anniversary service at Westminster Abbey today.

Universal God, grant us the faith, even of a mustard seed, that systems can change and all be made welcome. Amen.
Week beginning 24 June
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Pray for peace

‘Peace! Be still!’
Read: Mark 4:35-41

Around two million people in Nigeria have fled ongoing violence and terror.

Falmata and her children, Bakuva and Yagana, had no choice but to leave their home. They’re now living in a makeshift camp in appalling conditions. Pray for peace, protection and better shelter for Falmata and her children.

Pray for an end to the conflict in Nigeria. Pray for the protection of our partners, who are one of the few agencies providing humanitarian assistance to both displaced and host communities. Pray that this overlooked crisis is given the international attention and support that it needs.

Pray for safety and a wonderful experience for all those who will walk the Sheffield Night Hike on 30 June.

God of wind and sea, quiet the chaos of injustice, we pray, and bless your people with a lasting peace. Amen.
'I will hope in him.'
Read: Lamentations 3:22-33

Four years ago, we met the two children pictured below outside a damaged mosque in Gaza. More than 2,000 Palestinians were killed and 70 people in Israel died in the devastating 50-day conflict.

Pray for peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory this week, in the lead up to the fourth anniversary of the conflict. Pray for all those affected, and for those who lost loved ones. Pray that they would know God's comfort in their grief.

Give thanks for our partners there, who are working to protect human rights and build a just and lasting peace.

Merciful God, may your peace settle as dew on Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Amen.
‘Whenever I am weak, then I am strong.’ Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

The 9 July is the seventh anniversary of South Sudan’s independence. It’s also the date set for the general elections.

Pray for our sisters and brothers in South Sudan, who have endured years of conflict, hunger, and hardship. Pray the election will pass peacefully and for reconciliation between communities.

Pray for all those who are severely hungry. Pray communities will be able to reap a harvest to see them through the ‘hunger season’. Give thanks for Christian Aid partners providing food vouchers, training and support to communities.

Give thanks for faith leaders in South Sudan working to broker peace. May they be blessed.

Gracious God, strengthen those who are weary and for those working for peace in South Sudan. May the conflict finally end and communities have a chance to thrive.

Amen.
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Every blessing

‘The riches of grace that he lavished on us.’ Read: Ephesians 1:3-14

Lucienne lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the DRC). She was left with disabilities when she was 16 years old due to the conflict in her country. But her smile speaks of the richness of her joy.

Pray for peace to be restored in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The people are experiencing one of the worst crises in its history, which is going largely unnoticed.

Give thanks for our partner distributing food supplies to communities. Pray they would receive the support they need to continue with this essential work.

_God of grace, we pray for peace in the DRC and for forgiveness and reconciliation to overcome and silence the weapons of war._

_In your mercy,_

_Amen._
Longing for justice

Lie down in green pastures.
Read: Psalm 23

Continue to pray for all those seeking refuge from the Syrian crisis. The summer months are often a time when people make perilous journeys.

Pray for peace in Syria and for this enduring conflict to end. Pray for Sawson and her children who fled Syria, and are now living as refugees in Iraq. Pray especially for children who’ve barely known life outside of a refugee camp.

Pray for all people seeking refuge across the world, and for those who’ve been stuck for years in camps. Pray we may work together to loose the bonds of injustice.

Lead them, Shepherd of the weary ones, to find the green pastures and still waters to restore their souls. Amen.
Week beginning 29 July
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Trees of life

Read: Ephesians 1:3-14
‘Rooted and grounded in love.’

Children in Zimbabwe stand by a tree sapling they’ve planted with their mother. This community were concerned about mounting deforestation. So the village decided to plant trees, for their children to enjoy in future.

Give thanks and pray for the work of Dabane Trust who support communities to plant trees. Pray these trees would provide an abundant harvest, and enable the whole village to flourish.

Jehovah-Jireh, Jehovah-Rapha, Jehovah-Shalom,
God of liberty and righteousness, God of peace and truth,
you feed your people on the mountains, by the watercourses, and in the plains.
Where there is hunger in Zimbabwe bring prosperity, where the economy has been ravaged, bring restoration and recovery. Let there be abundance in Zimbabwe and may all the people flourish. Amen.
A reflection from Haiti for Christian Aid Week

Pastor Clément was on his way to his mother’s funeral when the earthquake hit Port-au-Prince – Haiti’s capital city on 12 January 2010.

When he got back to Port-au-Prince, he found his wife and children. They were struggling in truly horrific conditions, so were forced to search for a place of shelter.

For two nights, they stayed in a temporary camp in the suburbs, before crossing the border to neighbouring Dominican Republic. There, a local pastor helped Clément to find a house which he could rent for his family. Clément then went back to Port-au-Prince to help those in desperate need.

One evening, Clément returned to the Dominican Republic, feeling completely exhausted. In the nearby town square, he met a young Dominican man called Benito. Assuming he had been visiting Haiti when the earthquake hit, Clément asked him how he’d managed to survive.

To Clément’s surprise, Benito told him that he had travelled to Haiti’s border to live alongside people displaced by the earthquake. He had wanted to send money to help, like many people around the world. But because his family was poor and he didn’t work, he had nothing to give. Benito came to Jimani to be with the Haitians, to sleep alongside them and to share their suffering.

As we raise money, pray and give our time during Christian Aid Week, we’re being there for our neighbours who need us in Haiti and across the world, just like Benito was. We’re standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers through their suffering, and we’re helping them to have hope for the future.

Cover photo: Sori Galgallo lives in a village in northern Kenya, which hasn’t seen rain for two years. Marcelin and his three daughters were forced out of their home by Hurricane Matthew.

Backpage photo: Christian Aid supporter Margaret Hart holding hands with Antoinette who works for our partner in Haiti.

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