Volunteering newsletter
Volunteers' Week Special

The difference you help make...
Although injustice divides us, hope unites us; bringing us together in faith, inspiring us, and driving us to action. The many different ways you take actions as volunteers help make our work possible. Here are just some examples of impact.

In Malawi, through the Wealth Creation project funded by Christian Aid and Aquaid, pigeon pea farmers have been encouraged to process the pigeon pea into various products including fish, pig and chicken feed as well as food such as doughnuts and sausages, which are sold locally within the communities.

In Sierra Leone, WEEL is a two-year project, which focuses on the economic empowerment of women, leveraging digital mobile money technology and the savings and loan scheme to enhance their participation in decision making and leadership at household, community, and district levels.

In Zimbabwe, Silveira House provides training to young people in skills like welding and leatherwork, so they don’t have to rely on farming to earn a living. This helps vulnerable women and men to earn a fair wage and helps protect their families from hunger.

In Bangladesh, support to enhance capacity and income generation of the marginalized women affected by COVID-19 and monsoon flood. Through this project we promoted sustainable employment opportunities for women in flood-affected areas among vulnerable women households by providing skill training. 40 marginalized women and adolescent girls are now already proudly engaged in work.

A message to you
Volunteers are at the heart of Christian Aid. You are the foundation that allows us to achieve real change across the globe. I would like to deeply thank you for the commitment you have given to Christian Aid, and for the passion and kindness you have shown as we continue our shared journey to help the world’s most vulnerable.

I understand how precious your time is, and I want to thank you for sharing it with us. With every action we take together, we help to save lives. Happy Volunteers’ Week - I’m so happy we have a week to celebrate you.

Jay Cedras, UK Volunteering Manager

A time to say thanks! Volunteers’ Week is an annual celebration of the contribution people make across the UK through volunteering. “Every thing you do, whether big or small, is part of a global Christian Aid movement” - Helen, Senior church community officer
Your faith in action

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” ~ 1 Chronicles 16:34.

This Volunteers’ week, we want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to you for the time, and energy you display every day, and the skills and dedication you give to your roles. But also thank you to God, whose goodness and enduring love is seen in the passionate and faithful volunteers he’s gifted to us. Volunteers, like you.

Volunteer reflection

Savannah supports behind the scenes, as a communications volunteer. In fact she helps put together this very newsletter!

"As a volunteer, there are so many incredible organisations to get involved with that are doing inspiring work within a wide range of sectors. I decided to get involved with Christian Aid initially because I was amazed at the breadth and scale of the work being done across the globe. I wanted to be part of an organisation with a truly international impact.

However, I stayed with Christian Aid because of the individual stories I was getting to read and pass on as part of the volunteer communications team - stories of incredibly brave individuals facing down poverty, inequality, climate change, and other hardships.

I feel very privileged to be able to play a small role in helping Christian Aid support those in need."

We love hearing about your motivations and reasons for volunteering, do get in touch and share your story with us.

Thank You Day 2022

This year will be the second year we are celebrating National Thank You Day. This day coincides with the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Volunteers Week.

Last year, Thank You Day provided a great opportunity for us to thank our supporters for all their work and support throughout the pandemic.

For Thank You Day 2022, we will continue to do that, but with an added faith element as we encourage our church groups, supporters and volunteers to get together in their various communities for a big Jubilee lunch.

Visit our Thank You day webpage to see a very special video including our CEO Patrick Watt and Chair Dr John Sentamu.

Showing gratitude

Our staff have so much that they would like to say to you all. Here are a just a handful of messages:

"You inspire us with your kindness, selflessness and dedication to supporting Christian Aid and your global neighbours," from Helen & Lili.

"Our volunteers are a force to be reckoned with, they breathe life and joy into Christian Aid Week with passion, determination and love. Thank you!" from Katy.

"It’s been amazing to work with you all over the last year. Be blessed, as you are such a blessing!” from Darren.

"We are nothing without you! Thank you so much for your time, support and love.” from Gordana.

Thank you from Scotland

We’re so grateful for volunteers in Scotland! For Christian Aid Week and beyond, Church Reps and Organisers work tirelessly to hold services and events promoting the work of Christian Aid.

From sponsored challenges to art sales to quiz nights, volunteers come up with lots of creative fundraising ideas to support our work. Volunteer Speakers are also busy, speaking at Christian Aid services, Guild talks, and other organised events, helping spread the word about Christian Aid.

Virtual get-together

It’s not too late to join our virtual Volunteers Week celebration. On Tuesday 7 June we’d love you to join us online at 1pm for a moment of celebration, reflection and prayer with staff and volunteers. Send us an email if you’d like to join us.

Meet Lotti – Christian Aid Organiser

"How did I get involved? Well when my children were very young and I was living in Oundle, I made friends with someone there who was on the Christian Aid Committee, and she asked me if I’d like to join. And I did, and the rest is history, really!

I was aware during lockdown how difficult it was for raising funds, and one of the things that was suggested, at that time, was that clergy might like to shave their hair- and of course they didn’t! So this year I thought about it - I will have my head shaved! I thought, well, okay, people recognise me by my hair, so this will be a kind of experiment in identity. It’s really not about me- it’s about who gets the money.

I want to be proud of my bare head, but obviously I need to protect it in the sun, so I’ll put lots of sun cream on and hope for the best!

I’ve worked on the Christian Aid committee in various roles, and then house-to-house collecting was the regular thing- every May. And I was very privileged to be invited to join a group of volunteers going to Ethiopia in 2019."

Lotti is one of our inspiring community volunteers, helping to encourage others to give, act or pray for our work. We are full of gratitude for everything they do.

If you know anyone who would like to get involved through their church, encourage them to get in touch.