Autumn 2016 Issue 46

# Witney Congregational Church

# R CROSS

Witney Congregational Church is a crossroads where we:

meet God in worship

meet one another in friendship

meet our community and world with the love of Jesus

D S



## WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Witney Congregational Church offer a whole range of activities through which we seek to Worship, Work and Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in this community today.

Further information can be obtained from the Church Administrator, Minister, Church Secretary or the leaders of the particular activities who are listed at the back of this magazine.

#### **WORSHIP**

Daily Worship 9.30 am Mon-Fri Short time of Prayer and Reading

Saturday Praise 11.00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month

Sunday Services 10.30 am

6.00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

Communion is held twice during the month at the first Sunday evening and third Sunday morning services

#### **PRAYER**

The Church is open each morning for Prayer

#### **STUDY & FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday 12.15pm Lite Bite piece of the Word (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month)

#### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Sunday 10.30 am Crèche, Noah's Ark & The K.I.C.K. on Sundays

Monday 10.00 am Noah's Ark – Infant Group for babies and pre-school children

Friday 7.00 pm Y4J – Twice a month

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Tuesday Monthly Deacon's Meeting

Bi-Monthly Church Meeting

Thursday 10.00am Rest & Chat (Coffee/Tea available)

Saturday 10.30 am Coffee Morning

#### **SUNDAY LINK**

Weekly bulletin for all Christians providing stimulating thought along with news and notices concerning our Church

#### WITNEY ECUMENICAL YOUTH TRUST (BASE 33)

4 Welch Way (Entrance – High Street) 
© 01993 774402

#### **CHURCH WEBSITE**

For further information, please visit our website: www.witneycongregational.org.uk



Doesn't time fly as we have suddenly reached the publication of the Autumn edition covering September, October and November!!

On the whole the weather has been extremely good over the last 3 months, and, even though some cannot bear the heat, hopefully most of you have managed to take a break of some kind, some possibly more relaxing than others, and are now feeling rested and refreshed, ready for the next church activities – Harvest and AGM

If like me you like sport, there has been plenty to celebrate via the Summer Olympics in Rio, and, many of the competing athletes are Christians and believe everything is possible when they trust in the Lord. It certainly had good coverage on the television; which obviously for some, wasn't particularly good

Please be advised that the Officers page of this edition (last page inside the back cover), will, after the Church AGM, be incorrect due to some members having to stand down

Turning now to those who have contributed to this edition; alongside the standard pages, Canon David Winter reflects on the churches 'Ordinary Season'; There is an article reflecting on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy in New York; and Lesley Barter gives us a Book Review, to name but a few

Many thanks for those who have contributed for this edition, but would

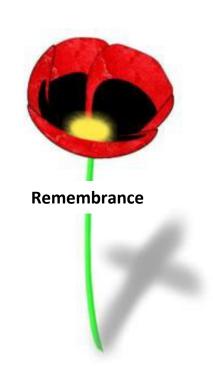
encourage anyone to consider submitting article(s) for the next edition by either:

#### E-mail:

terrypowlesland@uwclub.net jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net or, just plainly written on paper, which can be typed up.

The next 2-monthly edition, covering December & January 2017, is due on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** 

**Your Editor** 



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### **Daily Prayer Time:**

Mon-Fri 9.30 am

### **Services**

10.30 am weekly & 6.00pm on first Sunday of the month and will normally be led by Rev Dr Jason Boyd unless advised below

Sept			
4 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship Bapt	ism of Storm Wallace
	pm	Evening Worship Com	munion
11 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
		Witney Feast Civic Service 6.00 on the Leys	om at St Mary's Church Green followed by service
18 <sup>th</sup>	am	Harvest All-Age Worship Com	munion
25 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
Oct			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
	pm	Evening Worship Com	munion
9 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
16 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship Com	munion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
30 <sup>th</sup>	am	tbc	
	pm	Madley Park Residential Home	3.00pm
Nov			
5 <sup>th</sup>		Saturday Praise 11.0	Oam Common Commo
		Wedding of Emma Sunderland & O	Oliver Kinchin 2.30pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
	pm	Evening Worship Com	munion
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 a	am Morning Worship	
	11.00	Dam Service at War Memorial	
	11.30	Dam Civic service at St Mary's Cl	nurch
20 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship Com	munion
26 <sup>th</sup>		Creative Church 10.0	0 – 12.00
27 <sup>th</sup>	am	Café Church	
Dec			
3 <sup>rd</sup>		Saturday Praise 11.0	Dam
4 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship Com	munion (No evening Communion)

