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East Africa is in crisis with 16 million people facing desperate food shortages. As is so often the case, it is women and children who suffer the most; more than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished. Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in February and the situation is worsening as food stocks are being depleted.

In the midst of this, Tearfund are providing food assistance for over 17,000 people who have been displaced as well as clean water and sanitation to around 65,000 people who don't have access to these basic needs. They are also providing malnutrition treatment for approximately 50,000 children and pregnant mothers.

In need of a miracle

In one community in Uror County they run a feeding programme, established by funding from the Office of US Disaster Assistance (OFDA). They provide preventive and treatment services for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from malnutrition. In the year to the end of August 2016 this centre alone saw more than 1,100 cases – more than twice as many as the previous year.

Baby Amira (pictured above) had been ill since birth, with a combination of vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and skin rashes. Her mother, Najjiyya, was unable to access health services for her child. The already limited health services in the area had been overloaded by an influx of people fleeing violence in other parts of the country.

'I felt there was nothing to be done,' recalls Najjiyya. 'I was so hopeless, her condition was out of control. God was the only way to help my child.'

Hope restored

But then Najjiyya was referred to the feeding centre. She dared to hope that her child might get well. The treatment Amira received had an immediate impact and her health was soon restored.

'I am happy and so excited with my child being rescued,' Najjiyya exclaims. 'She is the fourth child and youngest in the family – the eldest is not able to walk since childhood. I thought that Amira would have also been like her.'

The project also addresses other needs, such as education in health and hygiene and the rehabilitation of boreholes to ensure safe water supplies. As a result, we see children like Amira saved from death and disability. We see families like Najjiyya's able to cope better with the challenges they're facing.

But with the escalating food crisis there are many more that need immediate help. Somalia is also on the brink of famine and parts of Kenya and Ethiopia are in desperate need. Please pray with us and consider giving to our [East Africa Crisis Appeal](#).

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for the work that Tearfund and our partners have been doing for many years in communities in these countries, for the relationships they have and the help they are already bringing to people.
- Lift up those across East Africa who are facing critical food shortages; pray that the Lord will comfort them and provide for them through the generous giving of his people.
- Pray for those on the ground responding to the crisis – ask God to give them wisdom and protection as they reach out to those in great need.

DEC appeal raises £24 million in 5 days
but much more is needed

One Voice

We pray because we're desperate for God - to walk with him... in step with his will for the world.

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

Psalm 4:1 (NIV)

Towards 2018

You might be fairly new to HOPE. Perhaps you ordered *The Servant Queen* to give away, or you might have been with them since they began with Hope08. If so you'll know that HOPE is a catalyst for mission, helping churches to work together to make Jesus known with words and action. HOPE is now in a new phase, working towards 2018 and a year of mission together. You can order free copies of the HOPE 2018 brochure to help churches in your area to catch the vision.

OUR LAST STAND

This film movingly illustrates why we – in conjunction with 16 NGOs and their ME church-leader associates - wrote a report entitled the "Ensuring Equality."

Do please write to your MPs to urge our Government to do all *it* can to address the continuing sidestepping of these middle eastern religious communities.

<https://vimeo.com/179823961/1d6869988e>

Many thanks - Russell Blacker



After a wonderful 12 years as a trustee and, latterly, the Chief Executive of the CCF, it's well past time that I moved on. It's been a great experience, working with a team of such friendly, generous and committed individuals, from all walks of life and from outside as well as inside Cornwall. So this is my opportunity to say thank you – to Friends, supporters, donors, volunteers, trustees and staff, to all of you – for contributing so much to this great organisation and, through the CCF, to Cornwall, and for making my time at the Foundation such a complete pleasure.

For all of us the most important aspect of our work is knowing that what we do has an impact locally on people's lives and well-being, and on the viability of voluntary organisations across Cornwall. The strength of our communities, in spite of all the changes of the last decades, is one of Cornwall's great attributes, and the knowledge that the Foundation has played its part in sustaining them is ample reward for our work.

I know that the future is bright for the Foundation, though Cornwall faces many challenges – not least by its many voluntary groups, who provide such an amazing network of social support to its communities.

I feel I leave the CCF in a good place, with a highly competent and committed new Chief Executive, a strong Board of Trustees, and an experienced and dedicated team in Launceston. I savour the time I have spent with the Foundation. Good luck to you all.

