



Christian Aid Week  
12-18 May

**7 days, so  
many ways**  
to fund lasting change



## Pushing Back Against Poverty

I first started door to door collecting for Christian Aid (CA) when I was about 10, with my mother. It was a great way of getting to know our neighbours and supporting a fantastic cause. Four years ago I reached the dizzy heights of becoming chairman of Ashtead Churches Together Christian Aid Committee, and have come to know about many more remarkable people.

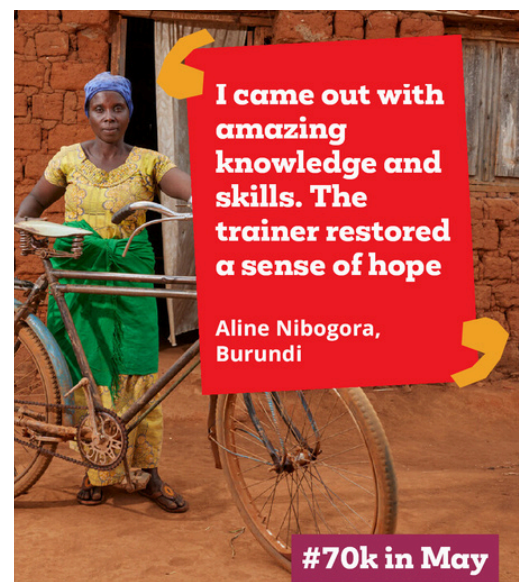
People like Aline, a young woman in Burundi. She felt the force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence. Separated from her six children Aline was forced to sleep on the streets. With no home, income or security, Aline was pushed to the brink of survival.

Driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, Aline sought help from Christian Aid. They helped with training and support so she was able to start a small business, start to grow nutritious food, build a home and return her children to her side. Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in Makamba Province. She can afford food, clothes and essential health care. She can send her children to school.

CA has worked tirelessly to end poverty worldwide, working with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights to which they are entitled. CA are also at work in the Ukraine and the Middle East. Their winter Magazine highlighted the aid they were able to deliver to Ukraine after the dam was bombed last year, flooding so many.

During Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, we will be pushing 6,000 envelopes through letter boxes in our community. You can pop your donation inside and return directly, or perhaps you would prefer to give online through our [Just Giving Site](#). Also, on Saturday 11 May Rosie Bennett is hosting 'The Big Brekkie' in St George's CC Café to help raise vital funds. See SGSG events page for how to book your ticket.

**Trish Brown, ACT CA Chair**



*Christian Aid is our Mission  
Partner Focus For May 2024*

**Weekly Prayer Meeting - Saturday 9.00-9.30am - St George's Church:** Following an Easter break, PCC members are continuing to lead this prayer time and everyone is encouraged to join them. Prayers will focus on any topical issues, but in particular on the plans for the arrival of our new Rector, Tom Darwent, and his family in the summer.

**The APCM Papers:** The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Thursday 9 May.** The APCM papers are now available to view via a password protected page on the website. Everyone on the electoral roll should have received an email about how to access the papers online, please email [communications@ashteadparish.org](mailto:communications@ashteadparish.org) if you have not received the information. We encourage everyone who has access to the internet to access the papers electronically, as printed packs are only available for those who do not have access to the internet and will **not** be available at the APCM.

**Save your Rubbish:** Please start collecting empty cereal and egg boxes, clean yoghurt and milk cartons and other cardboard junk for us, ahead of our **May half-term junk modelling** event for kids across the community. We would ask you to hold onto it and bring it in the Sunday before half-term (Sunday 26 May)

### Please pray for...

- the work of Trish Brown and her team at Ashtead Churches Together, in the coming weeks as they raise funds and awareness for Christian Aid
- those still suffering pain, displacement and loss due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine
- give thanks for the huge numbers from our whole church attending the Hope Explored course in recent weeks. That each of them finds real and lasting hope
- peace across the Middle East and wisdom to those in leadership in countries affected by the conflict
- the family and friends of Margaret Oldham who died on 23 March aged 96
- the family and friends of Joyce Dawson who died on 13 April aged 94
- Felicity and Evelyn who are to be baptised at St Giles' Church this Sunday 28 April

## Events Coming Up

For full details click on the title of each event, visit [sgsgashtead.org.uk/events](http://sgsgashtead.org.uk/events) or you can contact us.



### **Praying Together - Church & Community - Thursday 2 May, 8.00-9.00pm**

Please join us at St George's as we gather as a church community and pray for the mission and ministry of our Church as well as wider issues.

### **Oasis - Friday 3 May 9:30-10:30am - St George's Church Hall**

Ladies of all ages welcome! Refreshments served and crèche available.

### **Evergreen - Wednesday 8 May, 2:30-4:00pm - St George's Church Hall**

A social event for those over 70, with entertainment, afternoon tea and cake, raffle and thought for the day. Come and be with others for a time of companionship and fun!

### **The Big Brekkie - Saturday 11 May, 9:00-11.00am St George's Church Café**

Come along to enjoy a delicious breakfast whilst you raise funds for Christian Aid. Tickets available to book and reserve **on line**

### **Horizon - Monday 13 May, 2:00-4:00pm - St George's Quiet Room**

Please do join us if you are bereaved for less than three years, we aim to offer an informal way of meeting others, so that you might find it supportive in your grief.

### **Link Group for Women - Wednesday 15 May, 2:30-4:00pm**

A friendly, caring group of ladies, meeting each 3rd Wednesday at St George's. Enjoy coffee and companionship, informative talks and fundraising activities.

### **Spring Craft Fair - Friday 17 May, 9:00am-1:00pm - St George's Church**

Drop in for a browse a selection of original and hand made items from local vendors, including Coco Kiriu Designs, My Look, Cookies and More, Bags by Jane and much more!



## Here For You

If you have any questions, speak to one of our team

### Sermon Series:

### Hope Explored

28 April

Hope Explored

Luke 24: 1-6, 9-12, 36-44

5 May

The Fruit of Hope - Joy

Romans 12: 9-21

Talks & services:



**St Giles' Church**

**Park Lane, Ashted KT21 1EJ**

Sundays: 8:00am (3rd Sunday) | 10:30am (with SGSG Kids) | Choral VI 6:00pm

Thursdays: 11:00am

**St George's Church**

**Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted KT21 2DA**

Sundays: 10:30am (with SGSG Kids) | The Six 6:00pm (with SGSG Youth)

Connect with us:

[sgsgashted.org.uk](http://sgsgashted.org.uk)

[reception@ashtedparish.org](mailto:reception@ashtedparish.org)

01372 813964



@sgsgashted