The following events are given for your particular attention:

### Sept

6 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm			
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm			
10 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am			
13 <sup>th</sup>	Base 33 AGM	7.00pm			
$16^{th} - 18^{th}$	Youth Sleepover – young people of Congregational Federation SWMA				
24 <sup>th</sup>	National Prayer Weekend				
27 <sup>th</sup>	Church AGM	7.30pm			

Oct					
1 <sup>st</sup>	Arts & Crafts Exhibition	10.00am - 4.00	Opm		
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm	12.15pm		
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm			
8 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am			
18 <sup>th</sup>	Base 33 Concert	7.00 for 7.30pm start			
Nov					
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm			
	Deacon's meeting				
12 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am			
20 <sup>th</sup>	Church Meeting tbc at AGM	after Morning Worship			
29 <sup>th</sup>	Kennington Choir	7.30pm	for Christian Aid		
Dec					
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	WICS Concert				
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm			
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm			

## **ROTAS**

WELCOMING TEAM				
Sept	04	Nanna Blackman & Theo Howells		
	11	Pat Smith		
	18	Lesley Barter & Irene St Clair		
	25	Viviane Boyd & Cecily Lau		
Oct	02	Pip & Beryl Cartwright		
	09	Jill & Robert McBride		
	16	Nanna Blackman & Susan Wass		
	23	Pat Smith & Joan Currie		
	30	Irene St Clair		
Nov	06	Viviane Boyd & Cecily Lau		
	13	Pip & Beryl Cartwright		
	20	Jill & Robert McBride		
	27	Nanna Blackman & Susan Wass		
Dec	04	Pat Smith & Joan Currie		



COMMUNION	I					
Sept	ot 04 pm Viviane Boyd					
		Preparation	Viviane Boyd			
	18 am	Susan Wass & Lesley Barter Norline Martin & Jacqui Powlesland				
		Preparation	Susan Wass			
Oct	02 pm	Susan Wass				
		Preparation	Susan Wass			
	16 am	n Viviane Boyd & Judi Holloway				
		Lesley Barter & Beryl Cartwright				
		Preparation	Irene St Clair			
Nov	06 pm Beryl Cartwright					
		Preparation	Beryl Cartwright			
	20 am Susan Wass & Norline Martin					
		Viviane Boyd & Judi Holloway				
		Preparation	Rita Hayes			



Dec	04 am	Beryl Cartwright & Lesley Barter
		Susan Wass & Norline Martin
		Preparation Pat Smith
<b>FLOWERS</b>		
Sep	04	Val Obriain
	11	Rita Hayes
	18	Harvest
	25	Judi Holloway
Oct	02	Beryl Cartwright
	09	Joan Currie
	16	Val Obriain
	23	Sonya Boyd
	30	Jacqui Powlesland
Nov	06	Wedding
	13	Rita Hayes
	20	Judi Holloway
	27	Beryl Cartwright
Dec	04	Joan Currie
COFFEE		
Sept	04	Jill & Robert McBride
•	11	Susan Wass & Judith Bungey
	18	Harvest
	25	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
Oct	02	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
	09	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	16	Jill & Robert McBride
	23	Susan Wass & Judith Bungey
	30	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
Nov	06	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
	13	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	20	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
	27	Café Church
Dec	04	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
REST & CHAT		
Sept	80	Volunteer required
	15	Beryl Cartwright
	22	Volunteer required
	29	Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St Clair

Every effort has been made to meet individual circumstances. However, please change with someone else if the dates are not convenient for you