Oliver (Baines)

A very big "thank you" to you to Oliver, for having the insight in setting up the funding vehicle which became Cornwall Community Foundation. The CCF has given so many truly worthwhile causes the opportunity to serve their local communities with grants and pump priming awards. All of Cornwall has and will continue to gain through this excellent resource. Again – many thanks from all connected to CTC.



Photo: [amillionwaystobe](#)

Ecumenical Accompaniers (human rights monitors) are being recruited to serve in the West Bank in 2018 by the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI).

Twenty EAs are wanted from the UK and Ireland to be based in Israel and occupied Palestine for three months each, between late January 2018 and early February 2019.

There is a rigorous selection process and people are recruited well in advance of their service to give time for several months of preparation and training. EAs are expected to be flexible, hard-working, physically and emotionally robust, open to hearing from different perspectives, and able to represent the programme in a professional manner.

The closing date for applications is Friday 28 April 2017, 5.00pm, with interviews on Thursday 29 June, Friday 30 June, Tuesday 4 July and Wednesday 5 July.

EAPPI is an international programme coordinated by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and provides protection through the presence of Ecumenical Accompaniers, monitors human rights abuses, supports Israeli and Palestinian peace activists and advocates for an end to the occupation.

In the UK and Ireland, EAPPI is a joint project of members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and other Christian agencies, and is managed by Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW).

For full details and how to apply to be an Ecumenical Accompanier, use the link below, see the Quakers in Britain website.

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/international-work/eappi/get-involved#heading-1>

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Buy a Fairtrade chocolate **Real Easter Egg** and make a positive difference to families in countries like Kenya, Bangladesh and Tanzania. Prices from £3.99. Lovely Fairtrade gifts also available from SACREdplace Bookshop, 15 High Cross Street, St Austell. Tel: (01726) 63945.



Kathy Pope & Carolyn Rowse <>> Managers SACREdplace

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“Beacon” Prayer Event in Truro Cathedral on the evening of Sunday 28th May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join. He is calling on Christians to pray that people might know Jesus Christ during a focused time between Ascension and Pentecost from 25th May – 4th June 2017.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God’s world-wide family – as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be transformed through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

In May 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited Christians from across the Church of England to join a wave of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. This is traditionally a time when the church focuses on prayer, just as the first disciples gathered after they watched Jesus ascend into heaven. It says in Acts 1. 14: “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus...”

“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.” Archbishop Justin Welby.

The response in May 2016 was astonishing as hundreds of thousands joined in from churches of many denominations and different traditions around the UK and across the world.

For 2017, the vision is even greater. The hope is to see at least 80 per cent of Church of England churches and cathedrals taking part as well as many other denominations and the churches of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Leaders from Churches Together in England, including Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist and Methodist churches, Free churches and Orthodox churches, to name but a few, have all signalled their support. There will be all sorts of events taking place in your locality, through Churches Together and within individual churches – do commit yourself to join in with this global movement.

There will also be a large-scale, **ecumenical, “Beacon” Prayer Event in Truro Cathedral on the evening of Sunday 28th May (please check on the [Diocesan & CTC websites](#) for details)**. This is a great opportunity to be with Christians from all over Cornwall, praying for the people of Cornwall to know the love of God in and through Jesus Christ.

The worship and prayer in Truro Cathedral on Sunday 28th May will start at:-

- 5pm with Evensong with the St Mary’s Singers**
- 6.30pm Prayer and contemporary worship**
- 8.30pm Taize service consisting of prayer and Taize chants.**
- ‘Retrochoir’ At far east end, there will be 3 prayer stations for use throughout the evening**

Second “Beacon” event on Pentecost Sunday 4th June at Gwennap Pit, Redruth, from 2.30pm (community hymn singing) for 3pm with Reverend Roger Walton preaching, 2017 President of the Methodist Conference.

For more information and bespoke resources, visit www.thykingdomcome.global

If you’d like to get involved on social media, the hashtags #pledge2pray and #ThyKingdomCome will be used.

You can also watch Archbishop Justin Welby introducing Thy Kingdom Come [here](#).

SIX YEARS ON FROM THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SYRIAN CONFLICT, PRAY WITH US FOR THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA.

