

Poverty and Hope Appeal 2021

Dear Friends,

We are called to love our neighbour, whether they are local or global, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." This past year we have seen the injustices of our world all too clearly, exacerbated by the global pandemic that has left no one unaffected. Here in Rochester Diocese our Poverty and Hope appeal is one way that we look to right the wrongs that we see.



For over 40 years your generous support has helped transform the lives of people across the world, and our appeal this year seeks to continue this work. Over the coming year, your gifts will bring hope to farmers in Malawi whose land has faced devastation because of climate change; seek justice for those in Zimbabwe that face HIV discrimination on a daily basis; and help provide a brighter future for survivors of child abuse in Sri Lanka. I am pleased to say that your gifts will also provide support for disadvantaged and marginalised young people right here in Kent through the wonderful work of Bore Place.

So, as churches, schools, and individuals, let us walk along the paths that God has prepared for us as we partner to do good works throughout our global home.

For resources that will help you in your prayer and fundraising, please visit the Diocese of Rochester website at bit.ly/PovertyHope

With my prayers and good wishes,

James

**The Rt Rev James Langstaff
Bishop of Rochester**



**'For we are
God's handiwork,
created in Christ
Jesus to do good
works, which God
prepared in advance
for us to do'**

(Ephesians 2:10)

Harvesting a brighter future in Malawi

Imagine having to battle both droughts and floods to grow crops. Imagine the struggle to survive off ruined harvests. This is reality for many farmers and their families around the world, where climate change pushes so many further into poverty. But hope exists. Christian Aid's pigeon pea project is remarkable. Not only is this humble pulse drought resistant, it will happily grow on land affected by flooding. This amazing little pea can provide food and a livelihood to families that grow it.

With your support, this year's Poverty and Hope Appeal will be helping farmers in Malawi to flourish in challenging circumstances.

Tackling HIV stigma in Zimbabwe

While Zimbabwe is on the way to reducing HIV and AIDS, adults living with HIV still face daily discrimination. The Anglican Church of Zimbabwe developed the HIV Stigma Reduction Programme to improve the lives of people living with HIV and increase awareness of HIV stigma within the church and community. Initiatives to help those living with HIV include establishing nutritional gardens and home-based care visits. In one diocese alone, 1,200 people were helped directly in the first six months of the programme. More people are now willing to disclose their HIV status, and communities are starting to become more accepting and open to helping.

Eradicating child abuse, prostitution and exploitation in Sri Lanka

Nevedita Jeevabalan manages the child protection unit of LEADS, a community development organisation with three centres across Sri Lanka. She is responsible for a programme of advocacy, intervention, and rehabilitation for children who have been traumatised through experiences of abuse and exploitation.

A mental health specialist by profession, Nevedita describes her calling to LEADS: "My mission is to show God's love to children who have been through trauma and abuse. Most children who are referred for assistance have been abused, abandoned at a young age and been through various traumatic situations. All through their lives they may never have had a loving, trustworthy adult."



The mighty pigeon pea.



Woman at rural healthy living garden at Daramombe Mission, Zimbabwe.



'Being an ambassador of God's love for such children is the greatest difference I would like to make in their lives.'
Nevedita Jeevabalan.

Food, farming and global citizenship in West Kent

Set in 500 acres of Kent countryside, Bore Place is home to the Commonwork Trust, a charity founded with Christian values at its core. Our vision is to provide a place that brings sustainability, justice, and global citizenship to life, and offers opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and reach their potential. Bore Place has an organic dairy farm and market gardens, woodlands, a residential venue, and an outdoor learning centre, where we have been providing programmes for schools for over 40 years. Our work has also seen us support young people with additional needs and disabilities for over 25 years, and young people with mental health and self-esteem issues for the last 9 years. Your support will make sure more disadvantaged young people can continue to learn vital skills at this remarkable centre.



Young people at Bore Place learn about their place in the world in a practical and creative way.

For more information on the Poverty and Hope Appeal, the projects it supports and how to give, please visit the Poverty and Hope web pages at bit.ly/PovertyHope

Alternatively, you can contact Peter Kettle who can also help book a speaker (if conditions allow), set up a standing order, or deal with Gift Aid or other financial matters.

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