## **Congratulations to:**

John Garrett who won First prizes in Runner Beans & Chard, and second prize in Beetroot & Coloured Potatoes in the Ducklington Show

Eilidh Allan on her A level results and Rebekah Allan & Sonya Boyd on their GCSE results

Sept	09	Judith Bungey		Oct	01	Naomi Boyd
	28	John Garrett			02	Gillian Warson
					80	Rita Hayes
						Stephen Hopwood
Nov	11	Annaka Cahunsalaar			10	Susan Wass
		Anneke Schunselaar	0 27			Michele Tomlin
	17	Elaine Gundem	100 of the com		13	Luke Lau
	18	AJ Hathaway	Dry dry our			
	19				15	Chris Esapa
	22				17	Anthony Hathaway
					28	Karen Brusch
	26					Andy Thomas
		Hilary Pratley				
	27	Jeremy Boyd		Dec	04	Charlotte Hayes
	29	Marina Bowerman			06	Sue Birdseye

## WITNEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION – SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2016 10 am – 4 pm

In aid of the newly-installed front doors and the Special Effect charity – see www.specialeffect.org.uk











Cream teas will be on sale throughout the day in the lounge area of the church

An entrance fee of £1 per person will be charged

For further information, please contact Jacqui Powlesland at <a href="mailto:jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net">jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net</a> or telephone 01993 776 281

## Pastor's Paper

"Did you enjoy your time at home?"
That's a hard question to answer. It seems straightforward enough and yet it's the word 'home' that trips me up. I find myself replying, "Yes it was great to go home and see my family but I'm glad to be home." And therein is the trouble. Where is home? Is it Melfort, Saskatchewan, Canada? Or is it Witney in the UK? Or is it Cumnock in Scotland? When our family goes up to Ayrshire for a visit we often say we are going home. It would appear that I have a few 'homes'.

A home is more than the physical structure we live in, though it is a huge part of being 'at home'. Home is where there is no fear. It is being with the people and in the place where we are at ease to be ourselves. It is where we are loved unconditionally and we don't have to explain ourselves, hold back on expressing what we think, and are able to fall out and in with those around us without the fear of everything falling apart.

For me, home is the love that I share with Viviane and my children. This core of 'home' means that I am 'at home' when I am with them. When I'm not physically present with them there is a restlessness to be together. Of course, children grow up and move on. As parents we delight in their spreading of wings. At the same time there is that painful adjustment to this leaving.

The ability to make a home with Viviane is rooted in our own 'homes'. It has been vitally important for me to go to France, to experience the language, place, and customs of her family and village. Viviane has often told me that going to Canada and visiting my home – especially that first occasion in 1996 – was crucial to her being able to understand me. Our two

'homes' have come together in the making of a new 'home'. Sometimes it has occurred with ease and at other moments it has involved a clash of cultures.

Going 'home' to Canada was good. I met two nephews that didn't exist 3 years ago. I had a chance to get reacquainted with feeding and changing nappies. Holding this little baby in my arms as he fought sleep and breathed sighs of surrender was a moment of pure joy. Playing with the eldest and telling well-worn stories which I created with my children was a pleasure.

I was reacquainted with my mum's home cooking and hauled grain with my dad and brother. I worked alongside my children shovelling rotted grain spillage from under the storage bins. A family reunion was simply not long enough to catch up with everyone. A trip to Moose Jaw and a tour of the tunnels used for bootlegging during prohibition followed an evening in the spa waters of Temple Gardens. The highlight was helping my children and nephews to get up on water skies. I certainly enjoyed skimming the surface though I was disappointed when I did get up on a single ski (that was so easy once!). Of course there was tinge of sadness with hugs and goodbyes. And yet, it was time to go 'home'.

It has been wonderful to come home here to Witney and to my church home. There was the pleasure of a wedding of Anthony and Charlotte followed by worship on the Sunday morning. Yes, I'm home.