On 15 March 2011, major unrest broke out in the Syrian cities of Damascus and Aleppo, escalating a civil uprising triggered earlier in the month in the southern city of Daraa. No one could have foreseen that six years later we would have witnessed so much death and destruction and yet, still not see an end in sight.

Over 400,000 men women and children have been killed – so many lives and futures lost. More than one million people injured, over 3.3 million internally displaced and a further 4.8 million forced to flee to other countries, where they find themselves living in very difficult circumstances.

But God has been present in the midst of the pain – he sees and knows each individual. He hears their cries and ours on their behalf. Will you join us in praying for Syria?



God of mercy, father of the orphans and husband of the widows, we cry out to you for the people of Syria. We pray that you would meet them in their suffering, loss and fear. We ask that you would bring comfort and healing.

We ask for peace and pray that you would bring about reconciliation, overcoming hatred and distrust. We pray for wisdom for leaders on every side and for hearts that will be filled with your compassion.

We thank you for our brothers and sisters working to bring your love, light and truth into the darkest of places. We ask for your protection over them and for strength and courage to continue with the work that you have called them to.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer, Amen.



From the Tearfund's Middle East Fund

GOOD FRIDAY – 14 APRIL 2017

Wadebridge Churches Together Group

Walk of Witness: 10.30am starting from Wadebridge School, down Govenna Hill to Foodbank, then Molesworth St and on to the Co-op on Platt for Act of Worship and distribution of Hot Cross Buns.

Par District Churches Together

A silent witness on the grass at the edge of St Mary's Church of England, Biscovey car park - on the A390 from 12.30 to 1.30

Camborne Churches Together

A Good Friday walk of witness in the town square – 11am. Folk will be meeting at the Recreation Ground and Centenary Wesleyan Church at 10.45am and then walking to the square.

St Austell Churches Together

Walk of Witness in St Austell beginning at 12 noon from Holy Trinity Parish Church Jesus Christ Superstar, St John's Methodist Church, Bodmin Rd, St Austell, 7.30 pm; free admission, collection for Christian Aid

Churches Together in Penzance Area

Walk of Witness -11:30am from Bus Station to Lloyds Bank via Market Jew Street - 11.45am, Short service outside the Lloyds Bank, Penzance with the Salvation Army Band - then hot cross buns with Tea and Coffee in the Salvation Army Citadel - then disburse.

Churches Together in Newquay

Walk of Witness. 10.30am – 11.45am From Holy Trinity Church, Tower Rd, Newquay on to Costa Coffee. stopping for readings & prayers.

Torpoint & District Churches Together

9.30am Meeting at Cornerstone Church for short reflective service then processing through the town to St James Church to continue the service. Followed by hot cross buns and refreshments in the church hall.

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together

Join the walk at any point or wait for its arrival at The Moor. From Emmanuel Baptist Church via All Saints Church, St Mary's RC Church, United Reformed Church, the Salvation Army Falmouth Methodist Church to Falmouth Parish Church where a short service will be held at 11.15am followed by refreshments.

Liskeard Churches Together

Open Air Service on the Parade at mid-day.

Looe & District Churches Together

10 am at St Nicholas Church followed by Hot Cross Buns at Riverside United Church. 12noon Walk of Witness from Cornerstone

Churches Together in Tintagel

Walk of Witness from Bossiness Methodist Church to Trevena Square starting at 10.30am

EASTER SATURDAY 15TH APRIL 2017

CALLINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

In Callington town on Easter Saturday from 10am-11.30am (roughly) handing out hot cross buns and Easter cards. Hopefully we will also have "Live Easter Pictures" around the town-still scenes from the Easter story presented by members of our congregations.

In the evening of Easter Saturday at Tamar Valley Methodist Church we have "The Easter Story", a modern presentation with songs and drama from youth choir Sing 105. Starting at 6pm.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE - 16TH APRIL 2017

WADEBRIDGE CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sunrise Service: Easter Sunday 16th April, 6.15 am at the Longstone, St Breock Downs.

A Memory Friendly Easter Communion Sunday 16th April, 10.30 am, with Canon Alan Bashforth. Held at John Betjeman Centre. An ecumenical service for all who wish to remember, celebrate and give thanks. Also the 4th Anniversary of these monthly services.

CALLINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday is 6.15am. Place of event - Kit Hill