

St Andrew's – God's Church in Chilton Moor & Fencehouses

Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymns of Worship and Praise for Today

300 Let us praise God together

414 Peace, perfect peace

378 O Lord all the world belongs to you

52 Be still and know

564 Ye holy angels bright

Wednesday 18th May

1:30pm Holy Eucharist, St. Andrew's Chilton Moor

Message from Rev John

Next Saturday at 10:00-11:30 we have a coffee morning for Christian Aid at St. Andrew's and then at 3pm on the Sunday we are having a shared Christian Aid service with our Methodist neighbours from St John's and The Independent Methodists, which is open to all the churches in our group. Do join us for either or both.

It's also great that there is a return of the legendary Lumley Plant sale which is running from 10am at Christ Church on Saturday and Sunday next week, it'll be my first but I hear the quality is excellent and the prices are very reasonable.

Also at the Hospital Rev. Christine is running a tombola for the Jubilee and is appealing for items as prizes. So if you have any small items suitable for this ie shower gel (particularly male as she has plenty of female already), soap, note books, sweets or anything else suitable we'll arrange a collection point at all four of the churches.

Grace and Peace
John

As we enter Christian Aid Week please read Jessica's Story:

Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them...

...But she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: *'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'*

Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger.
- Jessica.

'So painful and disheartening'

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land. Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger.

Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

You can help this loving mum turn hunger into hope

It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give.

Once before, when things were desperate, Jessica asked her neighbours for food but she came home with nothing. Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we stand with Jessica.

My children give me the power to go ahead... I pray they have a better future.

- Jessica.

A ray of hope

As the golden sun fades across the sky, Jessica watches her much-loved sons and daughters sing, dance and play outside. Can you imagine how it feels for her to know her children are hungry, but have nothing left to give?

She finds a ray of hope that she will overcome this tough time - and be able to provide her children with good food, and a full life, free from hunger. Could you give today, and help this loving mum provide food and hope for her family?

How your gift could help

Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers. She'll be proud of the fruits of her work, and she'll see her children enjoy their first full meal in months.

With your gift this Christian Aid Week, families like Jessica's won't go to bed hungry tonight.

Hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Please support Christian Aid Week remembering Jessica and families like hers in your prayers this

Please take a copy of this service sheet to pass on to someone living close to you who is unable to attend church. Remember, we're here for you if you want to talk or are struggling with anything. Any problems or if you know someone who would like a visit from clergy give us a ring Tony is on 5120587 and I'm on 3882228. **Grace and Peace, John, Tony and Christine**

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week and supporting the appeal for funds
however you can.

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