But there is a 'home' that is greater than any sense of home we may have anywhere else. It is a home that we already inhabit and yet it is still-arriving. This home is built on unconditional love. There is no fear in this home. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were

not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3, NRSV).

In John's gospel, Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension are part of one continuous action. Jesus' going to 'prepare a place' began with the cross. In one sense, all who believe in Jesus and follow him have begun entering the home that he is preparing for us. All will be completed when he comes again and takes us into his nearer presence. 'Home' is the depth of that intimate relationship that we have with Jesus in the here and now which is growing until seeing him face to face. There is no fear in this relationship as it is one of God's first love for us.

What does 'home' mean for you? How have you experience 'home' in your life? How are you experiencing being at home with Jesus in every aspect of your life?

Shalom

JASON

The following article, written by Rev Paul Hardingham, has been extracted from Parish Pump, and looks back on that terrible morning 15 years ago this month, and is entitled:

## Anniversary of 9/11

Fifteen years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2001, terrorist attacks demolished the Twin Towers in New York. They killed 2,996 people and injured more than 6,000. Events like 9/11 raise the inevitable question: Why does God allow such suffering to take place?

There are no easy answers to this question! We cannot fully understand why such things happen, although we live in a fallen world, where people make real choices. Yet the Bible affirms that God identifies with our suffering, supremely when Jesus experienced suffering and death.

It is on the Cross that God knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unjust attack. 'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?' (John Stott). What does this mean? We cannot know why God allows evil and suffering to continue, but we do know that He does love and care for us: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). God loved us enough to fully engage with the mess of the world.

We also can view such events in the light of resurrection. Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in Me will live' (John 11:25).

Resurrection points to the restoration for us of the life we lost. New heavens and new earth point to a world and relationships restored and perfected!

In The Lord of the Rings, Sam Gamgee exclaims: 'Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead! Is everything sad going to come untrue?'

The answer of the Bible is Yes!



# PRAYER LETTER No 176

## The Way, Follow Me

We have recently spent a week house and dog sitting for our daughter who lives in Kent. The dog, called Rufus, is a very intelligent, attractive, red/brown/white/ sheepdog who needs a walk once or twice a day. Fortunately the walks from the house are designated footpaths across fields so Rufus doesn't have to be on a lead although I always carried one just in case it was needed. On the walks I noticed that once in the fields Rufus always walked ahead of me not at the side. He would advance a considerable distance ahead then stop, look behind to see if I was alright and following him, then he would continue. He did this repeatedly on every walk we did. When we came to a junction in the footpaths he would wait for me to catch him up, then turn to the way he knew instinctively we should be going which turned out to be the right way to go.

People rely so much on maps, mobile phones and Sat Navs, they don't look around to actually see where they are consequently they do not always know the right way to go or road to follow.

As with His disciples Jesus is always ahead of us, leading us, showing us the way. Even when we go the wrong way or do wrong things He waits patiently for us to realise the wrong turning we have taken and returns us to the right path He wants us to lead in life. Often people say 'a dog is a man's best friend. Jesus wants to be your best friend. As we discussed during Cafe Church to be a best friend is to be on the 'right wave length' and be in communication with each other. What ways can you or do you communicate with Jesus? During the week in Kent I watched for signs as Rufus communicated to me what he wanted me to do for him e.g. feed him, take him for walks or play ball with him. Do you recognise the ways and signs that God/Jesus/ Holy Spirit use to help you in your Faith Journey? Reflect on the Sydney Carter's Song 'One More Step Along the Way I go'.

Every Blessing Beryl

Please note that for up-to-date prayer requests contact Beryl Cartwright (703717)

#### One more step along the way I go

One more step along the way I go One more step along the world I go From the old things to the new Keep me travelling along with you.

### And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you

Round the corner of the world I turn More and more about the world I learn and

The new things that I see, You'll be looking at along with me.

## And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you

As I travel through the bad and good, Keep me travelling the way I should Where I see no way to go You'll be telling me the way I know.

## And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you Give me courage when the world is rough Keep me loving though the world is tough Leap and sing in all I do Keep me travelling along with you.

### And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you

You are older than the world can be You are younger than the life in me Ever old and ever new Keep me travelling along with you.

## And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you



The following article has been submitted by Lesley Barter, and is entitled:

## This month I have been reading ...... Women of Genesis – SARAH

By Orson Scott Card

This is the first of three books about major female figures of the Old Testament.
They are works of fiction, but they adhere faithfully to the known facts from the Bible and flesh them out with believable fiction. The other books feature Rebekah and Rachel.

I am always tantalised by what we don't know about the women behind the towering figures of the Bible, so I am drawn to them as to the charismatic women of our own history. Card has researched his subjects thoroughly and as a Mormon he takes the Bible very seriously but he believes it to be a record written by men of stories that seemed important and truthful to them at the time of writing.

He says 'Our task, in reading the scriptures, is not to read blindly as if God were dictating it to His secretary, but to read it faithfully, trying to understand what truths are being shown to us by means of, or in spite of, the words used to tell the tale.' Personally, I find that a very helpful insight.

That is the context, but as to the narrative, it moves along with spirit and humour. The characters become human and the relationship between Abram and Serai is as dogged with difficulty as is any marriage. The other major characters: Lot, his wife, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac all take centre stage as the story moves along.

This is not a book for purists, but it will bring the story of God's First Covenant to

life and give you an insight into the nomadic life of the Father of God's Chosen People in a way that is both enjoyable and easily digestible. Holiday Reading.

If you enjoy reading fictional biographies of real people, try 'The Red Tent' by Anita Diamant. It paints a fascinating picture of a woman's life in the desert nearly 4000 years ago. Look in Genesis to find the scandal central to this story of Dinah. Highly recommended

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#### The nation's favourite Bible stories

Following a nationwide poll of over 2,000 people, the top 70 best-loved stories, passages and verses of the Bible have been brought together in *The Nation's Favourite Bible Stories*. (Bible Society, £7.99)

This compact paperback also tells how the stories have inspired films, songs, TV programmes, novels and language.

Go to: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/

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The following articles have been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

# After the Referendum: Finding a good way forward

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop John Sentamu issued a joint statement after the UK voted to leave the European Union. In it they said:

"As citizens of the United Kingdom, whatever our views during the

referendum campaign, we must now unite in a common task to build a generous and forward looking country, contributing to human flourishing around the world.

"We must remain hospitable and compassionate, builders of bridges and not barriers. Many of those living among us... come from overseas and some will feel a deep sense of insecurity. We must respond by offering reassurance, by cherishing our wonderfully diverse society, and by affirming the unique contribution of each and every one.

".... Unity, hope and generosity will enable us to overcome the period of transition that will now happen, and to emerge confident and successful. The opportunities and challenges that face us as a nation and as global citizens are too significant for us to settle for less.

"As those who hope and trust in the living God ..., Let us pray especially that we may go forward to build a good United Kingdom that, though relating to the rest of Europe in a new way will play its part amongst the nations in the pursuit of the common good throughout the world."

## Synod approves motion to build a 'generous and forward looking country'

The General Synod of the Church of England has voted unanimously to approve the call of the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York "to unite in the common task of building a generous and forward looking country" following the EU referendum vote.

During the recent debate the Archbishops also warned that rushing too swiftly to reconciliation would be a mistake when the nation is still reacting to the impact of the vote.

This is a time for remembering the authority and power of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, and of the good news that we have in our hands for all people in this land... We are to be led by our theology, which must define our politics, our fears and our hopes."

The Archbishop of York Dr. John Sentamu said: "In situations of conflict we call for unity and reconciliation too quickly, mostly because the anger of others as well as our own is unbearably painful and we want it to end. But it can't end till it has been faced and it cannot be faced until it has been 'allowed out'. We have to find ways, not violent ways, of allowing it out."

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The following article, written by Canon David Winter, muses on the church calendar...

## The Way I See It: THE JOY OF ORDINARY

For those who attend to such ecclesiastical details, the Church is now in what it calls the 'Ordinary Season'. It doesn't mean it's going to be bland, boring or predictable in church at the moment (or at any rate, no more than usual), but that following Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, there are no great festivals of the faith to celebrate until we get to Advent, and that's not till the end of November. For a few months, we can forget the high days and holidays and simply concentrate on, well, being 'ordinary'.

Personally, I find that rather encouraging. All my life I've been a person who enjoys the ordinary. Even on holidays which I've

enjoyed, I've secretly looked forward to getting home and picking up the familiar routine. The dictionary defines 'ordinary' as 'with no distinctive features, normal, usual'. Well, I think everyday, ordinary, normal, usual life still includes plenty of 'distinctive features' – surprises, too.

To me an impressive feature of the biblical gospels is how normal and ordinary most of it seems. Yes, there are those mighty acts of power which we call miracles, but the setting of them is about as 'ordinary' as you could get: a cattle-shed, a lakeside, a fishing boat, a garden, a little girl's bedroom, a wedding party.

It's in the rich raw world of the ordinary that God does wonderful things, just as it's in the routine of daily life that kind words are spoken, the sick healed, the sad comforted. I'm sometimes more aware of God in these 'ordinary' settings than in the extraordinary splendour of a great cathedral. Long live the 'ordinary'!

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The following article has been submitted by Maureen Miles, and is entitled:

### Who?

Who could paint the sky so blue And add some sun-touched clouds to view?

Who could dust the monarch's wing And teach the nightingale to sing? Who could spread the golden grain Across the vast and open plain? Who could hold the atom's power And perfume each and every flower? Who could plot man's upward climb To reach the stars and thoughts sublime? Who could guide his long ascent To the celestial firmament?



## **NEWS RELEASE**

## TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT FARMERS STRUGGLING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE THIS HARVEST TIME



This <u>Harvest time</u>, Christian Aid is asking churches across the UK to support our global neighbours, to make sure they have the means to grow plentiful crops in a world increasingly affected by the consequences of climate change.

For many rural communities in Kenya, harvest has become an increasing struggle as the arid conditions make it difficult for crops to thrive. The rains are erratic and unpredictable, and as the impacts of climate change intensify, the situation is getting worse.

For years, Rodah, who lives in Kalawani village, Eastern Kenya walked up to 10 kilometres daily to get water, just to try and keep her crops alive. Her two jerry cans weighed 18 kilograms – the same as two car tyres. Despite her backbreaking efforts, Rodah's harvest was never enough. Consequently, she couldn't afford to send her children to school.

Christian Aid and its local partner organisation, Anglican Development Service East (ADSE), a branch of the Anglican Church in Kenya, built a sand dam in Rodah's village, keeping precious water from the river close to the community, so they are able to nurture their land, grow their crops and earn an income. Additionally, ADSE provided drought-resistant seeds and agricultural training, further transforming the lives of Rodah's community.

With her earnings, Rodah has been able to buy water pipes and a pump, and now her farm is flourishing. She is now able to send her children to school.

Christian Aid provided the community with cameras so they can document their success and share their own stories. They're even using the photos to lobby the government, to make sure the changes they're seeing last.

Claire Whitmore, Church Resources Manager at Christian Aid, said: "When Harvest time comes in church, we share with our neighbours and we praise God for providing all we need to eat. Sadly, for many of our global neighbours, like Rodah, life isn't so easy.

"Through the work of Christian Aid's Anglican partner organisation in Kenya, we are able to support climate change-affected communities grow enough food to eat. "With your support, through giving, acting and praying this harvest time, you can join hundreds of churches to sow the seeds of transformation for thousands of people like Rodah. Imagine the harvest your generosity could make possible!"

For more information and ways to get your church involved this harvest time, visit

#### www.christianaid.org.uk/harvest

In October, join thousands of people up-and-down the country for the Speak Up week of action. People will be inviting their MPs to events to celebrate the people, places and communities like Rodah's that we need-to protect from climate change. To find out more about events in your area, visit

www.christianaid.org.uk/climateweek